

Help after a big fire

A group of students, family, teachers and alums of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School spent an afternoon helping to jump-start clean-up efforts in the fire-ravaged town of Wooldridge. **Page 4**



Our Lady of Guadalupe . . . Page 3
Hope House in Lake Ozark . Page 5
Fr. Boyer retires. Page 6
Deacons' retreat Page 7
Katy Trail pilgrimage . . . Page 11
Catholic Charities . . Pages 10, 14

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

December 9, 2022 • Vol. 66 No. 12

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Newly completed murals installed in Cathedral baptistery



Andrew and Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs hold their son near the soon-to-be-installed murals Mrs. Thompson-Briggs painted for the new baptistery of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, which is undergoing substantial renovation, expansion and renewal.

— Photo by Annie Williams

By Jay Nies

A baby rested in Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs's arms as she surveyed the murals that would soon become a part of the baptistery in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

"He was with me the whole time I was painting these," she said of her son, who was born three weeks ago and reborn in baptism two weeks later.

She painted the murals throughout her pregnancy.

As she spoke, construction workers were busily preparing the walls of the new baptistery to hold the fruit of her best efforts — the first major pieces of artwork to be installed in the Cathedral.

The 54-year-old edifice 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.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight hopes to rededicate the Cathedral in time for Holy Week in 2023.

The murals, featured in the July 22, 2022, edition of *The Catholic Missourian*, depict members of the clergy pulling fishing nets along the banks of a river, drawing people of many ages, backgrounds and skin tones toward new life in Christ.

Images of Missouri wildlife abound, including native quails that call to mind the food God provided to the Israelites in the desert each evening after delivering them from slavery in Egypt.

The faces and figures in the murals were inspired by actual people, painted in-person by natural northern light in Mrs. Thompson-Briggs's St. Louis studio.

Two of the models were received into the Church about a year ago and are

Young people worship Christ the King during inaugural celebration in Columbia

By Jay Nies

Even while facing imminent death, the Cristo Rey Martyrs of the past century never lost hope in their Supreme Lord and King.

It allowed them to forgive their executioners and cry out with joy: "Viva Cristo Rey!" — "Long live Christ the King!"

"It's that inner peace that no one can rob from you. The moment that you have Christ in you, it's yours!" Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry, told nearly 300 teens and young adults at the diocesan observance of the Global Celebration of Young People.

It was the Solemnity of Christ the King. Pope Francis called for Catholics throughout the world to mark the day with youth-oriented events.

This diocese's celebration drew young people from all over the diocese to Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia.

They partook of festive food from a food truck; inspiring

testimony from a nationally-renowned Catholic speaker; and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

"Whenever the Eucharist is exposed, all of our attention is upon our Lord, Our Savior, our Master, our KING!" Bishop McKnight proclaimed from the pulpit. "All activity is geared toward recognizing the Real Presence of the very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ."

Renewed focus

"We live in a world that's going crazy, that's tearing itself apart, that's desperate for hope," said keynote speaker Brian Greenfield. "You have people who are hurting, who are lost, who are afraid.

What they need is to know the love of Jesus.

See CRISTO REY, page 17

See MURALS, page 13

Find us online at
CATHMO.COM

and
@DIOJEFFCITY



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

NEW ADDRESS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

12/09/22

Pray for deceased priests

Dec. 13 — Fr. Edwin J. Cole, St. Patrick, Laurie (2009)

Dec. 14 — Fr. Joseph W. Starmann, Our Lady of Snows, Mary's Home (2011)

Dec. 16 — Msgr. Edward E. Connolly, Holy Rosary, Monroe City (1973)



Official Decree of Appointments

The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, hereby makes the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:

PRIESTS

Reverend Philip E. Nickamp to Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Owensville and St. Alexander Parish in Belle, effective immediately; continuing as Pastor of St. George Parish in Hermann, Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland, and as Rector

of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

DEACONS

Deacon Matthew K. McLaughlin, from diaconal ministry at St. Aloysius Parish in Argyle, Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Brinktown, and Visitation Parish in Vienna, to diaconal ministry at St. Anthony Parish in Rosati and Immaculate Conception Parish in St. James; continuing diaconal ministry at St. Patrick Parish in Rolla, effective immediately.

Given at the Chancery this 2nd day of December in the Year of our Lord 2022.

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

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor



St. Peter Parish's High School Youth Group in Marshall collected 502 pounds of canned goods on a chilly day in November to present to the Marshall Community Food Bank.

— Photos by Carol Wolfe

Helping the hungry in Marshall



Newspaper schedule

The final print edition of *The Catholic Missourian* for 2022 will be dated next Friday, Dec. 16.

The first print edition in 2023 will be dated Jan. 6. Publication dates for all of 2023 are as follows:

January 6	May 12	September 1
January 20	May 26	September 15
		September 29
February 3	June 9	October 13
February 17	June 23	October 27
March 3	July 7	November 10
March 17	July 21	November 24
March 31	August 4	
April 14	August 18	December 8
April 28		December 15

The deadline for article and photo submissions is 15 days prior to the issue date. Submissions can be sent to Jay Nies, Editor, at editor@diojeffcity.org.

Advertising requests for events can be made by completing the form at diojeffcity.org/event-listing. The deadline for requesting a display ad is 10 business days in advance of the issue. Any questions regarding advertising can be directed to Kelly Martin at advertize@diojeffcity.org.

cathmo.com

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.

The Catholic Missourian

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

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
Publisher

Jacob Luecke, Director of Communications
jluecke@diojeffcity.org

Jay Nies, Editor
editor@diojeffcity.org

Kelly Martin, Advertising
advertize@diojeffcity.org



THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN (ISSN 1083-6977 or USPS 556940), December 9, 2022, volume 66, number 12. Published biweekly at 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109. Subscription price \$14 a year through parish plan. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo. and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Catholic Missourian, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City MO 65109-0914.

Celebrations scheduled in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Monday, Dec. 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

On Dec. 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary made the first of several apparitions to Juan Diego, an Indian convert, at Mount Tepeyac. She left him with an image of herself imprinted upon his *tilma* (cloak).

Devotion to Mary under the title Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to increase, and today she is venerated as patroness of the Americas. Millions of conversions to the Catholic faith are attributed to Our Lady's 1531 apparitions and continued intercession.

Pope St. John Paul II in 2001 canonized St. Juan Diego, the man to whom the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe near Mexico City is the most celebrated place of pilgrimage in the Americas.

Several activities are being planned to celebrate the feast-day this year in the Jefferson City diocese. Celebrations often

include Las Mañanitas, the traditional serenading of the Blessed Mother, usually before dawn. Scheduled events in the diocese include:

California — Mass, 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11; Las Mañanitas and reception, 6 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12, Assumption Church.

Camdenton — Novena prayers and reception, 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9 and 10, St. Anthony Church.

Columbia — Las Mañanitas, 5:30 a.m.; procession, Mass and reception, 6 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12, Sacred Heart Church.

Cuba — Mass, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12, Holy Cross Church.

Ewing — Mass and reception, 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9, Queen of Peace Church.



This display of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorns Sacred Heart Church in Columbia for the Novena that began Dec. 3 and will close with a celebration on Dec. 12.

— Photo by Barbara Head

Jefferson City — Rosary and Las Mañanitas, 10:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10; Mass, 1 p.m.; dramatic reenactment of the apparitions, followed

by reception, 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, St. Peter Church.

Lake Ozark — Rosary and Mass, 7 p.m.; Las Mañanitas

and reception, 9:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, Our Lady of the Lake Church.

Louisiana — Mass and reception, 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, St. Joseph Church.

Marshall — Dramatic reenactment of the apparitions, 6 p.m.; Mass, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12, St. Peter Church.

Milan — Mass, 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, St. Mary Church.

Palmyra — Mass and reception, 8 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, St. Joseph Church.

Rolla — Las Mañanitas and reception, 10 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, St. Patrick Church.

Sedalia — Las Mañanitas, 6 a.m.; Mass, 7 a.m.; dramatic reenactment of the apparitions, followed by reception, 8 a.m., Monday, Dec. 12, St. Patrick Chapel.

Bishop McKnight's December prayer intention for our Local Church

During the holiday season, may our self-centeredness be replaced with generosity; our frustration with compassion; our anxieties with patience; and our intolerance with understanding. We pray to the Lord.



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

Durante la temporada navideña, que nuestro egocentrismo sea reemplazado por generosidad; nuestra frustración con compasión; nuestras ansiedades con paciencia; y nuestra intolerancia con comprensión. Roguemos al Señor.

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



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

DECEMBER

- Dec 12** Missouri Catholic Conference Meeting, 2 pm; virtual
- Dec 13** Catholic School Administrators' Mass, 11:30 am, Chancery
- Dec 20** Seminarian Dinner, 5 pm, Bishop's Residence
- Dec 22** Chancery staff holiday luncheon, noon, Chancery
- Dec 25** Solemnity of Christmas Mass, 8 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish
- Dec 25 - Jan 18** Mission trip to Africa/Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda

Advent reconciliation services

Advent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Here is a partial list of Advent communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out. Additional services will be added to updated online versions of this article as they are publicized.

- Boonville** — Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church
- Brookfield** — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church
- Canton** — Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7 pm, St. Joseph Church
- Edina** — Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 pm, St. Joseph Church
- Ewing** — Monday, Dec. 19 at 7 pm, Queen of Peace Church
- Hermitage** — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 pm, St. Bernadette Church
- Holts Summit** — Monday, Dec. 12 at 7 pm, St. Andrew Church
- Jefferson City** — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church — Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7 pm, St. Peter Church
- Kirksville** — Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 pm, Newman Center Chapel
- Lake Ozark** — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Church

- Laurie** — Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 pm, St. Patrick Church
- Marceline** — Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 pm, St. Bonaventure Church
- Palmyra** — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church
- Pilot Grove** — Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7 pm, St. Joseph Church
- Russellville** — Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 pm, St. Michael Church
- St. Anthony** — Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 pm, St. Anthony of Padua Church
- St. Elizabeth** — Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm, St. Lawrence Church
- St. Martins** — Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7 pm, St. Martin Church
- Sedalia** — Sunday, Dec. 18 at 4 pm, St. Patrick Chapel
- Shelbina** — Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 pm, St. Mary Church
- Taos** — Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church

Tolton Catholic H.S. group helps Wooldridge recover after fire

By Jay Nies

Forty-five students, families, graduates, faculty and staff of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School gave their strength to the fire-ravaged town of Wooldridge.

They spent their first afternoon of Thanksgiving Break carrying debris from burned-out buildings to the curb for pick-up.

"We could not have started on the clean-up without them," stated Wooldridge Mayor Kelly Murphy.

She said that from the hill overlooking the devastation, the students and adults rushing into the job looked like "a colony of ants."

"They participated with such joy and happiness that it gives us hope that soon we can get back to everyday life," she said.

An Oct. 21 fire, believed to have started with harvesting equipment, quickly engulfed 23 buildings and about 3,500 acres of property in and around the small Cooper County town.

The wind-driven flames leapt 20 feet into the air.

Interstate 70, about five miles from the town, had to be shut down for several hours due to the dense smoke.

Tim Scherrer, Tolton Catholic's dean of academics, was stunned by photos of the fire and its aftermath.

"I thought it would be good if we could do something to help," he said. "And then I realized that we had the week of Thanksgiving off, so there was a perfect window of opportunity."

He contacted the parent of a Tolton Catholic graduate, who put him in touch with the Wooldridge Legacy Association, a nonprofit group that was formed to help the town recover.

Thirty-two students, seven



A group of students, parents, staff and alumni of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia gathers in front of the charred ruins of a building after helping clear debris from an Oct. 21 fire that leveled much of the town.

— Photo by Tim Scherrer

parents, three staff members and three alumni signed up for the "Toltonsgiving" project.

They met at noon on the Monday before Thanksgiving Day and formed a convoy from school to Wooldridge.

Joining them there were Mayor Murphy, state Rep. Timothy Taylor, and Brad Wooldridge, whose ancestors gave their name to the community.

Mr. Scherrer led the assembly in a prayer "for God to keep us safe and help us help these people in the best way we can."

The students and adults quickly formed teams and headed to the eight properties they had permission to work on.

The weather cooperated beautifully.

Can't go home

The volunteers breached the ghostly outlines of what had

been people's homes and workplaces.

"I was stunned," said Mr. Scherrer. "There was almost nothing left of the houses except the metal roofing, appliances and some ceramic pieces."

Freshman Katie Sutter was there with her mother, Connie, and her brother, Matthew, a Tolton Catholic graduate.

"It's crazy to see how much the people lost," said Katie. "There were hardly any walls or anything left. I can't imagine losing everything like that."

Her group got busy right away.

"We tried to clean up a bunch of things," she said. "We picked up metal and dragged it to the side of the road so they could come by and pick it up. My group took down what was left of a shed and got it out of the way."

Senior Luke McBee's group helped pull the remains of a trailer home apart and drag them to where they could be picked up for recycling.

Entering the outline of one destroyed home, Luke's group found a metal sink full of porcelain dishes that were being washed when the fire broke out.

"It's hard to imagine how

completely normal everything was, right up to when the fire hit and the people had to run for their lives," he said.

In another sink, Luke saw how glassware had melted into the ceramic bowls and cups.

"The bowls were filled with solid glass in the shape of the

More photos from this event have been posted with the online version of this story at cathmo.com.

bowl," he said. "There must have been water in the sink, because the silverware was untouched by the fire."

Lost and found

All were amazed to see a bathtub with water running out of the faucet. The utilities to that part of town had been shut off.

Katie saw what looked like a clump of jewelry that had been melted together.

She also found a dog bowl next to a cage that had melted.

"It was really sad to see," she said. "I love dogs, and I wondered where this one had gone."

Another group found a lone bowl intact in what used to be a kitchen.

"They gently set it out by

the mailbox," said Mr. Scherrer, "because it was probably the only thing left of that house."

"In a way," said Luke, "imprints of their daily lives were preserved in the ashes."

Firefighters had saved the post office, the community center and historical Wooldridge Baptist Church from the fire.

"The church is an all-wood building right next to a house that had burned completely down to the ground," Luke noted.

"The church had some damage, but it's amazing that it survived," he said. "There should have been no way it was still standing the way it was."

"It was like someone had put a wall up to keep the fire away from the church," said Katie.

Shared mission

Within a few hours, the ruined landscape looked very different.

"I was amazed at how much we could get done," said Luke. "Pretty much any of the sheet metal was picked up and gone before we left."

He was happy to see how fellow students — some who hardly knew each other — could unite so well for a good cause.

"There were people I had seen but never talked to," he said. "And then here I was, standing side-by-side with them and cleaning up whatever we could."

Mr. Scherrer referred to it as "trial by ash."

"The adults didn't have to tell anyone what to do," he noted. "No one was standing around. Everyone just found a purpose and got to it."

Katie called it a good learning experience for everyone who took part.

"Working together as a team, we were able to clean something up that looked almost impossible to clean up," she said.

State Rep. Taylor brought pizza for the hungry workers.

The volunteers then gathered for a group photo next to a gutted building that belongs

See WOOLDRIDGE, page 23

CASTROP PLASTERING CO. INC.



**PLASTERING - DRYWALL
ACOUSTICAL TILE
STUCCO & THIN WALL
PLASTERING**

4915 Hwy. 50 West, Jefferson City (573) 893-4111

Faith-filled volunteers fill Lake Ozark thrift store, food pantry

Our Lady of the Lake parishioners play key role in ecumenical effort to feed people in need

By Jay Nies and Steve Janetti

People contribute time, money, gently used merchandise, a jubilant disposition and focused determination to “give them something to eat.”

The Holy Spirit does the rest.

“I see God revealing Himself here every day, simply in our being able to give people the food they need,” said Sharon Konuch, service director for Hope House of Miller County.

Hope House is a nonprofit organization sponsored by 12 local churches in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

It provides food, school supplies, children’s coats and other services to people in need in a designated service area.

“The simple thing of food is so important!” said Mrs. Konuch, a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark.

Volunteers sell donated merchandise in a popular thrift store on one side of the building, with the proceeds supporting the food pantry on the other.

More than 40 volunteers — over a third of the people who staff the thrift shop and food pantry — are active members of Our Lady of the Lake Parish.

“We do a lot of work down there,” said Deacon Jim Hankins, chairman of the parish’s social concerns commission.

“We pray for those in our community who are struggling and in need of our assistance and support, and God sends us to help answer those prayers,” he said.

The thrift store is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays through Saturdays.

The food pantry is open from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Food pantry clients, thrift store customers, and volunteers often cross paths and



Items for sale at the Hope House of Miller County’s Thrift Store in Lake Ozark, staffed by volunteers, including parishioners of Our Lady of the Lake Parish. Proceeds help pay for food and other items to be given to local families in need in the same building. **BELOW:** Part of the Hope House Food Pantry, where volunteers fill orders for local families in need. — Photos by Jay Nies

mingle.

“It’s a delightful place to be,” said Our Lady of the Lake parishioner Janet Bischler, who has been volunteering in the thrift store for at least 13 years.

“You meet so many great people here,” she said. “You get to be really close friends with the customers and your co-volunteers.”

Faithful expression

Local churches established Hope House in 2002 and set as its mission “to offer hope and short-term help to those in need within our community as an expression of God’s love and care.”

It serves Iberia, Brumley, Ulman, Tuscumbia, Kaiser, Osage Beach, Lake Ozark and part of Eldon.

More than 100 volunteers and four part-time employees keep the food pantry and thrift store going.

The volunteers provided about 22,000 service hours in 2021.

Volunteer Jim Murphy had a neighbor who made frequent donations to Hope House.

“He used to tell me, ‘The thing I like most about Hope House is that everybody I see in that place is smiling,’” Mr. Murphy said.

Everyone gets together for prayer at the beginning of each day before the doors open.

Most are members of sponsoring churches, but all sectors of the community —

businesses, civic organizations and the general public — are represented.

Our Lady of the Lake Parish was one of the founding congregations and continues to be a significant supporter

tors, according to established guidelines.

Approximately 675 individuals each month are provided with a well-rounded, balanced supply of food and other personal-care necessities

House to carry-out its mission — followed by contributions from the Food Bank For Central and Northeast Missouri, sponsoring churches, the general public and other patrons.

Local businesses provide material and cash donations, as well.

The thrift store offers clothing for newborns through adults, housewares, household decorations, linens, bedding, small appliances, furniture and more.

Donations of gently used items are appreciated and accepted every day Hope House is open.

People consistently donate desirable merchandise for resale.

“And the volunteers in the thrift store: they work hard but also have a lot of fun!” said Mrs. Konuch. “The store always looks fantastic,



of Hope House. In 2021, 41 volunteers contributed about 35 percent of the total volunteer hours.

The parish continues to provide ongoing financial and organizational support.

Previous pastors Monsignor Michael Wilbers, Monsignor Marian Makarewicz and Father Ignazio Medina have been strong backers of the Hope House mission, as is current pastor Father Michael Penn.

Parishioners have also served as members of the Board of Directors and held other positions of leadership.

Hope House’s primary mission is to provide nutrition to its clients within its service area each month, as determined by the Board of Direc-

intended to supplement their other resources.

Proceeds from the thrift store are the most important source of funding for Hope

See HOPE HOUSE, page 15

MORE CONVENIENCE THAN EVER

—with over—
100  **200**
BRANCHES **ATM's**

THROUGHOUT MISSOURI.



Central Bank

Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™

CENTRALBANK.NET | 634.1111 | MEMBER FDIC

Fr. Wayne Boyer retires just in time for 35th priestly anniversary

By Jay Nies

“Why do you want to be a priest?”

“Actually, I’m just in it for the money!”

Father Wayne Boyer thought he was being droll, but the seminary psychologist didn’t even smile.

“So I got serious and gave him the right answer,” Fr. Boyer recalled. “To preach and teach the Good News ... dispense God’s grace through the Sacraments ... show love to children and the elderly ... to get to heaven and help get other people to heaven.”

A year later, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, had a visit with the future priest.

He read from the report of that psychological evaluation, a prerequisite for all who seek admittance into priestly formation: “Mr. Boyer seems to lack sincerity. I don’t think he’ll last a year in the seminary.”

“I think we can tear this up,” the bishop told him. “You’re going to be great.”

That was a pivotal moment for Fr. Boyer, 75, who recently retired from active ministry after 35 years of Priesthood in this diocese.

“I have to admit, some parts of the story are amazing to me still,” he said.

Fr. Boyer was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Dec. 12, 1987, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Since then, he served as associate pastor of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in St. Thomas, St. Andrew Parish in Tipton, St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, Church of the Resurrection Parish in Wellsville, St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos, and for the past five-and-a-half years as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Owensville and St. Alexander Parish in Belle.

“Throughout my time as a priest, in every parish I served, I’ve had wonderful, great people,” he said.

And whenever things didn’t go as smoothly as he wanted, Fr. Boyer recalled something a spiritual director once told him: “Jesus is the Way, and He found the going rough some of the time. If you don’t find the going rough, you’re not on the Way with Jesus.”

“What concern is this?”

Ordained at age 40, Fr. Boyer served on the diocesan Vocations Committee and helped mentor men who were following a nontraditional path to Priesthood or were answering a priestly calling later in life.

“At Mass, we often pray for the Lord to inspire ‘good young boys’ to be open to the Priesthood,” he once noted. “I like to add, ‘... and maybe some good old boys, too.’”

Fr. Boyer grew up in the

same South St. Louis parish as Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos and received encouragement from some of the same priests.

Among them were Rhineland native Father Arnold Bruckerhoff and St. Thomas native Father (later Monsignor) Bernard Boessen — both from the territory that is now the Diocese of Jefferson City.

Fr. Boyer remembers Sister Mary Fides of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet teaching him and his second-grade classmates the story of Jesus changing water to wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1-12).

The boy’s Great-Aunt Daphne once overheard him say to his mom, “Woman, what concern is this of mine?”

She was shocked that he would speak to his mother that way.

“I told her it’s what Jesus said to His mom,” Fr. Boyer recalled. “She didn’t believe me, so I looked it over and showed it to her.”

That’s when Aunt Daphne started praying that he would become a priest.

“The fact is, I’ve always had a great relationship with my mom and great devotion to my spiritual mother, the Blessed Mother, whose Son presented her as a gift to all of us,” he noted.

Fr. Boyer was also fascinated in discovering how things worked. He entered the telecommunications field after graduating from the old St. Francis de Sales High School in St. Louis and completing a degree in philosophy from Holy Redeemer College in Waterford, Wisconsin.

For 18 years, he specialized in engineering, design, layout, installation, service and supervision of telecommunications systems while based in St. Louis; Denver; Houston; Warsaw, Wisconsin; and Quincy, Illinois.

At age 25, he decided to pray a novena at what was then a Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Chapel near St.



Father Wayne Boyer

Louis.

“My prayer was, ‘What should I do? I like what I’m doing, but I think I should be doing more,’” he recalled.

After offering the ninth day’s prayer in the chapel, he spotted a card that read, “Job opportunity! Apply at your local seminary.”

“Of course, I didn’t do it right away,” he said. “But that card never went away. Whenever I’d move to a new place, I’d find it while unpacking.”

Quiet refuge

Fr. Boyer and his brother and sister-in-law bought 180 acres and a farm house near Morrison. He worked in Quincy during the week but made the farm his home.

“It was a good place to get away,” he said. “It was a place of quiet for me. I could tune out the noise of my job.”

One Sunday after Mass, he went to visit Father Fredrick Elskamp, who at that time was pastor of the Chamois and Morrison parishes.

“Fr. Fred steered me in the right direction,” said Fr. Boyer. “He encouraged me to pursue my true vocation.”

Fr. Boyer said he was “impressed by the witnessing of the people of God in this diocese.” He could also see the need for priests in central and northern Missouri, so he ap-

plied for permission to enter priestly formation for the Jefferson City diocese.

Four days after mailing the letter, he was working on a construction site in Danville, Illinois, near the Indiana border.

“There was only one phone on the site,” he recalled. “How the heck he found that number, I don’t know. But it was Bishop McAuliffe. After hanging up with him, I figured, ‘Maybe they can use me, after all.’”

The future priest enrolled at Sacred Heart School of Theology near Milwaukee, a seminary primarily for men who discern a priestly calling

later in life.

After suppressing his initial impulse to turn around and head back to life as he knew it, he stayed and kept building on his priestly aspirations.

“This isn’t my ‘second calling,’” he noted. “It’s my first calling. It just took me some time to tune out the distractions and stop running from it.”

“Old as the hills”

As a seminarian, Fr. Boyer was assigned to serve on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team at a parish in the Milwaukee archdiocese.

“There were some heavyweights in that group,” he recalled. “I got really enthused about the teaching part of it.”


He never lost that zeal for catechesis — especially with children in Catholic Schools and religious education programs and with people entering the Church through RCIA.

“I use guidelines that are official and approved, but I add my own insights into the teaching,” he said. “I just enjoy doing that.”

On Dec. 12, 1987, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Bishop McAuliffe ordained Fr. Boyer and Father John Henderson priests of the diocese.

See FR. BOYER, page 18

James O'Donnell
A Life Celebration® Home



*The mark of excellence
for five generations.*

302 South Fifth
Hannibal, Missouri

573.221.8188 • www.jamesodonnellfuneralhome.com
© 2018 The James O'Donnell Funeral Home, Inc.



BUTZER
“Dependable service since 1926”

HEATING ■ PLUMBING ■ AIR CONDITIONING

573-636-4115
24 Hour Service

721 Wicker Lane, Jefferson City, MO 65109
www.hgbutzer.com

St. Louis archbishop emeritus leads retreat for deacon community

“Let God lead you and do His work through you.”

By Jay Nies

Some deacons thrive while proclaiming the Gospel, preaching a homily or assisting a priest at the altar.

Others excel in the field, among the people, especially those who are hurting and in need.

“The thing is, we need to be doing both — preaching the Good News in the Liturgy and in our everyday example,” Archbishop Emeritus Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis reminded the deacons of the Jefferson City diocese.

The key is to keep saying “yes” to Jesus’s call “and let Him lead you and do His work through you,” said the retired archbishop, who led the St. Louis archdiocese from 2009 until his retirement in 2020.

Archbishop Carlson directed this year’s retreat for deacons of the Jefferson City diocese, men

who are discerning a possible call to the diaconate, and their wives.

“It all comes down to ‘letting Jesus,’” he said. “It’s very simple: Jesus wants us to let it happen.”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight joined the deacons on the retreat, held Oct. 14-16 in St. George Church in Linn.

Archbishop Carlson, who has dedicated his retirement years to leading retreats, urged the deacons to heed Pope Francis’s call to keep going farther beyond where they’re comfortable, and encounter Christ among society’s most marginalized people.

“You have to be a witness, a radial disciple,” the archbishop stated.

He called to mind Cardinal Gerhard Müller’s observation that God doesn’t bestow power on deacons and priests for their own sake.

“Rather, a priest or a deacon receives power in order to be a servant and spread the Gospel,” Archbishop Carlson noted. “And you have to be open to the fact that He might be calling you to follow the Way of the Cross to the people we serve.”

The archbishop pointed out that it’s not necessary to travel across the world to find people on the peripheries; they’re always nearby.

Among them are the people who are unchurched; those who are angry and afraid; and those whose children no longer practice the faith.

“Are you willing to spend time with the teenage boy who is unsocial or who needs a father?” the archbishop asked. “Or the

young adult who learned the teachings of the Church but never saw anyone live it?”

“Or the parents who go to Mass on Sunday but don’t live out the faith?” he continued. “Are you willing to walk with them and witness with your faith life in a way that’s intense and committed and attractive?”

Echoing Jesus’s Parable of the Good Samaritan, Archbishop Carlson insisted that even “in the face of anger, we have to go across the road” in order to help people who are wounded and hurting.

He cited the example of Tim Tebow, keynote speaker for this

year’s Archdiocesan Pro-Life Dinner in St. Louis, taking water to the protestors outside the venue because it was hot and they were uncomfortable.

“There’s so much anger and division in our society right now,” said Archbishop Carlson. “There are so many opportunities for us to meet people in that place of anger — and we need to do that.”

He talked about encouraging parents to keep praying for their children who have left the Church.

“There are people in every parish going through that with their children,” he said.

He cited St. Monica, whose son, Augustine, was strong-willed and unruly in his youth and defied her Christian direction.

God put it on her heart to keep praying for him.

“St. Augustine didn’t turn out so bad,” the archbishop noted. “He became a bishop and a great preacher and defender of the faith.”

“Open your heart”

Archbishop Carlson based one of his talks on a phrase attributed to God in the book, *In Sinu Jesu: When Heart Speaks to Heart — The Journal of a Priest at Prayer*: “Open to Me the ear of your heart and I will speak to you as I promised.”

“That’s what I would ask the deacons to do,” the archbishop stated. “Whether it’s going out to the peripheries or looking at the Scriptures or listening to Jesus’s desires for us — it depends on us as men of God opening our heart to the Lord and allowing Him to speak as He promised.

“Open your heart to God’s love and let the grace of His love flow over you,” he said, “and then do what your bishop ordained you to do!”

Archbishop Carlson pointed out that deacons’ wives have their own mission in the Church, which includes offering honest feedback and per-

spective to their husbands from a place of intimacy, familiarity and love.

In another talk, he reflected on showing proper respect for Christ fully present in the Eucharist.

“We have to be really focused on Who we’re serving, Who’s present in the space where we serve,” the archbishop said.

He noted that he has preached countless homilies on the Eucharist during his 38 years as a bishop.

“But I should never forget the times I’ve walked past the tabernacle and didn’t think about how the Lord Almighty was present, and show Him proper reverence,” he said. “We have to get to the point where we never, ever forget that.”

He noted further that when Jesus called St. Peter to keep growing in love for Him, He was giving the same instruction to all who would follow.

“He’s essentially telling Peter, ‘This is where you are now, but I’ve chosen a special place in My Church for you, and you’re gonna’ grow,’” the archbishop stated.

“We have to be aware of that constantly in our ministry. We have to be growing in our love of Jesus,” he said.

Powerful preparation

Archbishop Carlson also preached the homily at the Mass of Remembrance for deceased deacons of the diocese.



Deacons, men discerning a possible call to the diaconate, and their wives pause for a group photo in front of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Conception, Missouri, during a retreat led by Archbishop Emeritus Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis.

“That kind of puts the retreat in perspective, when you think of the ones who prayed for you, who were an example to you, who have now passed on,” he said.

“It reminds us not only of our own frailty but also the support we get from the community — from those still ministering alongside us, and those who do so now in heaven,” he stated.

Looking back on the retreat, Archbishop Carlson remains impressed by the harmony and profound community spirit he observed throughout the deacon community here.

“There’s something there among the deacons and the wives,” he said. “They’re a great group. They should be very proud of each other for how they treat each other.”

That level of camaraderie is essential, because no one can minister effectively alone.

“It’s important for everyone in the Church to have a support group,” he stated. “It’s good to be able to encourage each other and to get insight on the best ways to handle situations.”

He noticed further how many deacons were eager to step up as leaders and serve one another when the need arose.

“I was very touched by the love shown between the deacons and their spouses speaking back and forth throughout the retreat,” he said.

“That’s important,” he stated, “because if you don’t have

See DEACONS, page 8



Archbishop Emeritus Robert J. Carlson

Religious Gifts

For All Occasions:

Baptism - Confirmation - First Communion - RCIA - Wedding



The I. DONNELLY Co., Inc.

6601 TROOST AVE. • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64131

Phone: (816) 363-2828

Nationwide Toll Free Order Desk: (800) 821-5372

Visit our online catalog at: www.idonnelly.com

QUESTION CORNER

Burial in national cemetery?/ Holy Communion without Mass?

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Fr. Doyle died Oct. 28, 2022. This column originally ran in 2016.

Q. I can't seem to find the answer to the following question: Is it acceptable for a Catholic to be buried in a national cemetery? (My inquiry is centered around the issue of consecrated ground.) Any guidance would be appreciated. (Flippin, Arkansas)

A. A Catholic may be buried wherever he or she chooses — in a Catholic cemetery, a non-Catholic or nonsectarian burial plot or, to your question, in a national cemetery where military veterans are honored. (My preference, of course, would be for a Catholic burial ground because the deceased would have the benefit of the Masses and prayers that are offered regularly for those buried there.)

The notion that a Catholic need always choose a Catholic cemetery may stem from a misreading of Canon 1180 in the Church's *Code of Canon Law*. The first paragraph of that canon states, "If a parish has its own cemetery, the deceased members of the faithful must be buried in it unless the deceased or those competent to take care of the burial of the deceased have chosen another cemetery legitimately."

The word "must" was intended to place the burden on the parish, not on the deceased — that is to say, the parish is obligated to bury that parishioner if there is room and if that is the family's choice. The following paragraph in this same canon makes the option even more clear: "Everyone, however, is permitted to choose the cemetery of burial unless prohibited by law."

As regards "consecrated ground," when a Catholic is interred in a non-Catholic plot, the priest who officiates at the committal says a prayer that blesses that gravesite.

Q. This morning I went to weekday Mass, as is my custom. Due to a heavy snowstorm in the area, I was the only person there, so the priest decided not to celebrate Mass. I asked whether I could receive Holy Communion, and the priest said that he was unable to do that since Holy Communion can be given only during a Mass. I didn't question him at the time, but simply left and went home. But on the way home, I began to wonder about it. For more than 30 years, I have been a eucharistic minister in hospitals throughout the Syracuse area, bringing Holy Communion to patients in their rooms. If it is possible for them to receive Holy Communion without attending Mass, why couldn't I? (Central New York)

A. It is true that, in ordinary circumstances, Holy Communion is to be received only when someone participates in the celebration of the entire Eucharist. The bread and wine are offered, transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, and then returned by God to the worshipper as a full sharing in the sacrifice of Jesus.

There are, however, exceptions. One is the situation you mentioned, when a patient is visited in a hospital room by an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion bringing the gift of Holy Communion. Another is a Sunday or weekday celebration in the absence of a priest: When a priest is unable to be present, a deacon or designated lay leader may distribute

See QUESTION, page 19

Papal Audience December 7, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on discernment, we now turn to the signs that confirm the rightness of our decisions. The most important of these is the test of time. Decisions wisely discerned give rise to lasting peace. The spiritual life is "circular": our decisions, as the fruit of our interior freedom and openness to God's will, bring goodness, harmony and integration into our daily lives, our relationships and our work. A further sign of a spiritually sound decision is the conviction that it was in fact freely chosen out of love for God and in grateful response to His grace. The wisdom and rightness of our decisions is also confirmed by an increased sense of tranquillity, order and direction in our lives. For true wisdom, as the Bible teaches and the example of the saints bears witness, is born of the fear of God, the confident assurance that our lives are in His hands and that our human freedom finds its supreme fulfilment in trusting obedience to His will.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims taking part in today's audience, especially those from Australia, India, Singapore and the United States of America. I pray that each of you, and your families, may experience a blessed Advent in preparation for the coming, at Christmas, of the newborn Jesus, Son of God and Savior of the world. God bless you!



DEACONS

From page 7

tremendous love in your vocation of marriage, you aren't going to be much of a deacon.

"You may be smart, you might be witty, but more than anything, if your call to ministry comes out of a solid marriage, the Lord has prepared you powerfully to be His disciple," he said.

Called to be joyful

Deacons and their wives left the gathering refreshed and ready to reengage in ministry. Deacon Robert Schowengerdt rated this retreat

among the best he's ever attended.

"Archbishop Carlson's ability to spice up the presentation with humor worked very well," said Deacon Schowengerdt, who assists the pastor of St. George Parish in Linn and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Frankenstein.

"My greatest takeaway from his presentations is that living as a faithful Catholic doesn't have to be boring and stressful," Deacon Schowengerdt stated. "Doing the work of our Lord should be fun and rewarding."

Artistically speaking



Catholic school art teachers from all over the Jefferson City diocese gather in Msgr. Flanagan Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia Oct. 19 for this year's D'ART (diocesan art) conference. This was the 17th time the conference was held and the first time in three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event provides a great professional development day of networking, sharing lesson plans, classroom management strategies and more. It is open to all art teachers in the diocese at no cost other than travel and lunch.

— Photo by Theresa Groner-Davis

'All the leaves are brown'

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service



"All the leaves are brown. And the sky is gray."

As we lean into another Advent, that opening line of "California Dreamin'" plays in my head. I love the Mamas and the Papas

1965 version of that famous song.

In the part of the country where I live, a warm, magnificent autumn has suddenly turned into a cold, gray winter.

"I've been for a walk on a winter's day." Yes. Yes, I have. Dug out my gloves and knitted hat and realized that the vivid colors of fall have given way to barren branches and piles of fading leaves waiting to be composted into the good earth. In some parts of the country, much snow has fallen.

The abrupt coming of winter sparks a little sadness. It's a reminder of the swift passage of time, the brief moments of the cycles of our lives. And so, we go into a season of waiting. In our Christian tradition, we wait for the Savior's birth, the reception of the Savior into our hearts and the second coming of this Savior, promised to us in Scripture.

In the busyness of a culture that often prioritizes spending and consumption, it's hard to focus on the bare bones of our faith. But the cold, gray winter invites us to be more reflective.

But how? Again, the traditions of our faith inspire.

Do you have a creche for your home? This simple portrayal of Luke's Gospel story was supposedly St. Francis of Assisi's idea, and what a great idea it was. A soft candle burning by the creche on a dark, wintry Advent morning beckons us to prayer.

And for children, the creche is an introduction to imaginative faith. You can find very nice figures that are un-

breakable, so little fingers can grasp them and rearrange them.

When I was small, we had a simple set. Some of the characters were plastic, some were breakable. But we children were allowed to move them around, a tangible way of making the story of Jesus' story personal.

I still have my favorite angel from those childhood days, and even though her head has been glued on due to an unfortunate storage incident in Mom's attic, she still has a spot in my nicer Nativity set and the memories make her priceless.

See CALDAROLA, page 19

The first notes: when music and prayer converge

By Christina Capecchi



From the beginning, there was music. It signaled the parade of life — comings and goings, mornings and evenings. The chirping of birds. The clatter of dishes. The croaking of frogs.

Guido Monaco, an 11th century Italian, loved it all — especially the chanting of monks. It confirmed what he had always sensed: Sometimes, music isn't simply music. It is more. It is prayer.

The passionate Catholic was drawn to religious life, studying to become a Benedictine monk at the Pomposa Abbey on the Adriatic coast. With its rugged cliffs, lush groves and turquoise waters, the beautiful setting kindled Guido's spiritual fervor. He knew where it came from. Singing felt like the best way to offer his thanks.

But learning the hymns and harmonies that stirred his soul was hard. They had to be memorized — there was no written system for musical notation — and it often took months.

As Guido poured over the manuscripts in the abbey's legendary library, he wondered: Why couldn't music be written down and read like the words in a book?

One day, while practicing his hymns, Guido realized he was singing six basic tones. No matter the melody, no matter how high or low he sang, the same tones repeated themselves. He took a piece of parchment and drew six marks — each one stacked higher than the one before.

Now to name them. Guido studied a sentence in his favorite hymn to St. John: "In order for the servants to sing the wonders of your deeds, dissolve the defect on the weak lip, St. John." This was the longing of his heart: to more perfectly praise the Creator of all the

beauty.

Guido used the first syllable of each Latin word — *ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la* — to name the six tones. He sang them out loud, raising his voice step by step. If every song could be written down in this way, people could learn to read music! They could know the correct melody to sing even if they had never heard it before!

His heart raced.

His fellow monks were less excited. One reprimanded him: spend less time thinking up silly ideas and more time praying.

But Guido's dream of sharing music more readily never left him. Bishop Theobald of Arezzo visited the abbey, heard about Guido's passion for music and invited him to come train the choir at his cathedral. The bishop was dazzled by Guido's new method of musical notation and encouraged him to try it out with the cathedral singers. Within days, they had mastered hymns they had never heard before.

It worked!

The bishop urged Guido to share his revolutionary idea in a book. Pope John XIX summoned the monk, eager to see it himself.

The pope recognized what was before him: the invention of a music notation, what was and would remain the only language common to all humanity. A love of music that sprang from a love of the Lord.

Eventually the first note was changed to *do* and a seventh note, *ti*, was added. But Guido's system endured.

As we sing Christmas carols this month, may we remember the earnest monk who embraced the transcendentals of our Catholic faith: truth, goodness and beauty. They come from God and spill over into everything He created.

One could spend a lifetime pondering their delicate interplay, like snowflakes glittering in the sun. We may first

identify beauty, but it is goodness too. We might sense a truth, but beauty is in its core. We are drawn to goodness because it contains truth.

This endless loop comes from God and points us back to him. We need not

fully grasp it, but we can feel it and follow it. And the gratitude that pours out will make a beautiful sound.

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

REFLECTION

Grace before meals

By Mark Saucier

It is an Advent story, though I didn't realize it at the time.

At first, I thought it was just about a man who had every reason to wonder what God was thinking.

He was a Black man, born and raised in the South, a target of racism and a prisoner of poverty.

He moved north, taking a lot of baggage with him. He found jobs, places to live, even a family, but he couldn't find himself.

The bottle began as an entertaining distraction from the shadows of his past and the clouds of his future. But it soon became another of his demons, and the only way he knew to purge it was to try to drown it.

That didn't work and neither did the drugs he sought to replace it.

Moving worked so well before, he thought he would try it again.

He didn't know if it was the fear, the shame, or just simple selfishness, but he left his young daughter and her mother behind.

He spiraled down until there was no more room to fall. Finally, he felt something, or someone, pull him towards the light.

He joined an AA group and took hesitant, tentative strides along the Twelve Steps.

He found a small church whose members didn't see him as an abject failure or didn't care. He was good with either.

He was healing, inside and out. Then he had a stroke that rendered his spirit and his right side partially paralyzed.

It took time and the support of others, but he learned to accept his disability, and then to ignore it.

He began a slow path of reconciliation with the daughter he had abandoned, and finally went to visit her.

Shortly after returning from that trip, he went to the doctor. He had lung cancer that had metastasized in the brain. He was a dead man walking.

Some of the women in the church organized to cook meals for him. But for them, this wasn't just cooking, it was a loving faith, mixed and measured. He said he ate their dishes slowly because he could taste their prayers.

Instead of a month or two, he lived three years, long enough to have a family again and long enough to be mourned.

Nobody said it was because of those meals, but nobody said that it wasn't.

The Advent message?

Never underestimate the power of hope and change, especially when it's conjured by cooks in their kitchen cathedrals.

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Reflecting on resettlement: One year, so many changes



By Frishta Aslami,
with Ashley Wiskirchen

In August of 2021 the world watched as thousands of Afghans, now fearing for their lives, fled their homes after the fall of Kabul. Just one month later, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, the local resettlement agency for mid-Missouri, received the first Afghan evacuees at Columbia Regional Airport. Since then, Catholic Charities has assisted nearly 300 Afghan allies of the U.S. government in rebuilding their lives in Columbia, Fulton, and Jefferson City.

Frishta Aslami, a Supervising Case Manager at Catholic Charities Refugee Services and a native Afghan, has worked to help Afghan newcomers navigate the many challenges of resettlement. This week she reflects on her experience as a case manager during the historic resettlement effort that Operation Allies Welcome presented, and the impact this work has left on the community, her clients and herself.

When I think about the past year, and all the work we have done to resettle so many people in such a historic timeframe, the feeling that rises to the top is maybe unexpected but welcome: *relief.*

Just a few weeks ago, I drove to the airport to receive an incoming refugee family, not a family from Afghanistan this time, but being in that airport one year after the incredible task of resettling evacuees brought up so many memories for me.

This time last year I was working in our offices late

into the nights, rarely making it home before midnight, and with only three days off to rest the entire month.

Every morning our staff would check the spreadsheet from our federal resettlement agency, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), to see who would be arriving.

We'd get their information written up on the arrivals board — all the while I'm thinking, *How are we going to do this? Do we even have the capacity?* — but then, we'd begin.

We'd receive our clients at the airport, transport them to our offices with their family to enjoy a warm, familiar meal while we began their paperwork.

Then, we'd take them to their new home and give them a tour and orient them to things as much as we could.

We'd leave them safe, and together, knowing we'd be back the next day and many times over the next several weeks.

The next day, we'd start all over again!

Now I look back, and I think about these people and what they've accomplished over the past year, and it feels like a huge and very fruitful change.

I've spent the past year watching my clients find their community, adapt to a new culture, even taking trips to visit St. Louis or Chicago — all within their first year of resettling here — they have become self-sufficient in so many ways.

Seeing this growth makes me feel incredibly proud of them and what they have accomplished, and so relieved that many of them are not only settled in but thriving.

For example, one of my clients surprised me a few weeks ago with a phone call to let me know he'd passed his driver's permit test.

This might seem small at first, but access to personal

transportation is a big deal for resettling families.

Driving means transportation to work, to the grocery store, to school for the children.

So, he calls me and tells me he's passed the test without me even there to translate for him!

ing refugees from Afghanistan and then during conversations, people would start to notice my accent and ask me where I'm from.

When I would tell them I'm from Afghanistan, they would usually say something like, "Did you know we have so

Over the last year I've seen communities educate themselves about resettlement and engage with refugees.

I've seen their compassion for welcoming others and their dedication to serving their new neighbors.

As people learn more about



Case Management Supervisor Frishta Aslami holds Anyur (at one month old, left, and at one year old, right). Frishta accompanied Anyur's mother to the delivery room for her birth, and was given the honor of naming the child. "I chose Anyur, which from Turkish and Arabic origins this means 'Moonlight'" she shares, "It was my first time ever witnessing such a wonderful blessing and that brought me an image of life in a form of light, and so I chose this name for this child."

He had used our educational materials in Pashto and Dari, reached out to friends to learn how to study using YouTube and other online resources, and waited at the DMV for several days in a row to get into the test.

I can't even express how happy his call made me. Knowing that this person who has been through so much — has fled their home and is learning so many new things — has now found such independence and self-sufficiency.

Again, I feel that relief.

Then I noticed that while things were changing for my clients, they were also changing for me.

When I first began this work, most people I encountered had no idea where I was from.

But then we began welcom-

many Afghans here now?"

I would smile, and say, yes, and then tell them about the work we do here at Catholic Charities.

Almost every time they say, "oh we are so happy they are here, that they were saved."

It's amazing to see that the community here understands the gravity of what these people went through, and they care, they really care about their health and their safety.

These communities are genuinely glad to welcome them, which makes me feel more welcome, too. And again, I feel that relief.

One year after beginning this historic resettlement effort, I would say that I feel more connected to my community than I ever have.

what we do here as the local resettlement agency, they begin to understand and accept the hardships that many refugees are facing.

I'm so grateful that we are able to do this work, because through this work I've seen our community grow into an even more diverse and welcoming place — full of people who are willing to accept newcomers from all over the world — and we're all better for it.

You can support Frishta's work with Catholic Charities Refugee Services through the end of this month during our #CoMoGives campaign. Learn more online at ccnmo.diojeffcity.org or at comogives.org by searching for "Catholic Charities Refugee Services."

FRED VOGEL
Insurance Inc.

301 Monroe
Jefferson City
(573) 635-6101

Charles Prather • Rick Prather
Tom Kummer

Katy Trail Marian pilgrims explore Starkenburg shrine

By Jay Nies

Ankles a little sore, heels a little calloused and hearts filled with joy, a band of pilgrims sang and prayed while ascending the road to Starkenburg.

At last, they came within sight of their destination.

“Coming up the hill and seeing the steeple of the church, with all the leaves changing color, the beautiful blue sky — that was incredible,” recalled Kathy Harkins, a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in High Ridge in the St. Louis archdiocese.

She was part of a five-day, 45-mile walking pilgrimage along the Katy Trail to honor the Blessed Mother in mid-October.

Father Timothy Foy, pastor of St. John the Baptist (Gildehaus) Parish in Villa Ridge in the St. Louis archdiocese, led the pilgrimage and offered Mass in seven rural churches along the way.

Among those were St. Anthony Church in Case, a bucolic and mostly silent structure near Hermann, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

“Visiting the older churches — the sense of history, the Catholic history here and at the other places — it was simply amazing,” said Ms. Harkins after arriving at the shrine.

A group of students from



LEFT: Father Timothy Foy, pastor of St. John the Baptist (Gildehaus) Parish in Villa Ridge, gives Holy Communion to pilgrims at Mass in the chapel of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg. **RIGHT:** Pilgrims pray the “Our Father” at Mass in the chapel. — Photos by Jay Nies

Holy Rosary School in Warrenton in the St. Louis archdiocese joined the pilgrims on foot for the last day of the journey.

“If Jesus could carry His cross to Calvary, I can surely walk 11 miles,” said a Holy Rosary seventh-grader named Ava.

The school is about 15 miles from St. Patrick Church in Jonesburg.

“We experienced Jesus and some of the most beautiful scenery in Missouri on this trip,” said seventh-grader Chloe.

“The best part was visiting Starkenburg and seeing the inside of the churches,” eighth-grader Joey stated.

Trail mix

This was the sixth autumn walking pilgrimage Fr. Foy has led down the Katy Trail.

Each day included Mass, Adoration, prayer and fellowship.

Overnight accommodations and transportation were included.

Catholic and non-Catholic participants of all ages were welcome.

The trail was once the right-of-way of the former Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, which carried passengers and freight through central Missouri.

Much of the trail follows the Missouri River, surrounded by trees, bluffs and farms.

Pilgrims Dave and Lori Voss are members of St. Ann Parish in Silver Bottom, near Washington, and St. Patrick Parish in Laurie.

Both had a lot going on at home and only planned on walking with the pilgrims the first day.

“But when I got with this group, I knew we had to go another day,” said Mr. Voss. “We just had to go on, you know? We wound up going for all four days.”

Mrs. Voss said praying the Rosary together every day was most memorable for her.

“And today — these seventh- and eighth-graders from Holy Rosary, they sang in Latin as we were walking on the trail,” she said. “It was beautiful! So reverent, so reverent. It was just awesome.”



53 and 45

Shirley Kent wanted to make the pilgrimage but wasn't sure she could handle the 45-mile walk.

Could she?

“I just did!” said Mrs. Kent, a member of St. Joseph Parish of Cottleville, largest in the state.

Her husband Dean played a supporting role, following in a car along Highway 94 and stopping with the group at each church.

“Any pilgrims that needed help, I could help them,” he said.

The pilgrimage coincided with the couple's 53rd wedding anniversary.

“I asked (Dean) if I could do this on our anniversary,” said Mrs. Kent. “He said yes, and Father gave us a special blessing.”

Mrs. Kent said she'll always remember that she walked 45 miles on her first pilgrimage.

“I can do all things in Him Who gives me strength!” she said, echoing Philippians 4:13.

“Amen!” said her husband.

Family ties

Pilgrim Jane Halfers grew up in the Baden neighborhood in St. Louis.

Generations of her family, descendants of German immigrants, went to Mass in Holy Cross Church and Holy Cross School.

“My ancestors went there. I went there. We had cousins in every class,” she said.

Her longtime pastor, the late Monsignor Martin Hellriegel, who penned the lyrics to the hymn “To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King,” often told stories about Starkenburg, where he had assisted as a seminarian and offered his First Solemn Mass after ordination.

“I've never been here before,” Mrs. Halfers said softly. “We were the last couple he married. He was blind by then.”

Now a member of St. Alban Roe Parish in Wildwood, she walked three of the four days of the pilgrimage.

“Arriving here was the highlight for me,” she said.

She delighted in viewing the Nativity scene Msgr. Hellriegel had brought from Germany, and the Bible stand he had used while pretending to offer Mass as a child.

Both are on display in the St. Martin Church Museum near the shrine.

“We receive”

Fr. Foy celebrated Mass in the shrine's stone-vaulted chapel.

He said in his homily that the Blessed Mother no longer grieves for the death of her Son, but for people who turn away from Him.



Several participants in this year's Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage pray the “Te Deum” prayer together in thanksgiving for their safe arrival at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

65th birthday for Fr. McCartan Memorial School in Marceline



Supplying ice for parish picnics, weddings and any occasion you might have.

Call us today!
HILKE'S ICE
 Freeburg, Mo.
573-744-5500

Students and several dozen friends of Father McCartan Memorial school in Marceline enjoy the Hawaiian-inspired festivities during the school's 65th anniversary celebration.

Father McCartan Memorial School in Marceline celebrated its 65th birthday at its current location on Nov. 18.

The celebration, with a Hawaiian theme, took place on the 65th day of the current school year.

Preschool teacher Ana Fay Schmitt, a native of Hawaii, led each class in a song or chant

from her home state.

After the program, Hawaiian appetizers were served to the dozens of parishioners who attended the celebration.

"What a wonderful celebration!" said Principal Richard Davis. "We were pleased to welcome present parents, alumni, and school supporters to the party."

The school is named for Monsignor Thomas J. McCartan P.A. (1877-1970), who served as pastor of St. Bonaventure Parish in Marceline for 35 years.

Mr. Davis said Catholic education is still going strong at Father McCartan School.

"We are so thankful for the support that we receive from our parish and community and are looking forward to continuing our excellent tradition for many years," Mr. Davis stated.



Respecting Your Wishes Personalizing Your Care

Trimble Funeral Homes is committed to providing personalized and complete funeral services for our community.

Visit us for end-of-life services at one of our three, convenient locations.



Honoring Life, Legacy and Wishes Since 1942

www.trimblefunerals.com

Jefferson City | Westphalia | Russellville

Please consider making a gift to your local parish or school in your will as a way of expressing your gratitude to God for all the blessings you have received from Him.

Jake Seifert
 Director of Development
 573-635-9127 x-227
 development@diojeffcity.org

DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY
 2207 W Main | PO Box 104900
 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900
 diojeffcity.org

Have you already remembered your parish or school in your estate plans? Please let us know!

Keep the creche in Christmas, pope urges

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Stopping to gaze at and perhaps pray before a Nativity scene is one of the best ways to remember the real meaning of Christmas, Pope Francis said.

"In its genuine poverty," the pope said, "the creche helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas and to purify ourselves of so many aspects that pollute the Christmas landscape."

Pope Francis met Dec. 3 with the artisans who carved the 18-piece Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square; the donors of the white pine Christmas tree; the residents of a psychiatric rehabilitation center who, along with a group of students and grandparents, created the ornaments; and with representatives of the government of Guatemala, which set up another Nativity scene in the Vatican audience hall.

Edward Jones | edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates
 Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

1-year 4.65 % APY* Minimum deposit \$25,000	2-year 4.90 % APY* Minimum deposit \$15,000	3-year 4.95 % APY* Minimum deposit \$15,000
--	--	--

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Peter B Myren
 Financial Advisor
 744 W Stadium Blvd Suite F2
 Jefferson City, MO 65109
 573-635-1454

Brian D Johnson, AAMS*
 Financial Advisor
 744 W Stadium Blvd Suite F2
 Jefferson City, MO 65109
 573-635-1454

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 11/07/2022. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867K-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

MURALS

From page 1

now preparing for their weddings in the next few months.

The model for the priest in the mural recently entered a cloistered Carmelite monastery, where he hopes to spend the rest of his life.

The hand of the bishop in the mural matches that of Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, whose ring is depicted on the hand.

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs and her husband, Andrew, said Dec. 5 that they're relieved and grateful to have completed the artworks and delivered them safely to their destination.

When Mrs. Thompson-Briggs found out at the last minute that her assistant could not come and help her oversee the installation, her husband, who manages their family business, agreed to come along.

This involved quickly calling on their circle of family and friends to look out for their other children.

"Actually having so many people agree to help us at the last minute — it's kind of beautiful," said Mr. Thompson-Briggs.

The couple prayed for their newborn son to sleep the whole

way to Jefferson City.

"And he did sleep the whole way!" Mr. Thompson-Briggs announced.

The husband and father couldn't help but reflect on the timing of both deliveries.

"It feels providential to be presenting these murals for

the baptistery such a short time after our own son's baptism," he said.

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs said she and her husband give thanks each day for their patrons, who allow them to support their family while creating sacred artwork.

"We've been praying for Bishop McKnight and all the parishioners of the Cathedral Parish and the whole diocese," she noted.

The first of her murals to be installed was carried up a 3,250-foot scaffold and affixed to the oculus at the peak of the Cathedral's crown-shaped roof.

That mural is a 6-foot-wide gold and royal blue sunburst carrying the initials "IHS" — an ancient Greek symbol for the name of Jesus.

Mr. Thompson-Briggs noted that quite unintentionally, the earth tones in that mural match the color of beams and planks of the Cathedral ceiling.

Neither of the parents were thinking of the first name of the Apostle of Missouri, the 19th-century Jesuit missionary who baptized the children of many early settlers



fully all the way to the Cathedral of St. Joseph has the same name.

Everyone's Cathedral

The renovations are entirely funded by generous donors who have united in support of this project.

We also invite everyone to join us in prayer for the safety of the many skilled artisans who are renewing this spiritual home for our diocese.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph belongs to all Catholics in our diocese. All are also strongly encouraged to visit Jefferson City to see the Cathedral when it reopens in 2023.

Visit diojeffcity.org/cathedral-renovation for information.

in parts of what is now the Diocese of Jefferson City.

Fr. Helias's first name was Ferdinand.

The baby who slept peace-

PROVIDING COMPLETE ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS SINCE 1968.

• CONTACT US FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL AND DATA SOLUTIONS •



3513 N Ten Mile Drive, Jefferson City • (573) 893-2335



COLUMBIA ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP

Alan Anz, M.D.

Parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes

Specializing in adult hip & knee pain

For an appointment call (573) 876-8158

www.columbiaorthogroup.com

CREATE A LEGACY THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

With a Catholic Gift Annuity, you can secure the future for yourself and your loved ones, and give a lasting gift for your parish, school or our diocese.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

- Fixed — rate annuity payments for life, one or two people
- Immediate and future tax benefits
- A payment schedule tailored to your needs
- Knowing that you will help Catholics in need in our diocese

catholicgiftannuity.org

For a personalized proposal, contact:

Jake Seifert
Director of Development & Missions
Diocese of Jefferson City
2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City MO 65109-0914
development@diojeffcity.org • 573-635-9127



Every Day is a Gift. Take Time to Enjoy It.

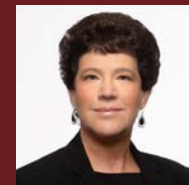
We believe every day is a gift, and so is every life. Take time to enjoy it, and never take a moment for granted.

Houser-Millard Funeral Directors

2613 W Main Street, Jefferson City, MO

(573) 636-3838

Funerals | Cremation | Pre-Planning



Renee Reuter
Funeral Director



Rebekah Ziegs-Dalbey
Funeral Director



Reid Millard
Owner, Funeral Director

Leadership roles sharpen vision for services at Catholic Charities

By Ashley Wiskirchen

As Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) continues to grow service reach across the 38 counties of the Diocese of Jefferson City, leadership changes within the agency aim toward an increased capacity for new programs and expanded services.

In June, the agency reorganized staff positions to include centralized roles for volunteer coordination and programmatic leadership.

“Our goal at Catholic Charities has always been to provide care and create hope for our neighbors in need, along with engaging our local community in that effort,” stated Dan Lester, executive director at CCCNMO. “Having skilled, experienced, and passionate leadership to carry our agency into the future is a critical element in continuing to achieve that goal.”

Alissa Marlow was appointed senior director of programs and services to provide vision,

structure, and leadership for the six program areas of Catholic Charities: Community Services, Counseling Services, Health and Nutrition Services, Family Immigration Services, Refugee Services, and Parish Social Ministry.

“I’m looking forward to bridging programs across the agency together to provide wrap-around services for all eligible clients,” said Ms. Marlow. “When our programs are cohesive and our staff are collaborative, we can streamline our work and ultimately provide better care for the clients we encounter.”

Additionally, by embracing the mission and identity of Catholic Charities, Ms. Marlow aims to support the implementation of grants and contracts in concert with Catholic social teaching.

“This role is built to support programs, ensure the rigorous grant requirements from our funding sources are being fulfilled, and connect the important work we do back to

our ‘why,’” she stated. “As the charitable arm of the Diocese of Jefferson City we are called to provide compassionate social services to all and embrace that when we serve those we encounter, we are acting as the hands and feet of the Church.”

Chelle Smith-Vandergriff was named senior director of volunteer engagement to streamline volunteer experiences from sign-up to onboarding and selecting service opportunities to record time served across agency programs.

“It’s important to onboard and orient our volunteers because that helps us provide the best possible level of service to the people who need it the most,” Mrs. Smith-Vandergriff said.

Since coming to the agency in October of 2021, she has overseen volunteer onboarding and service opportunities, leveraging over 400 volunteers in the past year who have given over 18,000 in service to their communities.

“Volunteerism engages the local community in our mission,” she stated. “Community Co-sponsors empowered our agency to receive and resettle nearly 300 newcomers during Operation Allies Welcome; pantry volunteers work alongside our staff to encounter and serve pantry members while they shop; and welcome center

volunteers help keep our office operations running smoothly.”

In August, the agency welcomed Ken Palermo, MM, into the role of director of Refugee Services. Mr. Palermo comes to Catholic Charities after serving with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services as Deputy Director and State Registrar. His leadership experience and managerial style aim to strengthen resettlement services to improve client experiences and streamline the staff work required to continue welcoming newcomers to mid-Missouri.

“It’s been an honor to step in to lead a motivated and compassionate team of people,” said Mr. Palermo. “Navigating the challenges of resettlement requires many hands to make light work.”

“Through formal services supplied by the CCCNMO team and coupled with the vast network of partnerships across the region, our clients will continue to receive support, guidance, and grace as they begin anew,” he said.

Catholic Charities Refugee Services office is the only local resettlement agency in mid-Missouri, having helped nearly 500 newcomers resettle in Columbia, Fulton, and Jefferson City in the last year.

In September, Catholic Charities relocated its Colum-

bia office from 916 Bernadette Drive to 1240 E. Brown School Road in north Columbia. With the transition to a larger facility equipped with additional office space, client meeting rooms, and a larger conference room comes the ability to add Catholic Charities staff from various agency programs. In the future, the Columbia location will house staff across agency programs.

The agency is currently building up staff to launch “Connections,” a new program for the agency aimed at serving and supporting pregnant women through their pregnancy and their child’s first year with case management, education and resource referral. The aim is to have the program operational before the end of the year.

CCCNMO, an entity of the Diocese of Jefferson City, responds to the needs of people in 38 counties regardless of faith, culture or situation. This includes services for refugees and immigrants, those with food insecurity, mental health needs, health and nutrition education, basic household and shelter needs. For more information, visit cccnmo.diojeffcity.org.

Mrs. Wiskirchen is senior director of communications for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

Warmth of the season



Representatives of Knights of Columbus Bishop McAuliffe Council 12992 in Jefferson City cap off the council’s ninth annual Fall and Winter Coat Drive by dropping off the coats at Samaritan Center in Jefferson City. “We started collecting men’s, women’s and children’s gently used coats and other assorted items like hats, gloves, scarves, belts and backpacks beginning the weekend of Oct. 15; and are pleased to report 341 garments and other assorted items have been distributed to the Samaritan Center,” stated Rich Anderson, a trustee for the council. That was in addition to the 72 brand-new children’s coats purchased by the council through the Supreme Council’s “Coats for Kids” program. Those coats were distributed to the Samaritan Center and El Puente-Hispanic Ministry. “All have expressed their deepest appreciation and gratitude for these contributions to help them serve the basic needs of their patrons,” said Mr. Anderson. “Blessings to all who participated in this event; you have made a significant difference!”

Light, peace and refreshment



About 50 members of St. Anthony Parish in Rosati gather for fellowship in their parish hall after visiting the parish cemetery for the Month of Remembrance on Nov. 13.

— Photo by Gregory Meystrik

HOPE HOUSE

From page 5

and it's the volunteers who do it."

She noted that a volunteer, Jim Craig, recently built spacious, matching display shelves that not only look good but create more space for merchandise.

Spirit of nourishment

Volunteers serve the clients, customers and donors in a caring and fun environment.

John Amann, a volunteer, coordinates the food pantry volunteers.

"It's a privilege to be here," he said. "You find God in the hearts of everybody who works here."

Clients who are eligible sign in with a volunteer at the desk, who fills out a ticket for the pantry.

Volunteers move shopping carts through a tidy course of shelves, freezers, coolers and bins, gathering food and toiletries according to the number of people in each family.

"Our goal is to provide enough food to the client for one week per month," said Mr. Amann. "And if you see the baskets we fill, we're probably giving them enough for two weeks."

Cycle of giving

Hope House helped feed 1,081 people in November — a bit of a jump from the previous month.

"The colder the weather gets, the more people come in for food," said Mrs. Konuch. "Heating bills are high. With the economy the way it is, people say, 'We can't afford to go to the grocery store anymore.' They're coming here and they need food."

Hope House also helps kids in school.

Clients' children from Kindergarten thru eighth grade receive a new backpack and school supplies as well as a gift card for new shoes to start the school year.

Those children also receive a gift card for new shoes for winter.

"Our Lady of the Lake is a big contributor to this," said Mrs. Konuch. "They put it into their bulletin each week

and they bring supplies in like you wouldn't believe."

"And we just finished giving almost 100 kids brand-new coats," said Mrs. Konuch.

Several scholarships are awarded each year to provide capable children the opportunity to attend summer learning programs and other educational experiences that would not otherwise be available to them.

These things are possible in large part due to the success of the thrift store.

"We get a lot of new customers just by word of mouth," said Mrs. Konuch. "Our thrift store receives new merchandise every day, and the volunteers price it and put it out in the store."

She noted that no donation goes to waste.

"The thrift store recycles

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

what they can't use," she said. "If something doesn't sell, it eventually finds its way to the seasonal room where it will be sold for much less, and we also have a free table."

Unforeseen growth

Ms. Bischler worked for IBM for 30 years, then took care of her mother, who had advanced Alzheimer's disease.

After her mother died, she started noticing requests for volunteers each Sunday in the Our Lady of the Lake Parish bulletin.

"I started coming in 2008 or '09," she said. "It kind of gets into your blood. You feel like you're part of something important. It gives you a sense of purpose and fulfillment."

She worked with some of Hope House's founders and has watched the ministry grow.



Volunteers sort through donated items for the Hope House Thrift Store in Lake Ozark.

— Photo by Jay Nies

"I don't think anyone at the beginning foresaw what it would become," she said. "It was going to stay the size it originally was, and that was it. It wound up growing because we all began to see how much greater the needs were."

Ms. Bischler, who prices merchandise three days a week, said it's fun getting to know the thrift store customers.

Some travel from as far as Iowa or Arkansas to find affordable additions to their wardrobe.

Some say: "You've got the most wonderful thrift store we've seen anywhere," she noted.

Some of the most popular items are women's blouses, she said.

"In God's image"

Mr. Amann believes that if the Hope House food pantry is helping 400 to 450 families per month, there are surely that many more who need the assistance but don't ask for it.

"We'd love to have them start coming," he said. "Some just don't know about us, but some don't come because they're proud or don't think they deserve it."

"I would say to those people: 'God wants you to have this, and we supply it to all the people we possibly can in this community that we serve who need it,'" he said.

Mrs. Konuch said an older gentleman recently told her through tears that it was the first time he'd ever needed to ask for this kind of assistance.

"I told him that he's why

we're here," she said. "That's why we have all these volunteers, ready to fill a cart with food and give it to you. It puts a smile on their faces ... and on mine."

Mr. Amann noted that some of the clients have disabilities and struggle in every aspect of living.

"I can only imagine what their daily lives are like," he said. "It humbles you to see how much we often take for granted."

Some clients are homeless. "For them, we have sleeping bags and blankets for the winter, coolers for the summer, along with boxes of canned goods and personal items," said Mr. Amann.

Others just seem lost. "But they know we'll treat them like people made in God's image, as opposed to something less, which I think happens to them a lot," Mr. Amann said.

He asked for prayers for the continued success of the Hope House thrift store and food pantry operations, for the health and safety of the volunteers, "and for our clients who are in desperate need for not only the food we give them but also for God, and being a part of the community."

People make it work

Mr. Amann said Hope House runs so well because the volunteers are dedicated and hard-working.

"We've got a wonderful group of volunteers who are here each day we're open," he said. "They get it done!"

Whenever a longtime vol-

unteer steps away due to health or other circumstances, pastors put out the word from their pulpits.

"And it's almost immediate that we get that new volunteer," said Mr. Amann.

Volunteers from the general public, churches, civic organizations, businesses and schools are always welcome.

New volunteers are quickly initiated into the ranks.

Service days from local schools can be particularly helpful.

"You can look around and tell that most of us are up in years," Mr. Amann noted. "So, when we get some younger people in, it makes a big difference for us."

"A temple of love"

In addition to the local churches, the community and the Hope House volunteers bought Christmas gifts for 104 children in need in the area.

"It's incredible," said Mrs. Konuch. "And while they're bringing in the gifts, they say, 'Thank you for including me. I want to do this again next year.'"

Deacon Hankins marveled at the cooperation and friendships that flourish at Hope House among volunteers of many faith backgrounds and traditions.

He said God blesses the time, talent and treasure people regularly give to Hope House, which raises up the lowly and gives God glory.

"Jesus made us custodians of mercy through the supporting and assisting of our neighbors, as if they were Jesus in disguise," Deacon Hankins stated.

"Through our stewardship, we live the faith Jesus taught us — a faith where we can build an indestructible foundation, a temple of love for God and our neighbors," he said.

For information about Hope House of Miller County, call 573-365-0099 or visit: hopehouseofmillercounty.org



By Father Don Antweiler

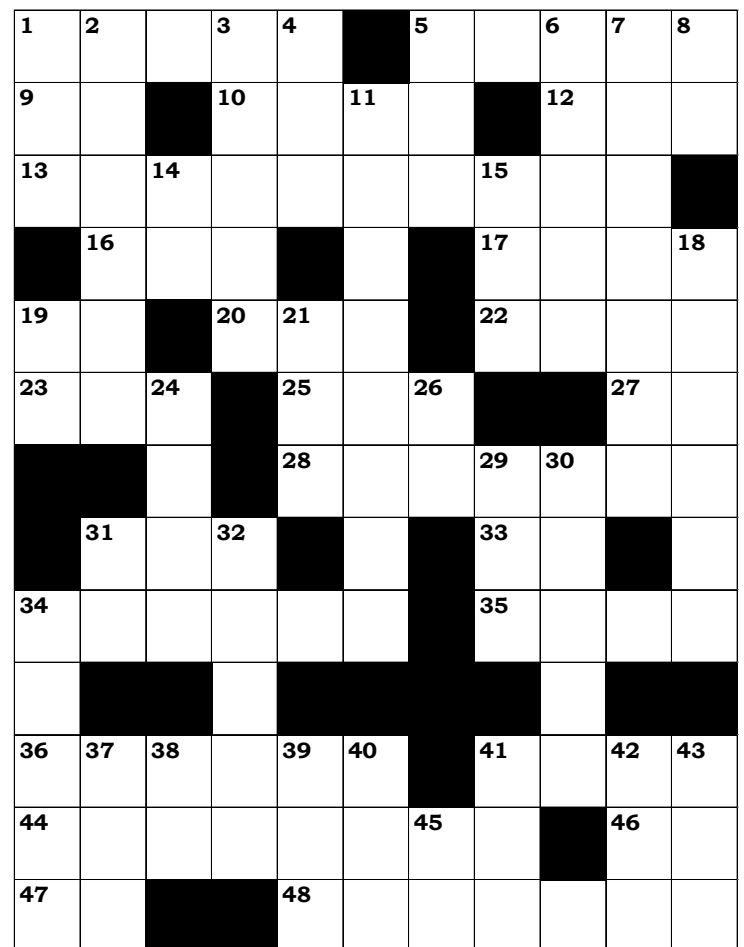
ACROSS

- This puzzle features the major foods commonly _____ and consumed in the Old Testament and/or time of Jesus.
- “_____ make no bones about it: I write from the standpoint of Christian orthodoxy,” —Flannery O’Connor (2 wds.).
- Letters for Original Equipment; manufacturer warranties only cover repair/replacement costs of errors in original equipment from the factory.
- “So faith, _____, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love,” (1 Corinthians 13:13).
- If you forgot the title of the song, _____ the tune and we’ll remember it.
- _____ like onions, leeks, broad beans, chickpeas, and cucumbers had been cultivated in Palestine since ancient times.
- “When you do good, do it quietly, as if you were throwing a stone into the _____,” —Drana Bojaxhiu,
- mother of St. Teresa of Kolkata.
- “Though the magicians tried to bring forth gnats by their magic _____, they could not do so,” (Exodus 8:14).
- Prefix for tract or scent.
- Trans World Airlines (_____) was a major U.S. airline from 1930-2001, when it was bought out by American Airlines. Until the early 1960s it was headquartered in KC, Mo. when it moved to NYC. Later, St. Louis became its largest hub.
- Poor people never slaughtered an animal for their own eating except for a major family or religious feast (e.g., the Passover _____). If and when meat was served, the common animals used were lambs or goats, eaten roasted.
- _____ Kosh B’gosh; company esp. known for children’s clothing; founded in 1903.
- Masterpiece Theater and Downton Abbey are two popular shows on this TV network.
- Country internet code for Russia.
- Popular nuts throughout the Bible are _____, pistachios and walnuts, all eaten roasted.
- That’s a laugh!
- One of the eight States bordering Missouri (abbr.).
- Among other fruits Mentioned in the Bible are

- _____ and pomegranates.
- “...Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes _____ the sin of the world,” (John 1:29).
- When milk was consumed, it was from ewes and goats, not cows. Since milk spoils quickly, _____-making was very common.
- “The sniveling little whelp gave his (catering) order. He said it was a party for a religious society... the lying little _____,’ said Mrs. Kensall,” —*Sherlock Holmes and the Devil’s Grail*, Barrie Roberts.
- Matters were held in _____ pending further investigation.
- Abbr. for a narrow road/street lacking a median.
- Land _____!
- Fish was far more important than meat. Usually quickly salted, _____ and some carp were the most common fish in the Sea of Galilee, the biggest source of fish.

DOWN

- The Official Missouri State Website is MO._____.
- _____ Peanut Butter Cups candy was created in 1928 by a former dairy farmer and shipping foreman for Milton S. Hershey.
- Bread was made from _____ and barley (less expensive). Ground into flour, then dough and baked daily, it was the essential, basic food.
- During WW II, the U.S. government _____ worked around the clock to produce _____ only prayer books and Bibles for the troops but also small statues of Christ, Mary, and the saints; also crosses, crucifixes, and stars of David to all who wanted them.
- Short for the country of Lebanon which has always been unique in the Middle East for having a large minority of Christians. In the religious and political turmoil of these later years, the current population estimates are: Muslim—61% (half Sunni, half Shia); Christians—33% (mostly Maronite Catholics).
- “I often think that even were _____ no life to come, it would be happiness enough to love God in this life, to serve Him and to be able to do something for His glory,” —Jean Vanney, the Cure of Ars in *The Secret of the Cure of Ars*, Henri Gheon.
- The ancient Jews liked their food strongly seasoned. Some common spices were _____, cumin, capers, mint, dill, rosemary, garlic and salt. Pepper was expensive and rare.
- Dorothy’s Auntie _____.
- The most important and ubiquitous fruits throughout the Bible were grapes, olives, and figs, all of which figure prominently in the _____ of Jesus and the diet of his day.
- Letters for General Electric, a conglomerate esp. well known for kitchen and laundry appliances.
- The thief got away and was on the _____.
- Beverage made of flavored ice and a drink (e.g., a Slurpee or an Iced).
- “Just _____ the right thing,” —Matthew Kelly.
- Letters for Works Progress Ad., a huge New Deal depression era government project.
- “When (the royal official) heard that Jesus had arrived...he asked Him to come down and _____ his son, who was near death,” (John 4:47).
- T-shirt sizes: _____; MED.; LG.; XL.
- _____ hunch, I called his bluff (2 wds.).
- “When your past calls, don’t answer. It has nothing _____ say,” —Lionel Richie (2 wds.).
- The naming of a Bishop to be a Cardinal is often less a personal honor and more a recognition of the importance of the diocese _____ leads.
- The main sweetener for the Jewish people was _____ from domestic bee hives; so much was produced that some was exported.
- Old Testament prophet; contemporary of the prophet Isaiah; 40th book of the Bible.
- Early movie channel.
- In education, letters for Elementary Education.
- Abbr. for the Jewish Sabbath day.
- In finance, letters for Entire Net Income.
- Green or Black.
- Muhammad _____; considered the greatest and most colorful boxer of all time.
- Genetic material.
- Periodic Table letters for Chlorine.




 **CATHOLIC SUPPLY**
OF ST. LOUIS, INC.

Inspirational Gifts for All Occasions!
Especially First Communion, Baptism, & Weddings

www.catholicsupply.com
or Call Today for a Free Catalog 1-800-325-9026

GEOTHERMAL HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

 **BOSCH**
Invented for life

Stieferman Heating Company 573-635-3547
100% GREEN, 101% COOL

CRISTO REY

From page 1

“And what does Jesus say? He says, ‘Look up at Me. Focus on Me. I’ll show you who you are. I’ll keep you safe. I’ll give people the lessons they need to hear, and it’s going to come through you,’” Mr. Greenfield stated.

Mr. Greenfield serves as assistant principal for an all-boys Catholic high school in Florida.

He was emcee at last year’s National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Cleveland and has presented at numerous Steubenville Catholic youth conferences.

Quoting Isaiah 43:1, he assured all who were present that God is summoning them by name to be not only His loyal subjects but His active, outspoken witnesses.

“The Lord didn’t call you here by accident,” he stated. “God has brought you here not only to be a light in His world but also for you to have an encounter with Him.”

“Jesus is walking toward each and every one of you,” he said. “He’s asking you to simply respond.”

Mr. Greenfield said Christians are called to listen to and heed “that small voice” that leads them to be a source of hope and healing.

He told of his conversion experience that began during Adoration while he was on a retreat in college.

“The best way I can put it is, the Lord just demolished my heart,” he stated. “The Lord changed me! And I was in a situation where I didn’t think I was changeable.”

He had been raised Catholic, “but I wasn’t really worshipping God,” he said. “I was worshipping the Unholy Trinity: me, myself and I.”

But that day, Jesus took away Mr. Greenfield’s inward focus and gave him purpose and direction.

“God spoke to my whole heart, not just the good things but the broken parts, and all I wanted to do was know more about Him,” he said. “So I started to serve God.”

“That’s why I’m really excited for you guys,” Mr. Greenfield told his audience. “Because I know that when you give the Lord a part of your heart, especially in Eucharistic Adoration, He will begin to



LEFT: Maureen Quinn and Erik Chinchilla talk about the Cristo Rey martyrs during the diocesan observance Global Celebration of Young People on Nov. 19, the Solemnity of Christ the King. RIGHT: Keynote speaker Brian Greenfield delivers a message of hope.



change you.”

“Not for sale”

Mrs. Quinn and Milan native Erik Chinchilla, a graduate student at University of Notre Dame, served as emcees for the event.

They explained the significance of the theme for the youth celebration, “Viva Cristo Rey.”

They told of the Catholic rebels in Mexico in 1926-29 who chose to die rather than let a repressive government keep them from practicing their faith.

“Long live Christ the King!” became their rallying cry, even while being put to death.

The faith of the martyrs emboldened the Mexican people, who were overwhelmingly Catholic, to take back their freedom.

Many of those who were killed in the Cristero War have been declared blessed or saints of the Church.

“One thing that’s more attractive than sin is virtue,” Mr. Chinchilla asserted. “We want to be strong, we want to be peaceful, all these things.”

He noted that Christians in the United States are not being called to die for their faith. “However, all love leads to death. When we love Christ, when we love God, we’re dying to sin.”

Mrs. Quinn talked about Blessed José Sanchez, who gave his life at age 14 rather than renounce his faith.

When adults in his life pleaded with him to cooperate with the government in order to save himself, he responded:

“My faith is not for sale. If I am called to die for the faith, then I will do it.”

Mrs. Quinn said Blessed José’s message is timeless.

“Christ is our King, and our King is not dead,” she said. “Just like Blessed José, you can live out your faith and refuse to sell that faith to the small things that fight against it.”

Gift of gratitude

Bishop McKnight spoke of the significance of adoring Jesus fully present in the Holy Eucharist, the Most Blessed Sacrament.

He pointed out that at every Mass, all participants are drawn into the experience of Jesus’s life, death and resurrection and the heavenly banquet described by St. John in the Book of Revelation.

“That’s where we’re headed!” the bishop proclaimed. “And by the same Sacrament, we not only participate in the great saving event of Mount Calvary more than 2,000 years ago, we anticipate what will happen in heaven, here and now!”

It is, therefore, an occasion for tremendous joy and thanksgiving.

“Jesus desires that we have life in Him,” Bishop McKnight noted. “That’s why He died! For us to have joy! Everlasting joy with Him in heaven.”

That gift is not meant to stay locked up in a church.

“Whenever we receive Holy Communion, we are to bring the Eucharist in our very bodies out into the world,” the

bishop proclaimed. “And it is through us — we who are His disciples, we who are His subjects — that the Lord desires to lead others to share in the gift of the Eucharist.

“It is through us,” he stated, “that others see the beauty of our Catholic faith, whenever we practice humility, compassion and gratitude.”

Bishop McKnight explained that the Eucharist is the gift of Jesus’s perfect thanksgiving to His Father.

“We share and consume that thanksgiving,” the bishop noted. “And we LIVE lives of gratitude because of Who we believe is present among us, in this, the supreme Sacrament of the Church.”

Sacrament of unity

Through the rest of the Holy Hour, the people sang hymns, offered prayers of petition and thanksgiving, and worshipped in silence.

A Hispanic choir from St. Peter Parish in Marshall and an Anglo choir made up of past Totus Tuus missionaries in the diocese joined voices and led the singing.

For the final 20 minutes, Father Paul Clark, diocesan vocation director and director of seminarians, processed the Blessed Sacrament around the church.

People were filled with the Holy Spirit, fell to their knees and worshipped Jesus.

Some were moved to tears.

Deacon Enrique Castro, diocesan executive director of

faith formation, said he was impressed with how engaged the participants were throughout the Holy Hour, regardless of the language.

“The music, the whole environment, God being at the center of it all — it was way beyond anything I expected,” he stated.

“We brought two cultures together and it worked!” said Mrs. Quinn. “You know an event is good when the people want more. The choirs want to work together and sing more songs together in the future.”

Loyal subjects

Seminarian Jacob Hartman marveled at the diversity and commitment of the people who attended the celebration and those who helped bring it into being.

“The event was a success because the people who brought others or organized the day have a relationship with Christ the King,” he said. “They all encountered Christ in different times and places in their life because someone else spoke the Word of God to them first, and they believe that same God is present today.”

“It reminded me that others can truly encounter the same God I encountered when I began to grow in my faith but it is only if I preach Christ to others,” Mr. Hartman stated. “Even if I think I don’t have anything to give others I have my faith, of which I am called to be a good steward by sharing it with others.”

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

Fundraisers & Social Events

Dec. 11

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

Meetings/ Workshops

Dec. 20

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

Jan. 2-6

St. Louis, SEEK23 event, sponsored by FOCUS, America's Center convention complex, for info or to register visit seek.focus.org

Jan. 3

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

Jan. 14

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

Jan. 17

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

Jan. 25

Columbia, Cursillo Grand Reunion, 8:30 am-4 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, for info visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo/

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

diciembre 17

Jefferson City, Formación de Ministros de Comunión, 9 am-3 pm, oficinas de las cancellería, favor de registrarse por medio del siguiente link: diojeffcity.org/ministerio-hispano/formacion-de-ministros-de-comunion/. También puede registrarse por teléfono llamando al diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650.

enero 14

Jefferson City, Encuentro de

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

pm each Sunday, St. Peter Church

Youth & Young Adults

Dec. 10

Jefferson City, JPIL Young Adults Advent Retreat, 8 am-3 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info call 573-644-4965 or email julie.g@cathedraljc.org

Dec. 18 & Jan. 15

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

Jan. 28

Jefferson City, "With Great Power," Confirmation Retreat, 10 am-3 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/confirmation-retreat-2023

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Dec. 13 & Jan. 10

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

Liturgical

Dec. 11 & 18

Jefferson City, Advent sacred music & Sunday Vespers, 4-5

'O Holy Night' tops church poll

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The Christmas carol "O Holy Night" ranked first in a list of hymns most played in December at Christian churches in the United States.

"O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night" ranked second and third, respectively.

The list was compiled by Pushpay, which offers electronic giving options for churches and their congregants. It asked its 15,000 subscribing churches last December what hymns they used that month, and released the results this Dec. 1.

A Pushpay spokeswoman, Katie Griffin, could not supply a breakdown of Catholic parishes among those churches.

The top-10 list is filled with carols familiar to Catholics. Following the top three choices are, in order, "The First Noel," "Joy To The World" and "Angels We Have Heard On High."

Following those are two songs featured more in the repertoire of non-Catholic churches. "Glorious Day," which ranked seventh overall, was recorded by the contemporary Christian group Passion, featuring Kristian Stanfill on vocals.

The song's official music and lyrics video has received 6.6 million views on YouTube.

FR. BOYER

From page 6

Since that day, Fr. Boyer has cultivated a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother as she is especially revered by Catholics in Mexico, under the title, Virgin of Guadalupe.

"I rediscovered the Rosary when I was in my adult years," he said. "I carry mine around as an old friend every day."

He served for a year as associate pastor of Holy Family in Hannibal before the bishop assigned him to a parish with a familiar name.

"Fr. Boessen always talked about this place that sounded like heaven — a place called St. Thomas," Fr. Boyer recalled. "I remember thinking sometime in my mid-teens, 'I really need to go there sometime.'"

"And sure enough, I wound up going there," he said.

Fr. Boessen, who had grown up in "that little piece of heaven by the Osage," was filling-in at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and preached all the homilies the weekend before Fr. Boyer arrived as pastor.

"He really built me up," Fr. Boyer recalled. "A homegrown boy said I'm okay, and I think most of them believed him. I went there and could do no wrong."

"Every priest should have that happen to them just once in their ministry," he added.

Fr. Boyer returned the favor by preaching the homily at Msgr. Boessen's 40th priestly anniversary that year.

"I dug up every story about him I could think of," said Fr. Boyer. "After-

ward, he said, 'Wayne, those stories are old as the hills!' I said, 'Well, you're the only one who's been around long enough to remember them!'"

It is to laugh

Puns and pranks have always been part of Fr. Boyer's persona.

"I'll run down and pick that up," one of his former employees was fond of saying.

"No need to run," he would reply. "It's okay to walk."

Whenever he visited one of his favorite aunts, a nurse in Denver, she would decide where to go to church and where to sit based on where she would be least likely to shake anyone's hand.

She came to visit him once in Martinsburg, and he introduced her at Mass and invited everyone to come forward and greet her at the Sign of Peace.

"She made a fist at me, like, 'You're going to get it for this!'" he recalled. "But her prayers and encouragement had a lot to do with my becoming and staying a priest."

A first-day-of-school photo in *The Catholic Missourian* once showed Fr. Boyer on one side of a see-saw on the school playground while children on the other side kept the balance.

One time, he returned to a parish where he had been pastor for the funeral of an organist who had accompanied generations of blessed events in church.

"I think Mary Jane was the organist at

the Wedding Feast at Cana!" he quipped.

Slower pace

Members of the Owensville and Belle parishes sent Fr. Boyer off with a farewell luncheon the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day.

His last day as their pastor was Nov. 30.

While preparing to move, he found a tattered photocopy of that "help wanted" card from his retreat in St. Louis.

"It was one of the last things I packed," he said. "One of the things it talks about is 'people to share your love and laughter with.' Has that ever been the truth?"

Fr. Boyer plans to say in the area and continue his priestly ministry — minus the meetings and administrative responsibilities that come with being a pastor.

"I need to take some time to remember how to relax," he said. "It's good not to be running all the time."

He plans to go to Florida to visit his brother, who's very sick, and help his sister-in-law.

"Long-term, I want to continue to celebrate Mass," he said. "And I'd like to continue teaching — especially in grade school and RCIA. How's all of that going to work out? I guess we'll see."

In the meantime, thinking back to his first-grade catechism class, he asked for prayers "for me to continue to 'know, love and serve God' and to keep ministering *in persona Christi* — the Person of Christ."

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

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

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

Anniversaries

Camdenton, St. Anthony
Jerry & Joyce Robins, 60 years
Adam & Jaclyn Johns, 10 years

Eldon, Sacred Heart
Andy & Rhonda Stoecklein, 25 years

Hannibal, Holy Family
Jess & Victoria Ornelas, 60 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter
Ed & Mary Rackers, 70 years
Larry & Diane Winegar, 50 years

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows
Andrew & Karen Haslag, 35 years

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus
Mike & Jamie Larsen, 10 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph
John & Carol Weilandich, 55 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels
Kenneth & Nina Huber, 50 years
Lee & Kirsten Ewigman, 10 years

Deaths

Allen D. Secrist, 87 — Father of Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City — on Dec. 3 in Owensville. A funeral service was to be held on Dec. 9 in Owensville.

Mike Freels, 54 — longtime maintenance and custodial supervisor for Sacred Heart School in Sedalia — on Dec. 1 in Kansas City. The Rite of Christian Burial was held on Dec. 7 in the Sacred Heart Chapel in Sedalia, with Deacon Turf Martin presiding. Burial was to be in Madison, Mo.

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Zita Tappel**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Oscar Guerra; Alva S. Jones**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Rebecca Kempker**

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Kenny Boss; Sherri Hoffman**

Baptisms

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Oliver Lee Foust**, son of Joshua & Lindsey Foust

Russellville, St. Michael — **Matthew Zink Daledovich**, son of Luke & Elizabeth Daledovich

Vandalia, Sacred Heart — **Ivy Rose** and **Slade Michael Lowrance**, children of Tyson & Allison Lowrance

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Rylie Marie Bruemmer**, daughter of Craig & Melissa Bruemmer; **Blaine Walker Touchette**, son of Lucas & Laura Touchette

QUESTION

From page 8

Holy Communion, after appropriate prayers and scriptural readings.

In the circumstance you raise, my own choice as a priest would have been to celebrate the Eucharist. You, after all, had fought off the snow to arrive at church, and you deserved to be credited and accommodated.

What would have been lost if the priest had taken 25 minutes to say a Mass even with just the two of you present — especially since he had already set aside the time to do that? Not only would the two of you have benefited, but other people as well — since the Mass is always offered for the needs of the wider Church.

CALDAROLA

From page 9

I have seen my own children, and later my grandchildren, immersed in the Christmas story when the creche is brought out at Advent.

Do you have an Advent wreath? Catholics light the candles, adding one each Advent Sunday, at Mass. But your own set makes a beautiful dinner table centerpiece, and every evening as you light the appropriate candles, you might offer personal prayers.

Is there a friend having a difficult time at school? Is a relative ill? Let your prayers be reflected in the light of the Advent wreath.

Giving is a huge Christmas tradition, but it sometimes becomes “getting” for many kids. Introduce your children or grandchildren to the wish lists of your favorite charity or to the giving tree at church. Help them select the gifts and explain what the charity does and how it reflects our faith.

When we lived in Alaska, we had friends who hosted a caroling party every year. If you can go caroling on a December night in Anchorage, you can carol anywhere.

What a great way to dispel the darkness and celebrate the community aspect of Jesus’ birth by singing through the neighborhood. With lots of hot cocoa and cookies to follow.

Like life itself, Advent passes swiftly. Let each day find its moment of reflection.

PILGRIMAGE

From page 11

“We’re brothers and sisters in our need for a Savior,” the priest stated. “In our waywardness, we receive Christ.”

After Holy Communion, the children and adults chanted the “*Salve Regina*” — “Hail, Holy Queen.”

Fr. Foy led everyone in singing “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” for the recessional.

“It’s a fitting song, expressing our gratitude to God for bringing us here and achieving the victory He has given us,” the priest stated.

He said it was a joy to see children and adults walk together while growing in faith.

“I know He’s calling us to witness to faith,” Fr. Foy stated. “That’s the thing we need more of now.”

He called on everyone to present the fruits of the pilgrimage prayerfully at God’s feet.

“It’s not our glory; it’s God’s glory,” he stated.

“10 out of 10!”

Other Holy Rosary students talked about pilgrimage: “If Jesus and the others on the pilgrimage could walk for four days, I can certainly do one day,” said Claire, a seventh-grader.

“No pain, no gain!” said seventh-grader Faith. “We can walk for all those who can’t walk.”

“I enjoyed going to Starkenburg, especially when I learned that my family was a part of that parish,” said seventh-grader Wyatt.

“The Marian pilgrimage was a lot of fun and a great ex-

perience,” said Ken, an eighth-grader.

“10 out of 10! I would recommend this trip to others,” said Maggie, a seventh-grader.

Eighth-grader Noah said he had just read about Terry Fox, who ran across Canada to raise money for childhood cancer treatment.

“I just thought that if he could do that with a prosthetic leg, I can do this pilgrim-

mage,” Noah stated.

Mr. Voss agreed with all of them.

“It’s a magnificent experience,” he said. “I feel clean and cleansed. It was very fulfilling — very, very, very fulfilling. I’ll definitely be here next year.”

The right track

Mrs. Harkins said she was a little nervous about signing up for the pilgrimage, but it turned out great.

“I’ve visited a lot of churches, I am a daily Mass-goer, but this was definitely an entirely new experience,” she stated. “I found nature — the fact that we were out in nature, praying as a community.

“I feel like I’m part of a tribe, a wonderful tribe, a Catholic tribe!” she said.

Fr. Foy said he hopes that joy and those lessons will last. “I’m just praying that we can take this spirit of fraternity that we’ve received over these past few days, and carry that out into the world and continue that spirit of charity and joy,” he said.

KatyTrailPilgrimage.com

“We’re brothers and sisters in our need for a Savior. In our waywardness, we receive Christ.”
— Father Timothy Foy



Crossword puzzle answers

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

Abundant harvest



Students of Sacred Heart School in Sedalia bring their food donations forward in the Sacred Heart Chapel during the school's Student Council Food Drive in November. The school community donated 4,971 pounds — nearly two-and-a half tons — of food and water to the Open Door food pantry in Sedalia. Juniors donated an average of 94 pounds per student, followed by seniors with an average of 56.7 pounds per student.

— Photos from the Sacred Heart School, Sedalia, MO Facebook page

Seeing a work in progress



Art students from Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City visit the St. Louis studio of Gwyneth Thompson-Biggs, who was in the process of creating murals for the baptistry in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Oct. 19. The murals were being installed in the Cathedral this week. The students then visited the Saint Louis Art Museum.

— Photo from the Helias Catholic High School Facebook page

A visit from the pastor

Father Alexander Gabriel, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal and St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra, visits children in the St. Joseph Parish School of Religion (PSR) on Nov. 3.

— Photo by Andrea Barnes



Honoring defenders of freedom



Students at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City salute military veterans with their artwork on Nov. 11, Veterans Day.

— Photo from the Immaculate Conception Catholic School Facebook page

An excellent likeness



A student at St. Clement School in St. Clement drew this picture of Father Henry Ussher, pastor of St. Clement Parish, St. Joseph Parish in Louisiana and the Mission of Mary Queen of Peace in Clarksville, for his birthday on Nov. 16.

— Photo by Fr. Ussher

An angel tells Mary she will bear a Son

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

One day, God sent the angel Gabriel on a mission.

He wanted Gabriel to go to the town of Nazareth in Galilee and deliver a very important message to a young girl who lived there.

The girl's name was Mary.

She was a virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, who was of the house of King David.

"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you," Gabriel said when he visited Mary.

When Mary heard Gabriel's greeting, she was troubled and wondered what it meant.

Gabriel knew what she was thinking.

"Do not be afraid, Mary," he assured her, "for you have found favor with God."



Gabriel then shared with her the message God wanted him to relay.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus," the angel announced.

"He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David his father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there

will be no end."

Mary was confused. She asked Gabriel how she could have a baby when she and Joseph had not yet begun their married life together.

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God," Gabriel explained.

The angel also gave Mary some additional news.

"And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God," he said.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord," Mary said. "May it be done to me accord-

ing to your word."

After Mary had spoken, Gabriel left.

Not long after, Mary traveled to Judah to visit Elizabeth.

When Mary entered the house of Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah, she called out a greeting.

When Elizabeth heard it, the baby in her womb leapt for joy, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb," Elizabeth said.

Read more about it... Luke 1

1. Whom did Gabriel visit?
2. What message did Gabriel deliver?

Bible Accent

Mary was not the only person whom an angel visited to discuss Jesus' birth.

In Matthew 1:18, we read that Mary's husband, Joseph, learned that Mary was with Child before they began living together as husband and wife.

Joseph was a righteous man, so he planned to divorce her quietly so he would not bring her shame.

One night, Joseph had a dream in which an angel of God spoke to him.

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your

wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this Child has been conceived in her," the angel explained. "She will bear a Son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

All this was taking place to fulfill what God had said through the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a Son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he

did what the angel had said and took Mary into his home.

Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem for a census when it came time for Mary have her Baby. And when He was born, Mary and Joseph named the Baby Jesus, as the angel had said.

Essay

When has someone told you some good or exciting news?

Puzzle

Unscramble the words and arrange them to make a quotation from the children's story.

si bowm het sledbes

truif royu fo

Sentence:



Answers: is, womb, the, blessed, fruit, your, of, Blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Saint Spotlight

St. Anastasia

St. Anastasia's history is a mystery. Some say she was martyred in a Roman province in Central Europe during the Christian persecution that took place during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). Others say she was a Roman matron who helped the Christian community at Aquileia, Italy. Despite her mysterious background, her name was included in the Roman Canon of the Mass in the fifth century. And in accord with an ancient custom, she is commemorated during the second Mass on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.



FRANK SCHRIMPF
PLUMBING COMPANY, INC.

615 A Clark Ave
Jefferson City

573-636-9661

www.SchrimpfPlumbing.com

Factory Authorized Dealer
BEAM
CENTRAL VACUUM SYSTEMS

BUILDING DEMOLITION?

ARSI
INCORPORATED

Contact Us
1-800-769-5798
www.arsi-mo.com

Asbestos Inspection and Abatement

Serving clients throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City since 1985 with asbestos, lead, mold, and environmental services.

Notre Dame scholar explores history of global Catholicism

Catholicism: A Global History from the French Revolution to Pope Francis, by John T. McGreevy. W.W. Norton (New York, 2022). 528 pp. \$35.

Reviewed by Timothy Walch
Catholic News Service

“Rome has spoken, the matter is settled.”

Attributed to St. Augustine, this phrase was often used to capsize the central authority of the Vatican.

But this assertion to the contrary, John T. McGreevy shows how the international development of Catholicism

has changed the Church over the past 250 years.

McGreevy, the provost and a professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, begins with a straightforward goal — to show how a better understanding of Catholicism will enhance our understanding of the modern world.

“No institution,” he notes of the Church, “is as multicultural or multilingual, few touch as many people.”

He divides his story into three broad eras. First are the decades of turmoil from the French Revolution in the 1790s through the nationalist uprisings

across Europe and the Americas in the 19th century. There were calls for reform, but the Vatican resisted and remained dominant into the 20th century.

Second are the years from 1870 to 1962, the decades between the First Vatican Council and the Second Vatican Council. Although the power of the Vatican was not seriously challenged during these years, there was a perpetual conflict over the need to reform the relationship between Catholic values and a growing secular nationalism.

Both the laity and the clergy pushed Church leaders to take a stand on social, economic and political equity.

These were decades of great migration within the Church. Revolution and poverty across Europe led tens of millions of Catholics to migrate to the Americas.

Among those migrants were the ancestors of both President Joe Biden and Pope Francis. The Church became less Eurocentric and more global with each decade.

The third era focuses on the impact of the Second Vatican Council on Church membership around the world. The council was, simply put, one of the most momentous events in the history of the 20th century.

In fact, McGreevy depicts the council as the “hinge” in the changing nature of authority within the Church.

The six decades that followed Vatican II were dramatic and consequential. Changes in liturgy and language came first. Church attitudes toward ecumenism and the role of the laity in the Church soon followed.

The charisma and international travel of Pope St. John Paul II captivated the world, but restrictions on contraception and abortion and a sexual abuse crisis caused persistent

turmoil.

That the Church was changing was evident from the demographics of its membership.

Mass attendance in Europe and North America declined. In those same years, however, Church membership in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia flourished. We are now a Church of 1.2 billion members; many are people of color living below the equator.

McGreevy captures the contours of these decades with judicious balance. Most important, he recognizes the value of the institutional Church.

Catholic schools, hospitals, asylums and other social institutions continue to shape the quality of life in almost every

country in the world.

“In countries or regions where governmental presence is minimal — or corrupt,” he adds, “Catholic institutions remain crucial.”

He writes with a clear command of an exceptional variety of source materials. More important, he has a style that will engage a general audience.

Each chapter is divided into multiple sections laced with interesting vignettes that aid in understanding larger themes.

At its core, this book shines a light on the crucial role of the Church in the modern era.

“The world desperately needs institutions that aren’t rigidly ideological, that cross national borders,” McGreevy

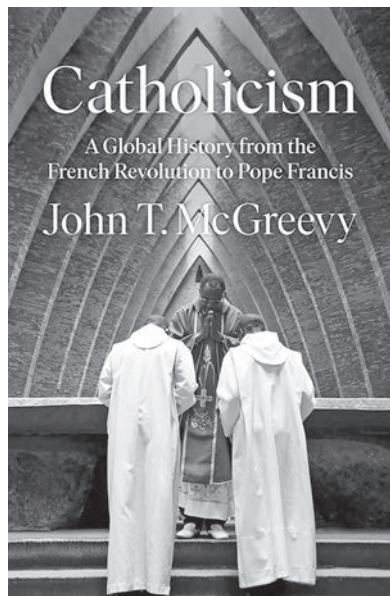
said in a recent interview.

“At a time when we see national tensions in our world, along with global crises like climate change that cannot be solved by one nation-state, Pope Francis is strongly urging international cooperation, and he’s right to do that.”

This is an important book worthy of the attention of readers of all faiths.

McGreevy reminds us that the Catholic experience is both intimate and international, linked by a common faith. We are many cultures, but we are all one Church.

Walch is a historian of American Catholicism and the author of Parish School (2016).



Superbly written history addresses influence of Irish migration

On Every Tide: The Making and Remaking of the Irish World, by Sean Connolly. Basic Books (New York, 2022). 544 pp., \$35.

Reviewed by Daniel S. Mulhall
Catholic News Service

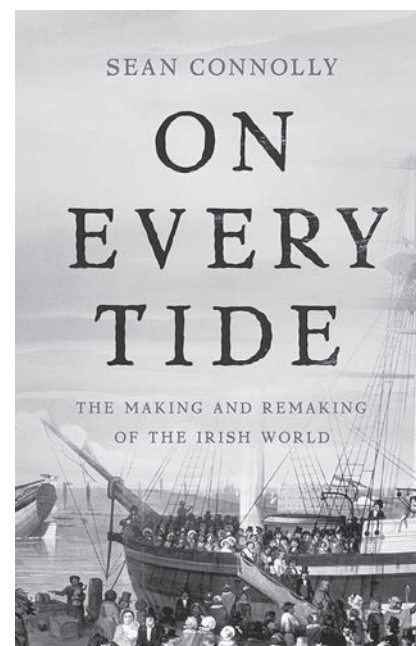
The Catholic Church throughout much of the world was shaped by the Irish diaspora, the migration of 8 million Irish men and women that took place (mostly) between 1760 and 1960.

As the Irish left their native soil to escape poverty and find new opportunities, they were followed by priests and bishops, and religious sisters and brothers who provided the sacraments, taught in their schools, provided health care and nurture, and cared for those who were poor and indigent.

The story of this great migration of Irish men and women and the faith they bought with them is told in Sean Connolly’s captivating new book, *On Every Tide: The Making and Remaking of the Irish World*.

Connolly, an emeritus professor of Irish history and visiting research fellow at the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen’s University Belfast, presents a comprehensive and enlightening narrative of this time and the people who created it.

The book is a grand his-



torical *tour de force* providing great insight into the role the Irish played in shaping their new homelands. While the focus is primarily on the settlers themselves, this story cannot be told adequately without also describing the role of the Catholic faith they brought with them, which the author does with great dexterity.

Here we have both the history of the people who left Ireland and the history of the Catholic Church in these countries. While many of the Irish immigrants were Protestants, the role of the Protestant churches is given little attention here.

While the book is data-driven, with much information

taken from census reports and other historical sources, it is never boring. Connolly weaves this data into his narrative, along with first-person accounts from the immigrants themselves (mostly from letters), to present an enjoyable reading experience.

In addition, the book is majestic in scope: The reader learns in detail about the Irish influence on the settling of Canada and the United States, New Zealand and Australia, along with how the Irish influenced the political and social structures of each of these countries. Although many Irish immigrants settled in England, not as much information is provided on their roles in that country.

While the positive role the Irish played in shaping the “new world” is highlighted, their role in negative aspects of the conquest is also told.

While many of the Irish suffered under English rule — the story of the potato famine is told in detail as are many of the other causes of the great migration — the Irish were often the oppressor of the Indigenous peoples of their new homelands.

This story is told as well. Although not told in depth,

See IRISH, page 23

On air

Mustard Seed
Sunday Scripture readings
and reflections

Sundays, 10:06 am, KWIX-AM 1230, Moberly
Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

EWTN and other
Catholic programming
Covenant Radio Network
broadcasts

KHJR 88.1 FM, Jefferson City
KBKC 90.1 FM, Moberly
KEFL 91.5 FM, Kirksville
94.7 FM, Columbia
103.3 FM, Fulton
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

Edina community Living Nativity

Members of St. Joseph Church in Edina and members of other Knox County congregations bring the story of Jesus's birth to life during the community Live Nativity on Nov. 27.

— Photos by Carol Fox



WOOLDRIDGE

From page 4

to a branch of the Wooldridge family.

Perfect storms

Dr. Dan Everett, principal and president of Tolton Catholic, said he was proud of how members of the school community worked together to help people in need.

"We are truly blessed to have such caring and involved families," he said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the Wooldridge fire."

Mr. Scherrer noted that the students didn't go into this project in search of accolades.

"It was just something that needed to be done, and we had the people to do it," he said.

"Just as a perfect storm of unfortunate events led to all of this damage, another perfect storm in terms of timing and circumstances and heartfelt kindness from our students brought all of this together," he stated.

State Rep. Taylor said that when things like the Wooldridge fire happen, "folks need to look to their faith, their friends, and their commu-

nity."

"The good people from Fr. Tolton Catholic High School covered all of those," he said. "Though they may not be friends with anyone affected by the tragedy, they reached out to those in their time of need, and the people of Wooldridge will forever be indebted by the generosity shown."

"No one knows God's plan," Rep. Taylor noted, "and sometimes the journey is a struggle. But it's obvious that God worked through all of those who came to assist their brothers and sisters in need."

Mayor Murphy said thinking about what the students did warms her heart.

"They were amazing, stepping up for a town and people in need," she said.

"Because of God," she added, "all things are possible!"

To see a video of the students at work in Wooldridge, visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "Toltonsgiving."

Daily Readings

Sunday, Dec 11

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is. 35:1-6a, 10
Ps. 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
Jas. 5:7-10
Mt. 11:2-11

Wednesday, Dec 14

St. John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church
Is. 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Ps. 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Lk. 7:18b-23

Monday, Dec 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)
Zec. 2:14-17 or Rv. 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
(Ps.) Jdt. 13:18bcde, 19
Lk. 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

Thursday, Dec 15

Is. 54:1-10
Ps. 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b
Lk. 7:24-30

Tuesday, Dec 13

St. Lucy, virgin and martyr
Zep. 3:1-2, 9-13
Ps. 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23
Mt. 21:28-32

Friday, Dec 16

Is. 56:1-3a, 6-8
Ps. 67:2-3, 5, 7-8
Jn. 5:33-36

Saturday, Dec 17

Gn. 49:2, 8-10
Ps. 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17
Mt. 1:1-17

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for December:

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Sponsored by

Expert Care Close to Home



SSMHealth
St. Mary's Hospital
JEFFERSON CITY

IRISH

From page 22

the story of the role the Irish played in racial hatred in the United States is also addressed.

This book will be of much interest to anyone (especially those of Irish ancestry) who wants to understand Irish history and heritage. It will also be of great interest to anyone interested in understanding the history of the Catholic Church in these countries where the Irish settled.

With its 19-page index, it will also be a handy source for those seeking to do research of their own. The index is traditional, meaning that it is organized alphabetically, so that the reader needs to know the name they seek to find it. A histori-

cal and country-specific index would have been useful.

The demographic charts included in the appendix provide a quick and helpful reference for the numbers of Irish who emigrated, where they went and when.

Also provided is a listing of suggested other readings for those who want to engage the topic in greater detail.

Congratulations to the author on a superbly researched and well-written history.

Mulhall, whose grandfather emigrated from Ireland in the early 1800s, lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

Find us online

@



CATHMO.COM

Like Us On **facebook**

Diocese of Jefferson City

Giving thanks with food, community, fellowship

The 17th annual free Thanksgiving Day dinner hosted by St. Anthony Parish in Camdenton was a success for Christian fellowship and gratitude.

More than 85 volunteers cooked, decorated and carved on Tuesday and Thursday.

About 430 meals were served in-person or delivered to people who were alone, in need, or looking for a place to eat or have a meal delivered on an important American holiday.

Deliveries were made to 40 households.

Also on Thanksgiving Day at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, 970 meals were served or delivered

in two hours.

“Not a single one of those meals could have happened without the selfless generosity of our donors, givers and helpers,” said Father Matthew

Flatley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia also served a Thanksgiving meal in the St. Patrick Chapel fellowship hall.



Volunteers gather in the St. Anthony Parish Fellowship Hall in Camdenton (left) and in the cafeteria of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City (right, top and bottom) to prepare and serve Thanksgiving Day meals to people in the community.

QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICARE?



WINTER-DENT

100% EMPLOYEE OWNED

HUMANS Helping HUMANS

For information regarding Supplement (Medigap), Medicare Advantage plans or for a complete Personal Risk Review contact Laurie Quail, Licensed Insurance Agent, and the Winter-Dent team 573-449-8100 x1227 or laurie.quail@winter-dent.com. By calling the number above, you will be connected to a licensed insurance agent.

Not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency.

winter-dent.com • 573-634-2122

BONNOTS MILL

9th annual Drive-thru

Live Nativity

Sunday
December

11

5:30-7:30pm

Sponsored by the Bonnots Mill Community Betterment Association



Don't miss this AMAZING experience!

CoMoGives.com



Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri

YOUR SUPPORT FUELS OUR HOPE

EVERY GIFT GIVEN TO OUR COMOGIVES CAMPAIGN HELPS US WELCOME NEWCOMERS

VISIT COMOGIVES.COM AND SEARCH FOR "CATHOLIC CHARITIES REFUGEE SERVICES"

GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

11 DAYS: OCTOBER 10-20, 2023

ATHENS • CORINTH • MYKONOS • EPHEBUS • PATMOS
CRETE • SANTORINI • DELPHI • KALAMBAKA • THESSALONIKI
Including a 3-day cruise to the Greek Isles & Turkey



HOSTED BY

FR. MIKE QUINN

\$4199 FROM ST. LOUIS*

*Air/land tour price is \$3679 plus \$520 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

For more information, please contact:
Fr. Mike Quinn at 573-629-5490
or frquinn4419@gmail.com

SPACE IS LIMITED - SIGN UP TODAY!



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

JANUARY 28, 2023
JEFFERSON CITY

FEBRUARY 18, 2023
MONROE CITY

TO REGISTER GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINK
diojeffcity.org/confirmation-retreat-2023/



DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City



Faith Formation
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT