

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Parishioners gather in Sacred Heart Church in Columbia in the early morning hours to serenade the Blessed Mother and recall her miraculous apparitions to St. Juan Diego in Mexico.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

January 6, 2023 • Vol. 66 No. 14

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Diocese mourns the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



The body of Pope Benedict XVI lies in St. Peter's Basilica for people to pay their respects at the Vatican Jan. 2, 2023.

— CNS photo/Paul Haring

See Page 24 for a schedule of Memorial Masses to be offered in the diocese

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City released the following message on Dec. 31, upon the death in Vatican City of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who led the Church from 2005-13.

Pope Francis was to preside at the Funeral Mass on Jan. 5 in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

We now mourn the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, a wise shepherd who dedicated his life to Christ and the mission of the Church.

As we reflect on his impact on our world and our Church, the Diocese of Jefferson City joins Pope Francis and Catholics across the globe in prayer for our former pope.

Though we mourn his loss, we also thank God for his leadership and wisdom. The papacy of Pope Benedict XVI placed a powerful focus on the tenets of love, charity, truth and hope. He wrote that, "The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life."

He also helped modernize our thinking about the important role of Catholic laity in the life of our Church, calling lay people "co-responsible" for the Church's being and acting.

In communion with our global Church, the Diocese of Jefferson City will now participate in the traditions and customs of mourning the death of a pope. In the coming days, a funeral and burial will be held in Rome. Following the funeral, our diocese and all Catholics will observe nine official days of mourning, called the Novendiales.

See MOURN, page 3

In word and deed, pope emeritus inspired priests of this diocese and some with ties to it

By Jay Nies

A seminarian who would become Father Jason Doke was serving at a Mass offered by Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Basilica, during an official gathering of the world's cardinals.

"I remember standing next to Pope Benedict behind the papal altar, under the *baldachino*, and thinking, 'Here I am, right next to the successor of St. Peter and right over St. Peter's bones, and I'm looking out and seeing most of the cardinals of the world,'" said Fr. Doke, pastor of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins and moderator of the curia for the Jefferson City diocese.

"Just his presence, knowing his role as a *Periti* (theological advisor) at the Second Vatican Council and what he had done at the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith for many years, and seeing him as pope — that had a huge impact on me," stated Fr. Doke.

He and many others are dusting off their recollections of the retired pontiff, who died on Dec. 31 at age 95.

Pope Benedict, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, led the Church for nearly eight years. He previously served as archbishop of Munich and Freising, then as prefect for the Church's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (CDF) through most of the lengthy pontificate of his predecessor, Pope St. John Paul II.

In February 2013, the first German pope in centuries became the first pope in over 600 years to resign from office, citing health problems due to age and infirmity.

He spent the next nine years reading, writing and devoting many hours to praying for the Church in a separate residence in Vatican City.

"I often think of the way God molded Joseph Ratzinger — what a history he lived," said Monsignor Marion Makarewicz, pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and the

See REMEMBERING, page 17

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

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NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

01/06/23

Linn Saturday Mass time

Beginning on Jan. 7, the Saturday evening Vigil Mass at St. George Church in Linn will be celebrated at 5 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at 4 p.m. every Saturday in the church.

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.

Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau



Director of Schools sought for Joplin Area Catholic Schools

Southern Missouri's Joplin Area Catholic Schools seeks a Director of Schools for the 2023-2024 school year. We seek a dedicated Educational Leader with successful experience in Catholic School Leadership. The successful applicant will have a Master's Degree or beyond in Educational Administration as well as meet requirements for Missouri Certification. We seek an active Catholic who is dedicated to the growth and mission of Catholic Education.

About Joplin Area Catholic Schools

Founded in 1885 by the Sisters of Mercy, Joplin Area Catholic Schools (JACS) is part of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau and consists of St. Mary Preschool & Elementary, St. Peter the Apostle Middle School, and McAuley Catholic High School, located on two campuses in the Joplin Community. JACS is supported by the parishes of St. Mary Catholic Church, Joplin; St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, Joplin; and Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Webb City.

To Apply

Applicants should send a letter of interest and resume to Doretta Fox, dfox@jacss.org, as well as complete an application, which will be sent to you upon receipt of letter of interest. Applications will be accepted until Jan. 25, 2023, or until filled.

Memorial Mass for Bp. McKnight's mother, Mary Elizabeth Schaffer

DATE: January 20
TIME: 10:30 am

A public memorial Mass will be held for Mary Elizabeth (O'Reilly) Schaffer at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, in St. Andrew Church in Holt Summit.

Mrs. Schaffer, the mother of Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, died unexpectedly

yet peacefully on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, at the age of 73. Her funeral Mass was celebrated on Dec. 16 in St. Francis of Assisi Church in Wichita, Kansas.

The public is invited to attend the Jan. 20 Memorial Mass. St. Andrew Church is

located at 400 St. Andrew Drive, near Center Street in Holts Summit.

Memorial gifts may be given to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkeburg; the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Laurie; or St. Francis of Assisi Church in Wichita, Kansas.

Scholars: Holocaust remembrance more crucial than ever

By Gina Christian
OSV News

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed Jan. 27, has become more crucial than ever amid a rise in antisemitism and Russia's war on Ukraine, say scholars of Jewish-Catholic relations.

Antisemitic acts have spiked sharply over the past few years, despite dramatic improvements in Catholic-Jewish relations following the Second Vatican Council.

Encouraged by popes and bishops, Catholics in particular have a unique responsibility and many pastoral tools at hand to not only overcome antisemitism, but to develop a deep appreciation of each other's rich traditions of faith.

The Catholic Missourian

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Pray for deceased priests

Jan. 8 — **Fr. Leo T. Buhman**, Immaculate Conception, Macon (2011)

Jan. 9 — **Fr. Thomas F. Greaney**, Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City (1967); **Fr. Jeremiah F. Kennedy**, Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City (1967); **Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe** (2006)

Jan. 12 — **Fr. Paul M. Hartley**, Immaculate Conception, Montgomery City; St. Patrick, Jonesburg; and Church of the Resurrection, Wellsville (2022)

Jan. 14 — **Fr. Senan M. O'Connell**, Shrine of St. Patrick, St. Patrick (1973); **Fr. J. James Offutt**, Holy Spirit, Centralia (2020)

Jan. 16 — **Fr. Krsto J. Jelenic**, St. Michael, Kahoka (1978)

Jan. 17 — **Fr. Michael M. O'Donovan**, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hannibal (1979); **Fr. Peter Walsh**, Sacred Heart, Vandalia; and St. John, Laddonia (2011)

Parish Secretary — Folk, Mo.

St. Anthony of Padua parish in Folk is seeking a part-time parish secretary (approximately 12-16 hours per week). Duties include parish communications, bulletin, scheduling Mass intentions, maintaining parish records and serving as contact person for vendors. Much of the work can be done off-site and with flexible hours. Some work is on-site or involves trips to Westphalia and Jefferson City. A full list of duties is available upon request. Please contact Fr. Dylan Schrader at dschrader@diojeffcity.org.

St. Gertrude Parish and School

Sausage Dinner

January 15, 2023 - 11 am - 6 pm
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MAKING CONNECTIONS



Bishop McKnight

Living in awe of His many gifts

The new year — with the season of giving still fresh in our memories — is an opportune time to reflect on the gifts God has generously given and continues to give us.

Yet, I hear and read about how so many people are depressed today. Some talk about feeling the “weight of the world,” and act accordingly. They have a sense of being bound by worldly possessions and expectations.

How can this be, when we have so much?

Perhaps we can answer that question by considering the source of all we have, and the source of who we are.

God gives us life. He provides us with a community that supports us in our faith and raising our families. He gives each of us unique talents, aptitudes and charisms to make a difference in this world by our participation in the life and mission of the Church.

When we acknowledge that all comes from God, that all resides in Him — the weight is lifted.

Rather than being possessed by our gifts, we gain peace and the freedom to use them in

service to others — and in accord with the intention of the Donor, God.

St. Peter tells us in his first letter, “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

This is the key concept of the spirituality of stewardship, which is rooted in the Eucharist and is foundational for our lives as Catholics: “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.”

Everything generously flows to us from God, and through the sacramental mystery, we empty ourselves back to God.

This effort remains central to our diocesan pastoral plan, *A Steward’s Journey: A Call to Greater Communion*.

Having just completed our second year of work toward the goals of our plan, we are releasing an assessment of our progress; you can read the full report at diojeffcity.org/pastoral-plan.

I especially want to highlight our work on stewardship, and where we are going this

coming year.

Over the past two years, our diocesan Stewardship Office worked to renew and strengthen the approach to stewardship and participation at many parishes in

our diocese.

To date, approximately 3,000 Catholics in our diocese have attended stewardship presentations in 75 of our parishes.

Father Stephen Jones, who is leading this effort, has preached weekend liturgies about stewardship in dozens of parishes and missions.

Many of our parishes have formed stewardship councils to ensure that the spirituality of stewardship becomes engrained in their parish communities.

This year, as we enter the third year of our pastoral plan, all our parishes will come into communion with an integrated diocesan approach to stewardship.

The core truth to this effort is that we live our lives in awe of our gifts from God. When we do this, we recognize His call to share them for the betterment of all.

As St. Augustine wrote, “Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder

is needed by others.”

This means we use our God-given talents and abilities for the betterment of our communities and parishes — all in concert with our personal growth in faith through prayer and participation in Mass.

Catholic stewardship also enlightens us in how we share our financial resources as gifts from God. Our stewardship renewal reorients our giving toward the biblical practice of

multiple fundraising efforts in our parishes.

With this simplified model, Catholics can be intentional about giving to their parish. As stewards, we can embrace that it is not so much a matter of giving to a worthy cause, but rather giving out of our need to give back to God.

Stewardship is foundational to Catholic life. It is a Eucharistic spirituality of gratitude and a recognition of God’s presence with-in us.

A stronger culture of stewardship — sharing gifts, talents and

seeking greater participation — is also essential to our work to build thriving Catholic parishes in our diocese as we embark on our “Shaping our Future Together” process this coming year.

Let us all pray, live in awe of what we have been given, show gratitude to God and look for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we make use of God’s many gifts to us in 2023.

The core truth to this effort is that we live our lives in awe of our gifts from God. When we do this, we recognize His call to share them for the betterment of all.

tithing — giving a tenth back to God.

Over the course of our pastoral planning, we have worked to make financial stewardship more transparent and straightforward in our diocese.

Our renewed stewardship model means far fewer special collections. It phases out the diocesan-run annual stewardship appeal. It also moderates

BISHOP MCKNIGHT’S prayer intentions for January | enero

For foster parents and adopting parents; may they experience the support of the Church and the love of God as they expand their homes to make room for more children in their families. We pray to the Lord.

Por los padres de crianza temporal y padres adoptivos; que experimenten el apoyo de la Iglesia y el amor de Dios a medida que amplían sus hogares para dar cabida a más niños en sus familias. Roguemos al Señor.



MOURN

From page 1


Public memorial Masses for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI will be held during this time in each of our deaneries.

Please visit our website for more information about the times and locations of these Masses (diojeffcity.org).

In mourning our loss, let us honor Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI by striving for salvation in communion with one other. In his words:

“As Christians, we should never limit ourselves to asking: How can I save myself? We should also ask: What can I do in order that others may be saved and that for them, too, the star of hope may rise? Then I will have done my utmost for my own personal salvation, as well.”

As we mourn this great loss and move forward in faith, let us always keep these words close to our hearts.



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

JANUARY

Dec 25 - Jan 18 Mission trip to Africa/Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda

Jan 20 Memorial Mass for Mary Elizabeth Schaffer, mother of Bishop McKnight, 10:30 am, St. Andrew Church, Holts Summit

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CREANDO CONEXIONES

obispo McKnight



Viviendo admirados por sus muchos dones

El año nuevo, con la temporada de generosidad aún fresca en nuestra memoria, es un momento oportuno para reflexionar sobre los dones que Dios nos ha dado generosamente y continúa dándonos.

Sin embargo, escucho y leo acerca de cuántas personas están deprimidas hoy. Algunos hablan de sentir el “peso del mundo” y actúan en consecuencia. Tienen la sensación de estar atados por posesiones y expectativas mundanas.

¿Cómo puede ser esto, cuando tenemos tanto?

Tal vez podamos responder esa pregunta al considerar la fuente de todo lo que tenemos y la fuente de lo que somos.

Dios nos da la vida. Él nos

proporciona una comunidad que nos apoya en nuestra fe y en la crianza de nuestras familias. Él nos da a cada uno de nosotros talentos, aptitudes y carismas únicos para marcar la diferencia en este mundo mediante nuestra participación en la vida y misión de la Iglesia.

Cuando reconocemos que todo viene de Dios, que todo reside en Él, el peso desaparece. En lugar de ser poseídos por nuestros dones, obtenemos la paz y la libertad de utilizarlos al servicio de los demás, y de acuerdo con la intención del Donante, Dios.

San Pedro nos dice en su primera carta: “Pongan al servicio de los demás los dones

que han recibido, como buenos administradores de la multiforme gracia de Dios” (1 Ped 4,10).

Este es el concepto clave de la espiritualidad de la buena administración, que tiene

sus raíces en la Eucaristía y es fundamental para nuestras vidas como católicos: “En verdad

es justo y necesario, es nuestro deber y salvación darte gracias, Padre santo, siempre y en todo lugar”.

Todo nos fluye generosamente de Dios, y a través del misterio sacramental nos entregamos completamente de nuevo a Dios.

Este esfuerzo sigue siendo fundamental para nuestro plan pastoral diocesano, El Camino de un Buen Administra-

dor: Nuestro Llamado a una Mayor Comunión. Al haber completado nuestro segundo año de trabajo hacia las metas de nuestro plan, estamos publicando una evaluación de nuestro progreso; pueden leer el informe completo en diojefcity.org/pastoral-plan.

Quiero destacar especialmente nuestro trabajo en la buena administración y hacia dónde nos dirigimos este próximo año.

dado para el mejoramiento de nuestras comunidades y parroquias, todo junto con nuestro crecimiento personal en la fe a través de la oración y la participación en la Misa.

La buena administración católica también nos ilumina en cómo compartimos nuestros recursos económicos como dones de Dios. Nuestra renovación de la buena administración reorienta nuestra ofrenda hacia la práctica bíblica

del diezmo: devolver la décima parte a Dios.

En el transcurso de

La verdad central de este esfuerzo es que vivimos nuestras vidas, siempre admirados por nuestros dones recibidos de Dios. Cuando vivimos de esta manera, reconocemos su llamado a compartirlos para el mejoramiento de todos.

Durante los últimos dos años, nuestra Oficina Diocesana de Buena Administración trabajó para renovar y fortalecer el enfoque de la buena administración y participación en muchas parroquias de nuestra diócesis.

Hasta la fecha, aproximadamente 3,000 católicos de nuestra diócesis han asistido a presentaciones sobre la buena administración en 75 de nuestras parroquias. El Padre Stephen Jones, quien dirige este esfuerzo, ha predicado en liturgias de fines de semana sobre la buena administración a través de docenas de parroquias y misiones.

Muchas de nuestras parroquias han formado consejos de buena administración para garantizar que la espiritualidad de la buena administración se arraigue en sus comunidades parroquiales.

Este año, al entrar en el tercer año de nuestro plan pastoral, todas nuestras parroquias entrarán en comunión con un enfoque diocesano integrado de la buena administración.

La verdad central de este esfuerzo es que vivimos nuestras vidas, siempre admirados por nuestros dones recibidos de Dios. Cuando vivimos de esta manera, reconocemos su llamado a compartirlos para el mejoramiento de todos.

Como escribió San Agustín: “Averigua cuánto te ha dado Dios y de eso toma lo que necesitas, el resto lo necesitan los demás”.

Esto significa que ponemos en uso nuestros talentos y habilidades que Dios nos ha

nuestra planificación pastoral, hemos trabajado para que la administración económica sea más transparente y clara en nuestra diócesis. Nuestro modelo renovado de buena administración significa muchas menos colectas especiales. Elimina gradualmente el llamado anual de buena administración organizada por la diócesis. También modera múltiples esfuerzos de recaudación de fondos en nuestras parroquias.

Con este modelo simplificado, los católicos pueden dar intencionalmente a su parroquia. Como buenos administradores, podemos aceptar que no se trata tanto de dar a una causa digna, sino más bien de dar por nuestra necesidad de retribuir a Dios.

La buena administración es fundamental para la vida católica. Es una espiritualidad eucarística de gratitud y un reconocimiento de la presencia de Dios en nosotros.

Una cultura más sólida de la buena administración — compartir dones, talentos y buscar una mayor participación — también es esencial para nuestro trabajo de construir parroquias católicas prósperas en nuestra diócesis a medida que nos embarcamos en nuestro proceso *Dar forma a nuestro futuro juntos* en este año.

Oremos todos, vivamos admirados por lo que se nos ha dado, mostremos gratitud a Dios y busquemos la orientación del Espíritu Santo mientras hacemos buen uso de los muchos dones de Dios para nosotros en 2023.

Bishop McKnight: Let the light of Christmas banish fear



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight preaches the homily during the Mass at Dawn on Christmas Day in the gymnasium of St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Kathy Anderson

By Jay Nies

Christmas light forever changes all it touches.

It radiates through the ages, pushing back the darkness and revealing aspects of God’s wisdom and love.

“What we celebrate today is not merely something that happened 2,000 years ago, but what continues to happen in our day and in our world, even in our brokenness,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight proclaimed on Christmas Day.

“The Mystery of Christmas changes us and

the world around us!” the bishop observed.

He was offering the Mass at Dawn in the gymnasium of St. Joseph Cathedral School, as the Cathedral is undergoing a substantial renovation.

“As we look forward to the transformation of our Cathedral Church and our return to the ‘House of God’ and ‘Gate of Heaven’ for the celebration of Mass, let us never forget the poverty of the Christ Child in the manger,” the bishop said.

“It is here, in this very room, that we are close to our God and Maker because of His self-gift to us in the Blessed Sacrament,” the bishop said.

Be like Joseph

Bishop McKnight urged the Christmas congregants to be watchful for God’s light at work in their lives.

“God’s plan for us, what is yet to come, is beyond what we can imagine,” he insisted. “Let us not be afraid to experience change and trust in God’s providence for us.”

He pointed out how even a righteous and devoutly observant man like St. Joseph needed

See CHRISTMAS, page 19

OSV News launches Jan. 1, aims to speak 'truth in charity in a way that unites'

By Maria Wiering
OSV News

The hallmark of OSV News, a new Catholic news service that launched Jan. 1, is to provide news and content “that speaks to truth in charity in a way that unites,” said OSV Publisher Scott Richert.

“An increasing number of Catholics — and non-Catholics, for that matter — are searching for presentations of the truth in a non-polarizing way ... but they don't know where to look,” he said.

“What they will be able to do now is to open up their local diocesan publication, go to a diocesan website, just as they've been able to come to *Our Sunday Visitor*, and find that kind of edifying material — material that doesn't shy away from the truth, that speaks the truth as the Church has always spoken the truth, but speaks it in a way that is accessible to Americans today.”

Catholic media company OSV created OSV News last year to fill the anticipated void from the Dec. 30, 2022, closure of Catholic News Service (CNS), a news agency founded in 1920 and owned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

In May, CNS announced that the USCCB had decided to close CNS' domestic bureaus in New York and Washington, D.C., eliminating its national news and most of its international news coverage.

The USCCB continues to operate CNS's Rome bureau, which reports on the pope and matters pertaining to the Holy See.

CNS provided news stories on issues and events about or affecting the Catholic Church to subscribers, with a focus on diocesan media. In 2022, it was serving the majority of U.S. dioceses, according to CNS Director and Editor-in-Chief Greg Erlandson. *Our Sunday Visitor* was among its subscribers.

Filling a void

When CNS announced its closure, Richert said he had a sense that OSV was well positioned to address the anticipated need. “Someone is go-

ing to have to fill that hole” created by CNS' closure, he recalled thinking in a Dec. 6 interview. “We're going to have to fill that hole for us. Why don't we fill that hole for everyone else, as well?”

OSV is the largest Catholic publisher in the United States, and one of the largest in the world. Based in Huntington, Indiana, the company was founded in 1912 by Archbishop John Francis Noll as the Catholic newspaper *Our Sunday Visitor*. OSV has grown to include other periodicals, books and parish resources with a shared mission: “to champion the Catholic Church.”

The addition of a news service to OSV's offerings fits with the company's mission and identity, he said.

When then-Father Noll launched *Our Sunday Visitor* newspaper, “there was a lot of misunderstanding of what the church taught,” Richert said.

“You look at where we are 110 years later and the names have changed, the situations have changed, but the broader cultural similarities are there,” he said. “We need the Catholic press ... as a whole, and that's not just newspapers and magazines and print publications, but we need, increasingly, digital publications, websites, apps, social media. We need audio and video.

“We need all of this because that's what's necessary today to spread the Gospel,” he said.

OSV News clients can expect national and international news, feature stories and columns, like those CNS provided, Richert said. However, “we are going to try in many ways to go beyond what CNS has been able to do,” such as offering more catechetical resources, he said.

Plenty of experience

The OSV News team includes veteran Catholic journalists from around the United States with an international editor in Poland. It is led by OSV News Editor-in-Chief Gretchen R. Crowe, who joined OSV in 2013 as its newspaper's



The inaugural edition of *The Catholic Missourian*, dated July 7, 1957, notes that it was an edition of *Our Sunday Visitor*. It is shown here with the telephone used by Monsignor Ralph Kutz, now deceased, to correspond with OSV personnel in Huntington, Indiana, each week during the decade he served as editor of *The Catholic Missourian*. The technology and the process have changed dramatically, but the commitment to help Catholics know, love and share their faith remains.

editor. She has most recently served as OSV's editorial director for periodicals, overseeing the publication of *Our Sunday Visitor*, *The Priest* and *The Deacon* magazines, OSV Kids magazine, *RadiantMagazine.com* and *SimplyCatholic.com*.

“OSV News is going to stand out by providing really excellent journalism and context that helps explain what the Church teaches and why,” Crowe said. “OSV News will become that go-to resource for Catholics that want to understand what's happening in the world and how that affects them, in terms of their faith and how they should be living their faith out in the world today.”

OSV News's domestic team includes Julie Asher, senior editor; Maria-Pia Chin, Spanish

editor; Paulina Guzik, international editor; Megan Marley, digital editor; Bob Roller, photo editor; Elizabeth Scalia, culture editor; Peter Jesserer Smith, national news and features editor; and Maria Wiering, senior writer. Gina Christian and Kate Scanlon are national reporters, and John Mulderig is OSV News' media reviewer.

Like CNS, OSV News will partner with diocesan media to share news and feature stories from their publications with its clients.

Richert said he hopes OSV News will “excite the imagination of Catholic media professionals,” helping them “to turn Catholic media from something that largely is talking to an established audience, to a vehicle that increasingly can become a vehicle for evangelization, reaching more people, bringing more people to Christ.”

As it was in the beginning

Jay Nies, editor of *The Catholic Missourian*, said he's grateful to all the people who made Catholic News Service such an important part of the paper's work throughout its first 65 years of existence.

“We offer our thanks to and prayers for the entire CNS staff,” he said. “Their commitment to professional, evenhanded journalism gave us many of the tools we've needed to keep our readers informed. Their work will not be forgotten.”

He said he's looking forward to continuing that important work with the people of OSV News.

He noted that *The Catholic Missourian* was originally established as a diocesan edition of *Our Sunday Visitor* in 1957 and remained so for many years.

“I revere the life and legacy of Archbishop Noll,” said Mr. Nies. “We're eager to work with his successors at OSV to help keep the people of this diocese active, engaged and growing in faith. We pray for OSV News's sustained success.”



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Sedalia St. Vincent de Paul Parish volunteers save lives over Christmas at warming shelter

Annual reenactment of the Holy Family's search for shelter became very real

The following is a first-person witness given by two deacons who assist the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia.

By Deacon Turf D. Martin and Deacon Nestor Montenegro

"And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

We must walk the walk and not only use words.

Catholics have a history of being in the forefront of helping and inviting others to join in.

Walking the walk is demonstrated at this time of year by a wonderful Latino tradition known as Las Posadas.

Deacon Nestor Montenegro explains this wonderful tradition, which Anglos and Latinos working together got to carry out into the world this Christmas in a very real way.

How often do we get to reenact the night of Jesus's birth? St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County does this every year with Las Posadas — nine nights from just after the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe to

Christmas Eve.

Las Posadas (Spanish for "The Inns") is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and some parts of the United States between Dec. 16 and 24.

It commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge for Mary to give birth to the baby Jesus.

Some may say Las Posadas is similar to caroling. A group goes house-to-house, singing Christmas carols or religious songs. At one point, the singing group is invited in for holiday treats and festivities.

This festive ritual has a deeper religious meaning.

The tradition was brought to Latin America by the Spanish and adopted in both Mexico and Guatemala.

Starting Dec. 16 at dusk, families, friends and neighbors dress up as angels or shepherds, and two people are dressed as Mary and Joseph.

At each home, the group stops and sings a song in the hope of having a place to stay.

They are turned down at each home until the end of the event, when the group is invited into the last home for food and festivities.

The journey symbolizes how Mary and Joseph were turned down the night of Christ's birth until one innkeeper made room for them in a manger.

Las Posadas repeats for eight nights, with the residents of



For the past three years, the undercroft of the St. Patrick Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County has been home to the Sedalia Warming Shelter, staffed by volunteers from the parish and other Sedalia congregations. The shelter was open 24 hours a day during the frigid temperatures that coincided with Christmas.

different homes accepting the group in for an evening festival.

On Dec. 24, the ninth and final night of Las Posadas, everyone traditionally attends Midnight Mass, followed by a big meal.

From ritual to life

2022 was the year we had the most accompaniment in the inns.

Given the frigid weather, we had to cancel the last two nights of Las Posadas.

At the same time, approximately 50 to 80 brothers and sisters were on our doorstep, asking if there was any room in the inn for them.

Las Posadas became a real-life experience for us.

At least three lives were saved by the parish providing the only warming shelter in Pettis County during the frigid dip in temperatures.

One gentleman had collapsed in the snow and could not get up. Fortunately, good Samaritans found him before it was too late and brought him to the warming shelter.

It was -28 degrees with a strong wind and blowing snow. We were able to warm him up and prevent a trip to the hospital.

Two other older male patrons already in the shelter became severely ill and were

transported by ambulance to the hospital, where they received lifesaving treatment.

At least one was having a recurrent heart attack. The other was having severe pulmonary issues.

Normally, we are open for 12 hours at night. But due to the extreme cold during the days leading up to Christmas, we were open around the clock until Dec. 27.

This meant providing meals, personal hygiene, laundry, things to keep our guests from becoming too bored, and lots and lots of coffee.

Making room

What is Las Posadas?

As stated earlier, it is a time to meditate and share things such as song and food.

There are two choirs with a closed door in between them. The group outside of the door asks for shelter, and the other group responds.

Finally, the people inside agree to open the door, and the pilgrims pass through a place where prayers, Christmas carols and food are shared.

We usually start and finish at St. Vincent de Paul's St. Patrick Chapel — which happens also to be the location of the warming shelter.

What a wonderful way to share our Christianity with oth-

er denominations and cultures and save lives!

Deacon Turf Martin represents the parish for the warming shelter and is responsible for gathering volunteers and providing help for the many needs.

Father Joseph Corel, pastor, is a strong supporter and not afraid to help.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish and the Jefferson City diocese are willing to offer the facility — the undercroft of St. Patrick Chapel — as a warming shelter.

Four other congregations have joined in helping to staff the shelter: Methodist, Lutheran and two nondenominational.

It is an ecumenical effort.

Other churches that cannot field a full team help by filling shifts when we are short-handed.

Our breakdown of organized religions in Pettis County are: Baptists first, Catholics second, Methodists third, nondenominational fourth, and Lutheran fifth. The list goes on to many other, smaller communities of faith.

Closely related to our warming shelter are the local food pantry, soup kitchen, thrift store and social concerns organization called Open Door, which Precious Blood Father Mark Miller helped establish many years ago and which at one time was headquartered at what is now St. Patrick Chapel.

The Pettis County Health Center is also a big help.

Had this ecumenical effort not been in place, even more lives would have been lost, including the three mentioned above.

There would have been no room at the inn!

We are trying to build a permanent center to help people who are poor and homeless,

See SHELTER, page 18

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Warm food and hearts on Christmas Day at Warsaw K. of C. dinner

By Jay Nies

Richard Herndon remembers the best Christmas he's ever had.

About 15 years ago, his father, Richard Herndon, spent the early part of the day at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Warsaw.

"I drove down there to help him and all of the great Knights there prepare and serve Christmas dinner," Richard recently posted on the Warsaw Knights' Facebook page. "I will never forget it. ... Again, the best Christmas of my life."

Ron Mackenberg traveled out of state with his wife one Christmas to visit family and didn't get to help with the Warsaw dinner.

"We missed being there to see the joy of the community coming together," said Mr. Mackenberg. "So we stay home for Christmas now."

Dave Grimes has spent the past six Christmas mornings at the hall, serving up food and Christmas fellowship.

"As to why we do it, all you have to do is participate in it and you get it!" said Mr. Grimes, grand knight of Knights of Columbus Jay Harris Council 8620 in Warsaw.

"There are a lot of people in this community who absolutely would go hungry or miss



Members of Knights of Columbus Jay Harris Council 8620 in Warsaw slice turkey and ham to be served during the council's 37th annual Christmas Dinner. Volunteers served between 350 and 400 meals to people who were hungry, homebound or otherwise in need of a good meal and cheerful company on Christmas Day.

— Photos from the Knights of Columbus in Warsaw MO Facebook page

out on this kind of a meal on Christmas if we didn't do this," he said.

The Knights' annual dinner is for people in and around Warsaw who are in need of a good meal or are simply seeking fellowship on the Lord's birthday.

Volunteers also deliver meals to people who are homebound and to first responders who are at work on Christmas Day.

The Knights served between 350 and 400 dinners this year.

"We do the traditional holiday dinner — turkey and ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans

and rolls," said Mr. Grimes.

This year, a local pianist accompanied the singing of carols, while Knights and other volunteers served up to-go packages and visited with people who were dining-in.

Mr. Grimes believes Christ is present through every step of the meal — preparation, serving, delivery, fellowship and clean-up.

"He has to be for us to be involved in all the work that it takes to get it done," the grand knight stated.

Knights, auxiliary members, family members and volunteers from throughout the community join in the effort.

"We've even had people from other faiths who come because they want to help," said Mr. Grimes.

He knows of at least one, maybe two, people who decided to become Catholic after enjoying the fellowship of the council's Christmas dinner and its Lenten fish fry fundraisers.

"I don't put any pressure on anyone to switch over," he noted. "But I will entertain that conversation whenever someone leads me into it."

"Nothing better"

The Warsaw Knights started serving the Christmas Day dinner in 1986, with help from the Knights Auxiliary and the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Ann Parish.

The guest tally was about 70 that first year and has more than quintupled since then.

"The Knights have always been about helping the less fortunate and members of



the Church," former Warsaw Grand Knight Richard Harms once stated.

"We all enjoy helping out at the dinner," he said. "It's like family when it comes to the Knights and building up our community. There is nothing better than helping our fellow man and family."

Right at home

Preparations for this year's meal commenced the morning of Dec. 20, where Knights arrived at the hall to roast a dozen turkeys and bake and slice a half-dozen hams.

"Word went out that we needed deserts," said Mr. Grimes. "Our Auxiliary members are great about that."

Volunteers arrived at the hall at 8 a.m. on Christmas Day to begin heating the food and setting up the tables.

Guests began arriving at 11. Serving continued until a little after 1 p.m., followed by clean-up.

Most of the Knights were home by 3 p.m.

"I'm one of the ones who works out in the dining room to make sure things are where we need to be," said Mr.

Grimes. "That means I get to visit with a lot of the people, which I really enjoy."

Each Christmas, he and his wife welcome between 20 and 25 relatives into their home.

"About half of them come to this and help," he noted.

He remembers seeing a Knight's grandson come reluctantly to help with the meal one year.

"He sat down to visit with a fellow who came in leaning on a cane," Mr. Grimes recalled. "They both left with smiles on their faces."

Mr. Grimes lived in Poplar Bluff for 30 years before retiring to Warsaw with his wife six years ago.

"We came here and were basically starting over," he said.

"But to be honest, it's been home since we moved in. I've met a great group of people with the Church and the Knights."

The Christmas dinner seals the deal for him.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this," he said. "I want to send out a large thank you to everyone who helped make the dinner a huge success once again."

Protect and be served



Police officers working on Christmas Day were grateful for the Christmas dinner provided by volunteers at St. Brendan Parish in Mexico during the parish's annual Christmas dinner.

— Photo from the Mexico MO Department of Public Safety Facebook page

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Papal Audience January 4, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

Today we conclude our catecheses on discernment as the process of coming to a sound understanding of the Lord's will for our lives. An important aid to discernment is the practice of spiritual direction, in which we share with another person the movements of the Spirit in our heart and, in confronting our own frailty, draw closer to the Lord, Who took upon Himself and redeemed the weakness of our humanity. The Gospels speak of Jesus' many encounters with persons who opened their hearts to Him and experienced His mercy and forgiveness. In conversation with a spiritual guide, we often discern more clearly the true direction of our lives and the quiet working of God's grace in our hearts. Spiritual accompaniment also expresses the communitarian nature of our journey to perfection, since together we are members of Christ's body, sons and daughters of the Father and sharers in the life of the Spirit. As our teacher in the art of discernment we can look to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who leads us to Jesus, who urges us not to fear, but to trust in Him and in His words of eternal life.

I offer a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from Israel and the United States of America. To all of you and your families, I offer my prayerful good wishes for a new year filled with joy and peace. God bless you!



St. Mary School students spin a yarn about Christmas

By Theresa Wagner

Students of St. Mary School in Frankenstein entertained friends, families and parishioners on Dec. 5 with a presentation of "A Christmas Yarn."

The 16 students from the school participated in the musical, with each holding a speaking part as well as singing and dancing.

The musical takes place in a sweater factory — an UGLY sweater factory, to be exact.

Unique Gifts from Luxurious Yarn has a large order to get out by Christmas, but with a storm knocking out the power, the employees learn to overcome the obstacles by creating their own power to run the weaving machines and looms.

The order is not completed on time, but factory owner Samantha Ebenezer determines she gained a greater gift this year than meeting her deadline. She learned of the good news of Christmas.

For the past six years, Audie and Helen Cline have volunteered their time and talent to direct the school play.

Mrs. Cline taught in Frankenstein for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 school years. During that time, she enlisted the help of her husband, Audie, to direct the play.

Mr. Cline is a retired teacher with time on his hands and



The students of St. Mary School in Frankenstein are pictured here with some of the non-perishable food they collected for the Good Shepherd Food Pantry during their annual Advent service project. The students collected items from their families, other parishioners, and guests who attended their annual Christmas play. They are wearing "ugly" Christmas sweaters which served as their costumes for the play, "A Christmas Yarn."

happens to love the theater. He has participated in numerous performances with The Little Theater of Jefferson City and Capital City Productions.

After Mrs. Cline's retirement, the couple gifted the school with their annual assistance for the Christmas production.

Each year, the Clines purchase a play from *Little Big Stuff Music* for the students to perform.

This year's selection, "A

Christmas Yarn" was a musical created by Steve Moore, Rob Howard and David Guthrie.

Little Big Stuff is a Christian-based church musical publisher for kids with a simple mission, "Help those who work with kids' music in churches and Christian schools by creating the highest quality musicals that are fun for kids, honoring to God, and bring the life-changing Gospel message of

See SWEATERS, page 15

Catholic activists renew calls to abolish capital punishment

By Kate Scanlon
OSV News

Washington, D.C.

After a report dubbed 2022 "the year of the botched execution," Catholic activists renewed their calls for an end to capital punishment in the U.S. at both the state and federal levels.

Despite declining public support for the practice, and a campaign promise from President Joe Biden, a Catholic and a Democrat, to repeal the federal death penalty, a bill to do so gained little traction last Congress, when Democrats still controlled both chambers.

In his 2020 encyclical "*Fratelli tutti*," Pope Francis cited Pope St. John Paul II, whom he said "stated clearly and firmly [in the encyclical "*Evangelium vitae*"] that the death penalty is inadequate from a moral standpoint and no longer necessary from that of penal justice."

"There can be no stepping back from this position," Pope Francis wrote. "Today we state clearly that 'the death penalty is inadmissible' and the Church is firmly committed to calling for its abolition worldwide."

Pope Francis also revised the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC, No. 2267) to reflect that position in 2018.

In a Dec. 16 report, the Death Penalty Information Center, a Washington-based nonprofit that studies capital punishment, found that 7 out of 20 executions that took place last year, or 35%, were "visibly problematic" due to "executioner incompetence, failures to follow protocol, or defects in the protocols themselves."

Robert Dunham, DPIC's executive director, said in a statement accompanying the report that "After 40 years, the states have proven themselves unable to carry-out lethal injections without the risk that it will be botched."

"The families of victims and prisoners, other execution witnesses, and corrections personnel should not be subjected to the trauma of an execution gone bad," Dunham said.

Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of the Catholic Mobilizing Network, a group that opposes capital punishment, told OSV News "numerous botched and problematic executions" occurred last year.

"In Alabama and elsewhere, these botched executions have led to an evaluation of the ethicality and efficacy of state-sanctioned death. Such reviews are often hidden behind a veil of secrecy," Vaillancourt Murphy said.

In November 2022, following the back-to-back failed executions of Alan Miller and Kenneth Smith, Alabama's Republican Gov. Kay Ivey issued an order putting all executions in the state on hold while the state conducts "a 'top-to-bottom' review of the state's lethal injection protocol."

But Ivey's Nov. 22 statement made clear she has not changed her views on supporting the practice, casting the matter as a way "to ensure those guilty of perpetrating the most heinous crimes in our society receive their just punishment."

But Vaillancourt Murphy noted that Alabama is a state that moved to restrict abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in June 2022.

"As a state that sees itself as standing for life, reevaluating its insistence on the death penalty is an important step toward pro-life consistency," she said.

Democratic Rep. Ayanna Pressley and Sen. Dick Durbin introduced in Congress a bill in 2021, the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act, with a pro-life Republican co-sponsor, Rep. Peter Meijer of Michigan. But the bill was not taken up by either the House or the Senate.

Republicans have historically supported capital punishment, but a growing number of Republican state lawmakers are supporting efforts to repeal the death penalty in their states. According to the group Con-

See DEATH PENALTY, page 15

Epiphany: Seeking the findable Savior

By Deacon Greg Kandra
OSV News



Right about now, people are usually “so over” Christmas.

They’ve tossed the trees to the curb, thrown the unwanted gift cards into the dresser drawer, OD’d on cookies and chocolate, lost the instructions for the electronic toys, and spent many sleepless nights wondering when the kids would finally quiet down and go to bed. Shouldn’t they be back in school?

It’s time to get on with life. Where can I find a Weight Watchers near me?

But first, our liturgy on the Solemnity of Epiphany brings some visitors into our world. Wise men from the East have followed a pinpoint of light, seeking direction — and answers.

Whether we realize it or not, this moment matters. We shouldn’t just shrug it off.

This is what these last weeks have really been about, from Advent to Christmas to now. All the waiting, watching,

pondering and searching have led us here, to a question that lies at the heart of who we are and what we believe.

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” (Mt. 2:2)

The magi found their answer in the stars, and eventually in Bethlehem, in a forgotten corner of the world, where they presented treasures to a newborn baby.

But the question that led them there should challenge and humble all of us. Two weeks after Christmas, we are left with this haunting question: after all the parties and tinsel, where is Christ?

In our world, in our lives, where have we put Him? What has all this meant to us?

The breathtaking simplicity of the name “Emmanuel” — “God with us” — should leave us inspired, consoled, uplifted. And deeply humbled.

Where is Jesus now? The newborn king of the Jews should not be wrapped in tissue paper and put in a box in the attic until next December. He shouldn’t be hidden away.

He is here. Among us. Within us. What are we doing to make Him present to others in our world?

Those seeking the Savior should be able to find Him in arms that embrace the weak, the vulnerable, the fearful, the sick.

They should discover Him in men and women standing for justice and dignity and mercy.

They should recognize Him in humble believers who welcomed Him on Christmas morning, and made a home for Him in their hearts, and who strive every day to make Him present in a world that too often feels He is absent.

The sobering truth is: If people feel Jesus is missing, it may be our own fault. What can we do about that?

The answer, I think, lies in remembering that what began on Christmas morning doesn’t end once you take down the tree or unplug the lights. All through Advent, we hoped and prayed and waited for Christ to come into our world, into our hearts. Do we forget that so easily? He is with us! What will we do

with that? What will we do with him?

“Epiphany” — the word that gives this Sunday its name — means “an appearance or manifestation.” The Cambridge English Dictionary adds that it also means “a moment that you suddenly feel that you understand.”

Maybe this is our moment to “suddenly feel that we understand,” that we truly grasp what this glorious season has been about, and what we need to do.

Let us take this opportunity to remember that the newborn king came to dwell within each of us — and we need now to make Him manifest to others in our world.

If you think you are so over Christmas, and all its meaning, think again. Really, we’re just getting started.

Deacon Greg Kandra is an award-winning author and journalist, and creator of the blog “The Deacon’s Bench.” He serves in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Pew and Pulpit: Transforming a parish through love and beauty

By Fr. Michael Rennie
OSV News



There are Sundays I barely hear my voice when I’m preaching. The gentle drone of toddlers drowns me out.

When we surveyed our parish, we discovered that the median age was only 25 years old, thus Mass at our parish is crawling with children, who are highly engaged. Altar servers debate fiercely over who gets the best tasks, storming the sacristy before Mass to claim coveted jobs. The children in the pews whisper loud commentary to their mothers, explaining that the Host looks like bread but is, in fact, Jesus. One little boy, in a symbolic act, once rolled an apple towards the altar. The toddlers squeal when the sanctus bells ring. A number of teenage girls sing in the schola. We’re one big family at prayer.

It wasn’t always this way.

When I arrived in the parish, there were very few children. At some Masses, none at all. I love parishioners of all ages and particularly delight to chat with older parishioners after daily Mass, but a parish lacking the younger demographic lacks a future, so I asked visiting young families what was missing. They replied that they desire reverent

worship. They want to be challenged by beauty and immerse their children in the fullness of Catholic culture and devotion. They want their children not only to be told that Jesus loves them, but for them to see, hear, smell and feel it.

I set out to offer a Mass that would appeal to children as well as adults. We started using incense, gave the altar servers cassocks, fixed up the unused organ, and added some Latin and chant. We reintroduced colorful old devotions like veiling statues in Lent, the Rorate Caeli Mass, and Eucharistic processions. In short, we used the already-existing liturgical treasures of the Church to curate a sense of imaginative wonder. The goal is not a consumerist worship experience but, rather, a transcendental one.

This is all it took. In five years, our parish has almost doubled in attendance and overflows with people of all ages. Every Sunday we give God our most beautiful liturgical gift, incarnating our worship into poetic prayer because the Mass is a lived reality, an open door to eternity. The sacramental grace of the Eucharist reveals itself to even the smallest child and draws us into the universal embrace of God’s love.

God is Truth, but He is also Beauty. These two virtues are linked, which is why the medievals referred to beauty as

REFLECTION

Be it resolved

By Mark Saucier

As many as 45% of Americans make New Year’s resolutions.

As few as 8% keep them. (Most of these are skinny, self-driven perfectionists.)

The past two years, the most popular (and statistically the most failed) resolutions were to exercise more, lose weight and get organized.

No doubt fervent and healthy aspirations, but contrast those to the top resolutions from some 75 years ago.

In 1947, the top New Year’s resolution was “to improve my disposition, be more understanding, control my temper,” which now would have a hard time surviving New Year’s Day football.

A close second in 1947 was “to improve my character, live a better life.”

Both of those were more in keeping with the long tradition of New Year’s resolutions.

In the West, this goes back 4,000 years to the Babylonians.

Under their calendar, the new year began in March with the planting season. In a 12-day celebration called Akitu, the Babylonians made promises to their gods to repay their debts and return any farm equipment they had borrowed.

Two millennia later, Julius Caesar introduced a new calendar, starting the year under the watchful eyes of the two-faced god Janus. Romans offered sacrifices to this god, who they believed could see into the future as well as the past, making promises of good behavior.

The Church used to observe the Circumcision on Jan. 1, not the most festive beginning to a New Year. But it was really Epiphany that marked the transition with its own message of change, sacrifice and generosity.

Christians made their New Year’s resolutions throughout the passing ages, commitments to being better believers, family members and neighbors — to pray more, to gossip and covet less.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, formalized this in 1755 with his New Year’s Eve Watchnight, which was a rededication to a life in God. The heart of the service was a prayer of resolution:

“Let me be Your servant. ... I will no longer be my own. Lord, make me what You will. I put myself fully into Your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering ... let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all. ...”

There’s nothing wrong with resolving to eat more kale or join a spin class, but just reciting this prayer is another healthy option.

Regardless of your choice, I hope the blessings of 2023 long outlast your resolutions.

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

January: An invitation to begin anew



By Sister Kathleen Wegman, SSND

I remember well the feeling of strangeness in spending New Year's Eve in silence, a holy hour and various forms of prayer.

This was the practice when I was a novice of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

I felt such resistance in thinking that could be how we were "celebrating," in place of welcoming in the New Year with fun and festivities.

I couldn't grasp it at the time, but as the years have passed, I have come to appreciate the deep wisdom of this practice.

At this point in my life, I long for a time of quiet when welcoming in the New Year.

So, what has changed? I now see the value of the "reboot" as it were — to "shut down" in order to begin again.

This quiet, contemplative practice is an opportunity to review the past and ready ourselves to be open to new possibilities in the coming year, to embrace the new of the unknown.

I am always amazed at the TV commercials between Christmas and New Year's.

There seem to be an abundance of advertisements for exercise equipment, diet plans, gym memberships, the list goes on and on.

Getting in shape and choosing healthy ways of living are good for all of us as we are called to be good stewards of the bodies we have been given.

But is that truly all?

Have we perhaps neglected looking inward to revisit the stewardship of our hearts?

Are we missing something big in the hustle-and-bustle of life?

The beginning of another year is an invitation for each of us to begin anew.

Perhaps some of us are facing the new year feeling depleted or haggard; and in that neediness is a clear call to "reboot" and carve-out a quiet moment to be with our God in that call to newness.

A love relationship with God is generative, I cannot keep it to myself.

My life with God is to permeate my relationships with others.

It impels me to give of my-



self, to participate in making my community a better place for all, to propel me into a life a sacrifice, sharing what I have with those in need.

As I minister here at Catholic Charities, I often take the opportunity to glance into the eyes of those we serve.

When I truly see another and take time to connect, even

if only visually, it changes my perspective on the other.

There is an experience of oneness and common desire.

It is a discovery of being more alike than different. And in these encounters, a reflection of God; but they're easy to miss if we are run-down, our energy overspent with no chance to collect or recharge.

As you reboot for this new year, what newness are you called to embrace?

Will you resolve to better care of yourself?

Of others?

This year I resolve to make that time to truly see others, whether I encounter them at the grocery store or at work.

If you don't yet have a resolution in mind, I invite you to join me in taking the time to intentionally "see" others, to acknowledge them, and to appreciate them.

I am convinced that this small practice will change your life. Try it!

Sister Kathleen Wegman, SSND, is the Senior Director of Mission Integration for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. In her role, she provides orientation and ongoing formation of the staff in the Catholic social teachings, the bedrock of the ministry of Catholic Charities. In addition, she is attentive to shepherding those social teachings in every aspect of the ministries provided at Catholic Charities.

Love comes first, pope says in letter on teaching of St. Francis de Sales

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

The most important question a Christian can ask when making any decision in life is "where the greatest love is to be found," Pope Francis wrote in a letter marking the 400th anniversary of St. Francis de Sales, a doctor of the Church.

Thinking about the legacy of St. Francis, who was born in France in 1567 and died in 1622, Pope Francis said he was convinced that the French saint's "flexibility and his farsighted vision have much to say to us," especially in recognizing the real-life struggles of ordinary people and judging faith by love.

The pope's letter was titled "*Totum Amoris Est*" ("Everything Pertains to Love") and was released by the Vatican Dec. 28, the 400th anniversary of the death of St. Francis de Sales, who was bishop of Geneva, Switzerland, co-founder of the Visitation Sisters and a prolific writer, including of tracts he would slip under the doors of people's homes.

In a letter that quoted heavily from St. Francis' books, *Treatise on the Love of God* and *Introduction to the Devout Life*, but also from his own exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis said the saint

has much to teach the Church today.

"We are challenged to be a Church that is outward-looking and free of all worldliness, even as we live in this world, share people's lives and journey with them in attentive listening and acceptance," the pope wrote. "That is what Francis de Sales did when he discerned the events of his times with the help of God's grace."

"Today he bids us set aside undue concern for ourselves, for our structures and for what society thinks about us, and consider instead the real spiritual needs and expectations of our people," the pope said.

Returning in 1602 to Paris, where he previously studied, St. Francis de Sales saw a world changing around him, the pope said, and he knew that he must respond theologically and pastorally.

"This was certainly not the first time that he had encountered individual fervent Christians, but now things were different," the pope said. "Paris was no longer the city devastated by the wars of religion that he had known in the years of his education, or by the bitter conflicts that he had seen in the Chablais," a region on the border of France and Switzerland.

"He encountered something unexpected: a flood 'of saints, true saints, in great numbers and in all plac-

es,'" as St. Francis described them. "There were men and women of culture, professors of the Sorbonne, civil authorities, princes and princesses, servants and maids, men and women religious. A whole world athirst for God in a variety of ways."

The saintly bishop developed a new approach to spiritual direction, the pope said. "It was a method that renounced all harshness and respected completely the dignity and gifts of a devout soul, whatever its frailties."

Like the Second Vatican Council would teach 350 years later, the pope wrote, St. Francis de Sales knew that every person was called to holiness and that the call was specific to each person and his or her talents, shortcomings and state in life.

And, he said, the saint knew that the call was a grace, poured out with love.

"At the same time, this grace never makes us passive. It leads us to realize that God's love radically precedes us, and that his first gift consists precisely in our acceptance of that love," the pope wrote. "Each person therefore is responsible for cooperating with his or



LEFT: Carmen Maxwell lends her finger and says, “peace be with you,” to a child eager to participate in the hand-shaking sharing of peace on Monday at Sacred Heart Church in Columbia. This was Maxwell’s first time celebrating Día de la Virgen de la Guadalupe in Columbia. **RIGHT:** People in traditional Mexican attire sing and dance through downtown toward a Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe Mass on Monday at Sacred Heart Church. The dancers filed into the church to find every pew packed with people.

— Photos by Amy Schaffer, courtesy, *Columbia Missourian*

A celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Columbia

By Eric Galacia

It was still dark out when Catholics in Columbia began singing Monday morning to la Virgen de Guadalupe, the name for the Mexican apparition of the Virgin Mary.

It is said the Virgin appeared to an indigenous man named Juan Diego multiple times in December 1531. The belief is he saw the Virgin on the Hill of Tepeyac, near Mexico City, where a great basilica was built in her honor.

Pope St. John Paul II canonized Juan Diego in 2002, making him the first indigenous American Catholic saint.

Some accounts describe the apparition Juan Diego saw as having brown skin, like the natives of Mexico, and she is sometimes referred to as “*Virgen Morena*,” or “Dark-skinned Virgin.” She is also often called “*La Reina de México*,” or “Queen of Mexico,” and “*Emperatriz de América*,” or “Empress of America.”

Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe is a big deal in Mexico — millions of “*Guadalupanos*,” Catholics devout to the Virgin of Guadalupe, make an annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the Hill of Tepeyac.

Local believers made their own trip to Sacred Heart Church in downtown Columbia for a deeply cultural service that began at 5:30 a.m.

Women wore traditional indigenous attire and “*penachos*,”

indigenous feathered head-dresses, and danced to the beat of drums before a handmade display of the Virgin of Guadalupe adorned with flowers and roses.

The church’s choir sang “*Las Mañanitas*,” a traditional Mexican birthday song, and a rendition of the late Juan Gabriel’s “*Amor Eterno*” customized for the Virgin.

A crowd returned Monday evening to continue celebration of the holiday.

Juana Alvarado, originally from the Mexican state of Hidalgo, knelt in prayer before the evening Mass.

“It’s something very special,” Alvarado said of the parish’s celebration. “As a Mexican, it reminds me of my country and my family.”

Rocio Mendez, originally from Totolmajac, Mexico, said the celebration is a tradition she was taught as a young child and she sometimes travels to Mexico to celebrate it. Ms. Mendez wore a traditional red dress with red, white and green fabric sown into it in the shape of flowers.

“I was raised to feel that ‘*Guadalupano*’ love,” Ms. Mendez said. “I ask the Virgin to protect my family, to intercede for us before God and to intercede for world peace.”

The procession for the Virgin began in the parking lot across the street from Sacred Heart Church. Before Father Thomas Alber began preach-

ing, parishioners carried a display of the Virgin into the building, singing to her as dancers drummed behind.

Andrea Laguna, a senior at Hickman High School who also teaches catechism at Sacred Heart, said she began practicing the dances last month. Her headdress was topped with peacock feathers. Bells hung from her dress, which was adorned with the image of the Virgin.

“I grew up in this church,” Laguna said. “When they asked me if I wanted to dance, I said yes because I’ve watched them since I was small and it always looked like so much fun.”

Ms. Laguna has noticed the celebration grow along with the local Hispanic population.

“This is an achievement,” Mario Cortes said about the evening.

Mr. Cortes helped hand-make the large display of the Virgin at the front of the church, near the altar. The creators mixed their ideas together and went for the most natural look possible. Mr. Cortes said he gathered the moss at the base of the display from nearby hills.

“We wanted to put the Virgin up high, as she appeared on a hill,” he said.

Columbia’s Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe was a team effort. Vanessa Velez, the Hispanic ministry’s director of worship for the parish, said it brought together groups dedi-

cated to music, reading, Rosary, decoration and more.

“The community of Columbia has also joined us and supported us with money and with time,” Ms. Velez said.

It’s a very special day to Ms. Velez, who grew up with a Puerto Rican Virgin tradition.

“We come from other countries, much of the time without our families,” she said. “This is

an opportunity for all of us to unite as family. We can celebrate our culture, give something that is so important for immigrants in this city.”

Mr. Galacia is a reporter for the Columbia Missourian newspaper (columbiamissourian.com), which published a version of this article Dec. 13. It is re-published here with permission.

Celebrating in Sedalia



Father César Anicama (second from right), associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12 with parishioners in the St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia.

— Photo from Fr. Anicama’s Facebook page

School Sisters of Notre Dame to host online forum on religious life

The North American Vocation Team (NAVT) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) is hosting an online "Joyful & Alive Conversation" Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. central time via Zoom.

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

More information and registration for the Zoom link is available at ssnd.org/events/1-19-23/.

SSND foundress, Blessed Theresa of

Jesus Gerhardinger, once wrote, "Those who are free in God will always remain joyful and alive!" It is in this spirit that casual conversations were started to talk about being an SSND and how God blesses each of us to remain joyful and alive."

"Our periodic 'Joyful & Alive' conversations allow us to connect sisters with young women all across the U.S. and Canada," said Sister Bridget Waldorf SSND of the NAVT. "They provide an amazing opportunity to share our

mission and charism with those who are seeking to better recognize and understand God's presence in their lives."

community of almost 2,000 women religious founded in Bavaria in 1833.

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

Continuing the sacred work of their foundress, Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, School Sisters of Notre Dame transform the world through education, giving special emphasis to women, young people and those who are poor. Learn more at ssnd.org.

"Since we do not know what tomorrow will bring with it, let us scatter seed for eternity as long as there is time."

— Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger SSND, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

The NAVT accompanies young women as they discern God's call while informing them about the mission and charism of SSND, an international



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FDA permits retail pharmacies to dispense abortion drugs

Decision promotes criticism from Catholic, pro-life groups

By Kate Scanlon
OSV News

Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will allow retail pharmacies to offer abortion pills in the United States for the first time, the agency announced Jan. 3, prompting criticism from Catholic and pro-life groups.

The Biden administration's rule change comes in the wake

of the Supreme Court's decision last year in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that struck down the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, enabling many states to restrict abortion access.

The regulatory change permits the sale of mifepristone, the first of two drugs used in a chemical abortion, at retail pharmacies. The drug could previously only be dispensed by some mail-order pharmacies, or by some doctors or abortion centers.

The rule change ends a previ-

ous in-person requirement for its dispersal. The new FDA rules still require a prescription for the drugs, but will permit a wider range of pharmacies to stock and sell them.

Medication abortions are becoming a more common method of abortion, accounting for more than half of the abortions in the United States, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research center relied on by the abortion industry and advocacy groups.

Some Catholic and other pro-life groups have expressed concern about the safety of the drug. In a document outlining its opposition to expanding access to the drug for abortions, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops argued that the FDA rejects safeguards governing its use that are in place in other countries, noting that in Sweden, for example, a woman undergoing a medication abortion would be "supervised by the midwife for 4 to 6 hours at the outpatient clinic."

The FDA has called mifepristone "safe when used as indicated and directed."

In a statement, Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life Amer-

ica, said: "The Biden administration has once again proved

"Abortion activists want to turn every post office and pharmacy into an abortion business, and the Biden FDA is a willing participant — even while studies show emergency rooms are being flooded with women suffering from serious, life-threatening

"Chemical abortion pills can cause dangerous complications including hemorrhage and infection, and complications are more likely when pills are dispensed without medical screening or follow-up care."

— Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America

that it values abortion industry profits over women's safety and unborn children's lives."

See ABORTION, page 14

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Eucharistic Revival's upcoming parish year aims for Catholics to experience a life-changing 'personal encounter' with Christ

By Maria Wiering
OSV News

How can Catholics' experience of the Eucharist deepen their friendship with Jesus Christ and then inspire them to share that friendship with others?

That question lies at the heart of the National Eucharistic Revival's upcoming Year of Parish Revival, said Tim Glemkowski, executive director of the National Eucharistic Congress.

"We're trying to be part of missionary conversion of every parish, every school, every university, every apostolate, every religious order in the United States," he told OSV News.

The three-year Eucharistic Revival is currently in its first year, the Year of Diocesan Revival.

The second year, the Year of Parish Revival, begins June 11. While diocesan year efforts have focused on forming priests, diocesan staff and other Church leaders, efforts in the parish year will turn to Catholics in the pew, Glemkowski said.

"The full process of evangelization is about a ... personal encounter that changes our life — the invitation to a depth of discipleship," he said. "What we're inviting parishes to do is to follow a similar trajectory."

The revival opened June 19, 2022, on the solemnity of Corpus Christi, a feast that celebrates Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist.

Many dioceses marked the day last year with Eucharistic processions. Speaking to the media in November about the revival, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, said the beauty and diversity expressed in those processions "capture what is at the heart of this movement, which is a movement that we seek to invite people to a transformative encounter with Christ in the Eucharist that they might be healed, unified and sent on mission."

The diocesan year has included the launch of *Heart of the Revival* weekly e-newsletter (available in English and Spanish), expanded content on the National Eucharistic Revival's website (eucharisticrevival.org)

and the training of more than 50 priests from around the U.S. to be Eucharistic preachers. Those priests have been primarily preaching at events for priests and diocesan leaders, Bishop Cozzens told OSV News Dec. 30.

Following the parish year, the Eucharistic Revival's third and final year, 2024-2025, is the Year of the National Eucharistic Congress and Missionary Sending.

A National Eucharistic Congress is expected to draw more than 80,000 people to Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024.

Organizers have compared the event to World Youth Day, with prayer and liturgies, catechesis for individuals and families, and a festival-like atmosphere. Registration is expected to open in February and fill quickly, Glemkowski said.

The National Eucharistic Congress nonprofit, for which Glemkowski is executive director, formed in 2022 to plan the national event. Bishop Cozzens serves as chairman of its board of directors.

The idea for a Eucharistic revival was conceived while Bishop Robert E. Barron — then an auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles and now head of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota — was chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, and after a 2019 Pew Research Center survey found that only 31% of Catholics understood Catholic teaching that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Christ.

When Bishop Cozzens became the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis' chairman in 2020, he continued to move ahead with plans for the revival, and in 2021 the U.S. Catholic bishops voted to approve the initiative.



The Eucharist rests on a paten at the altar in the Cathedral of St. Peter in Wilmington, Delaware, May 27, 2021.

— CNS photo/Chaz Muth

In November 2022, the bishops elected Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis, in whose archdiocese the National Eucharistic Congress will take place, to succeed Bishop Cozzens as chairman of the evangelization and catechesis committee in November 2023.

An unpublished study from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., recently found that 40% of Catholics said they believe the Church's teaching on the real presence, Bishop Cozzens told OSV News.

While that's a higher percentage than the 2019 Pew study found, only 15% of Catholics CARA surveyed said they go to Mass every Sunday, Bishop Cozzens said.

That 25% discrepancy shows there are Catholics who, despite their catechesis, "haven't encountered Jesus as a real, living person in the Eucharist," he said. "And that encounter is what changes everything."

Bishop Cozzens hopes the Year of Parish Revival starting in June particularly reaches those Catholics.

"Maybe their kids go to a Catholic school or they bring their kids to religious ed," he said. "Maybe they come to Mass once a month. They think there's something here for them, but they haven't been fully brought in."

That's one reason the parish

year will emphasize small groups "where they can begin to make friends, and they can share faith," the bishop said.

"Faith grows through witnesses, and so when they see their friend or someone they know in their small group talking about their faith, their encounter (with Jesus), that can open them up to the encounter," he continued.

In November, Bishop Cozzens described the revival's goal as creating "a missionary conversion in the United States."

"What that means is that the average person in the pew sees that their job is not just to come to Mass and live their faith well," he told OSV News in December, "but their job is to look around at who's not coming to Mass and begin to

ask, 'How can I help and begin to invite people into the Church?'"

"It's the cultural shift that the Church has to make from maintenance to mission," he continued. "We've been in maintenance mode for 500 years, and the culture walked away from us, and we're still in maintenance mode. ..."

"So, the Eucharistic Revival isn't just about inviting people to renew their own relationship

with the Eucharist," he stated. "It's always renewal for mission. It's encounter leading to mission."

Glemkowski said one of the challenges Eucharistic Revival organizers face is planning logistics while not limiting the work of the Holy Spirit.

"If God is inviting this Church — and I really believe he is — for three years to just reflect on and reencounter Jesus in the Eucharist — if He's leading us there, then He'll see it through," Glemkowski said. "The fruit of the Eucharistic Revival is about God showing up in the way that He wants to show up."

Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News.

ABORTION

From page 13

complications caused by abortion drugs," Dannenfelser said.

"Chemical abortion pills can cause dangerous complications including hemorrhage and infection, and complications are more likely when pills are dispensed without medical screening or follow-up care," she continued.

Dannenfelser said that some pro-life governors "understand this threat, which is why many states have enacted

safeguards to protect women and their unborn children."

"State lawmakers and Congress must stand as a bulwark against the Biden administration's pro-abortion extremism," Dannenfelser said. "We hope to see the FDA do its job to protect the lives of women and put an end to chemical abortions."

Kate Scanlon is a National Reporter for OSV News covering Washington.

Rest in peace, Dominican Sister Carol Kopff

Formerly of Monroe City, Ewing

Sister Carol Kopff, 86, a Dominican Sister of Sparkill, New York, died on Dec. 18 in Siena Hall of the Dominican Convent in Sparkill.

Sr. Carol had served in several capacities in this diocese and had helped establish the Residents Encounter Christ movement in local prisons.

She was in her 67th year of religious life.

She taught at Holy Rosary School in Monroe City from 1976-79 and served as a pastoral associate at Holy Rosary Parish from 1979-82, then as pastoral associate at Queen of Peace Parish in Ewing from 1979-82.

She was born in St. Louis on April 5, 1936, a daughter of Milton and Hilda (Rocklage) Kopff.

She entered the Dominican Congregation of Our Lady of the Rosary in Sparkill on September 8, 1956 and received the name Sister Mary Karen.

She professed first vows in 1958 and final vows in 1963.

Sr. Carol held a bachelor's degree in education from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, New York, and a master's degree in science from North Dakota State University, Fargo, North

Dakota.

She also earned a Certificate in Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California.

She served in schools in parishes in New York and Missouri.

From 1998-2014, she served in prison ministry at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center (MECC) in Pacific.

Sr. Carol received the 2011 St. Rose of Lima Society Lifetime Achievement Award from Aquinas Institute of Theology and the 2013 Distinguished Alumna Award from Ursuline Academy in St. Louis for her commitment to educational, pastoral, and prison ministries.

Sr. Carol was a woman who made a difference in the lives of children, parents, colleagues and those served in her educational and prison ministries.

She proclaimed the congregational goal of ministry for justice and reverence for all creation for more than 65

Sister Carol Kopff, OP

April 5, 1936 - December 18, 2022

Eternal rest

grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light
shine upon her.

May she rest in peace.

Amen.



**Dominican Sisters
of Sparkill**

Women making a difference

years, reflecting the face of God to all especially the incarcerated.

Her family, Dominican Sisters, Associates, and friends are grateful to God for Sr. Carol's presence.

"Such a good human and servant of the Lord," said Lisa Miles Spalding. "She has truly earned her reward. May

she rest in peace."

"Sr. Carol was a wonderful teacher at Holy Rosary," stated Angel Varga Cox. "I remember many of her sayings and songs."

Another former student recalled: "She didn't even chastise me when she caught me cheating on my homework! She just tried to help me understand the subject at hand so I could pass the test."

"She was an amazing woman with a profound understanding of people," said Jennifer Sachse, retired warden of EMCC. "She ministered to the offenders as well as my staff at the Missouri Eastern cor-

rectional center. The world is a better place because of her."

Surviving was a sister, Marilyn (Jerry) Unger; brothers Dale (Donna) and Greg Kopf; and nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents and her brother Don.

DEATH PENALTY

From page 8

servatives Concerned About the Death Penalty, eight states had Republican-sponsored bills to repeal the death penalty introduced during their legislative sessions last year: Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah and Washington state.

That shift among state Republican lawmakers coincides with a shift in voters' perspectives on the practice. A Nov. 14 Gallup survey found support for the death penalty was at 55% last year, a significant decline from 1994, when the survey recorded its all-time high of 80%.

Vaillancourt Murphy said that "ending the death penalty is no longer considered one-sided a Democratic or Republican issue."

"For the past several years, leaders from both parties have been instrumental in advancing abolition efforts," she said. "Lawmakers on both sides find it hard to ignore the moral and practical failings of the death penalty."

Citing some of the states

where Republican lawmakers have backed repeal efforts, Vaillancourt Murphy said, "Many lawmakers who profess pro-life values are recognizing that honoring the dignity of life must extend to those on death row."

"We are called to uphold the sanctity of life for both the innocent and the guilty," she said.

She also noted that some Republicans object to the practice as wasteful spending.

"The death penalty is far more expensive compared to alternative sentencing," she said. "For many conservatives who tout the value of fiscal responsibility, capital punishment is simply irresponsible."

The Biden administration in 2021 ordered a moratorium on carrying out federal death sentences, a policy that has paused, but not ended, the practice at the federal level.

Vaillancourt Murphy praised that order as "the first time a presidential administration ever declared such a moratorium" — but the pause

leaves room for Biden's eventual successor to potentially reverse the order. She noted that the previous administration restarted federal executions after a 17-year hiatus and proceeded to execute 13 people.

"Looking ahead, President

SWEATERS

From page 8

Christ to the community.

"If you want to impact a culture ... start with the kids!" the publisher states.

This year's performance had a positive impact on the children as well as the adults in the audience.

In addition to the annual play, St. Mary students spend the first few weeks of Advent each year working on a service project. This year, the students chose to support the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.

Students collected canned goods and non-perishable food from parishioners and play attendees.

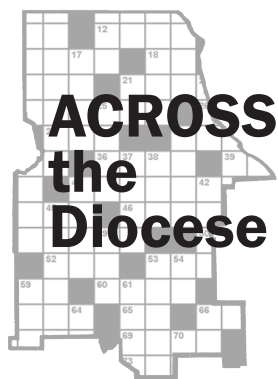
Biden has an opportunity to take stronger, more decisive action against the federal death penalty — specifically by commuting the sentences of those on the federal death row," Vaillancourt Murphy said. "Given how swiftly the last administration restarted

federal executions, it is critical that these sentences be commuted — otherwise, we recognize that lives remain at risk."

Kate Scanlon is a National Reporter for OSV News covering Washington.



Shown on stage during their performance of "A Christmas Yarn," which was this year's annual Christmas play, are the students of St. Mary School in Frankenstein. Every student performed on stage in the musical that shared the Good News of God's love. The play was provided and directed by Audie and Helen Cline.



By Father Don Antweiler

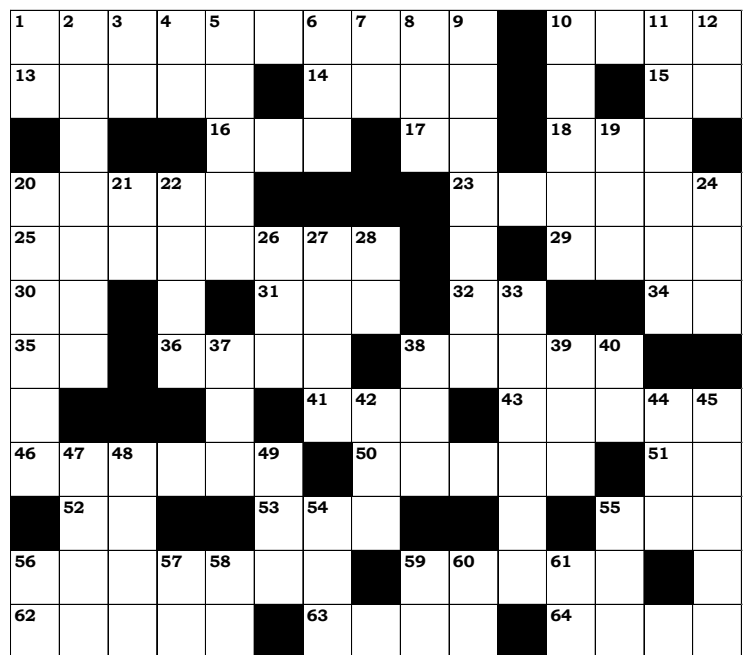
ACROSS

1. The basics of American baseball was invented from various bat and ball games by Alexander Cartwright, a NYC bank clerk who codified many of the ____ and rules of the game.
10. "In Scripture, we find a ____ of interrelated images and figures through which Revelation speaks of the inexhaustible mystery of the Church," — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #753
13. January, in Nazca, one of our diocese's former mission parishes in Peru.
14. "He reached down from on high; ____ me out of the deep water," (Psalms 18:17).
15. Prefix for core or trails.
16. The giant statue of Jesus overlooking ____ de Janeiro is struck by lightning several times a year.
17. The Evergreen State; its capital is Olympia (abbr.).
18. The flagship campus of the Univ. of Mo. system.
20. You're a ____ for sore eyes!
23. Donkeys.
25. "You shall love your ____ as yourself," (Leviticus 19:18).
29. "Lamb of God, you take away the ____ of the world, have mercy on us," —from the Mass.
30. Politician Gore or actor Pacino.
31. "A man can be damned alone, ____ he can only be saved with others," — St. John Climacus; d. 649 A.D.; Monk at the monastery on Mt. Sinai.
32. ____ & ____ Block; tax preparation company (2 ltrs.).
34. The other book in the Bible besides Ex. which contains the 10 commandments; 5th book of the Bible (abbr.).
35. In corporate business, letters for Research & Development.
36. "O God; how ____ the sum of them!" (Psalms 139:17).
38. "...if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, ____ according to the promise," (Galatians 3:29).
41. "Jesus accepts what we give...Often in ways that we don't or cannot ____," —*Jesus, a Pilgrimage*, James Martin, S.J.
43. The ____ is a popular NBC show where the best undiscovered singing talent goes head-to-head before judges; on air since 2011.
46. The Base Ball games (as they were called) were huge ____ events and businesses would shut down as if it were a holiday.
50. We'll tackle these problems ____ a time (2 wds.).
51. This border State of Mo. has a golden-domed 19th cen. State Capitol Building (abbr.).
52. "Young people nowadays take ____ little interest in what they're set to do — fly-by-nights and frivolous, most of them," —Alard in *A Rare Benedictine*, Ellis Peters.
53. Acronym for Employer Identification Number; used by the IRS to identify a business.
55. "And one of them struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ____," (Luke 22:50).
56. Mary Mother of the Church in Laurie, Mo. and Our Lady of Sorrows at Starkenburg, for examples.
59. Sedalia welcomed the Jeff. City team with a grand reception, ____, much food

- and "the good feelings of the citizens of Sedalia." There were over 1,000 spectators "among them many ladies."
62. Jeff. City in turn welcomed the Sedalia team with a brass band, a pre-game lunch, a post-game supper for 100 guests and with a ____ into the wee hours. The actual game was on a flat place near Lincoln Institute, no grandstands or seating; great crowds were afoot in clouds of dust.
63. A bog or open rocky heather; also where the Hound of the Baskervilles could be found.
64. Shem, Ham and Japheth were the sons of ____, from whom the whole earth was peopled (Genesis 9:18-19).

DOWN

1. Prefix for part or ride.
2. Cartwright called for a diamond-shaped ____, foul lines, 3 strike rule and abolished the dangerous practice of tagging runners by throwing balls at them.
3. "By the merits of his bitter passion joined to mine, God's bounteous goodness shall release ____ from the pains of purgatory and increase my reward in heaven besides," —letter from prison by St. Thomas More to his beloved daughter Margaret.
4. Comparative suffix.
5. Reportedly, "Base Ball" was first played officially in Mo. in St. Louis in 1860. It gained in popularity during the Civil War in army camps, both ____ and south.
6. Wedding vow words, perhaps.
7. Hospital place for surgeries.
8. In 1867, a memorable 3 game set was played in central Mo. between the Empire Club of Sedalia and the Capital Club of Jefferson City under the rules of the ____ Nat. Assn. of Base Ball Players (NABBP).
9. For criticizing the captain, I had to ____ ship's deck every day for a week! (2 wds.)
10. In 1867, the first of the 3 set games was played at Sedalia in an 8-inning game lasting 5 ____ with Sedalia's Empire Club winning 81-53.
11. The ____ of the 3 set games was at Jeff. City in a 7-inning game with the Capital Club winning 74-59.
12. The Volunteer State (abbr.).
19. Hospital scan.
20. "The cords of Sheol tightened; the ____ of death lay in wait for me," (Psalms 18:6).
21. WW II soldier.
22. "Flip or Flop," "Love it or List it," and "House Hunters" are popular shows on this cable television channel.
24. Fast flyer.
26. Air rifle ammo.
27. The NABBP rules specified that the ball was thrown underhanded, the fielders wore no gloves. Thus strikers (batters) produced very high scoring games. The only stats kept for players were ____ and runs scored.
28. ____ Rev. Msgr.
33. The third game of the 3-game set was held in neutral territory, the grounds of the Occidental Club in California, Mo. In 9 full innings, the Empire Club won 49-39 but the game was afterwards declared a "nullity" because of ineligible substitutions on both sides. The Sedalia and Jeff. City Clubs remained ____ for decades.
37. Assumption Abbey, 20 miles from ____, Mo. in Douglas Co., is the only Trappist monastery in Missouri.
38. "I yearned to gather your children together, as a ____ gathers her young under her wings..." (Matthew 23:37).
39. "And if I do not, may my hands ____ off..." —Richard II; Shakespeare.
40. Yes to Jorge.
42. A very long time.
44. U.S. spy agency.
45. 3rd rock from the sun.
47. Fed. Agency tasked with safety at job sites.
48. ____ on the cob.
49. Brand of jeans.
54. Suffix for terror or material.
55. Our ____-friendly company recycles paper, plastic, glass, wood and rubber.
56. The Mount Rushmore State (abbr.).
57. Short for parishes in St. James and Brookfield.
58. The Reuben sandwich originated in this State bordering Mo. (abbr.).
59. Taum Sauk mountain is the highest peak in this State (abbr.).
60. Abraham's ancestral home.
61. "____ God We Trust" officially became our national motto in 1956. Though it had been on all coins for over 100 years, it then became legally binding to be printed on all paper money as well.



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ANSWERS on page 19

REMEMBERING

From page 1

Mission of St. Rose of Lima in Novinger.

“No one at that time had greater credibility than Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Ratzinger, as they both experienced firsthand all the worst of humanity in the 20th century,” said Msgr. Makarewicz, who studied in Rome in the 1980s. “Their faith in God never wavered, their hope for humanity and their love of Jesus was always evident.”

Msgr. Makarewicz was once visiting Vatican City with his brother and sister-in-law, and they happened to cross paths in St. Peter’s Square with then-Cardinal Ratzinger.

“I introduced us, and he was very gracious,” Msgr. Makarewicz recalled. “He was by himself, just walking toward the CDF. I pointed out that he was a pretty important person to still have to walk to work. He said that ‘one has to get to work somehow, and the walk is short.’”

Msgr. Makarewicz said it was clear early on that “while Pope St. John Paul was such an imposing figure and beloved pastor, he had a solid collaborator in Cardinal Ratzinger.”

“Certainly, JPII was a great teacher, but he had Cardinal Ratzinger to back him up in challenging times,” the priest stated.

“A serene heart”

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicz said it was no surprise to hear that Pope Benedict’s last words, in German, were “Jesus, I love You.”

“I absolutely, totally can believe that, because his reputation for being pious was well known,” said Msgr. Kurwicz, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Russellville and vicar general for the Jefferson City diocese.

Msgr. Kurwicz met Pope Benedict while joining Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos and the other bishops of this region on their regularly scheduled “*ad limina*” visit to the Vatican.

“The ‘aura’ around (Pope Benedict) was one of coming into the presence of a deeply respected wisdom figure — like Moses of the Old Testament,” Msgr. Kurwicz recalled.

“Pope St. John Paul was pure charisma,” the priest observed.

“But with this man, it was like meeting holy wisdom.”

The first thing Msgr. Kurwicz could think to say upon greeting the pope and venerating his ring, was, “Thank you for your sacrifices.”

“And he looked me straight in the eye and said, ‘God bless you,’” the priest recalled.

Pope Benedict, who was 85 at the time, was visibly exhausted.

“Yet, he kept up the manners and protocol perfectly,” Msgr. Kurwicz recalled. “He was about showing people respect. He could have met with us as a group and that would have been fine, but he took the time to receive each person individually, shake hands and be in a photograph with each of us.”

“I wish now that I would have embraced him!” Msgr. Kurwicz said. “Unthinkable protocol error, but the emotion was present. Even more so today.”

Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, also traveled to the Vatican with Bishop Gaydos for that *ad limina* visit.

“I was just struck by (Pope Benedict’s) kindness and patience,” said Fr. Secrist. “Being in (his) presence, there was just this sense of a serene heart in love with the Lord.”

“To greater communion”

Father Dylan Schrader, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk, traveled to New York during Pope Benedict’s 2008 visit to the United States.

“What I remember most was his kindness to seminarians and the encouragement he gave to priests,” said Fr. Schrader.

The priest is convinced that humility marked Pope Benedict’s papacy.

“He gave the impression of someone with personal faith in Jesus, who was trying to live in obedience to Him,” said Fr. Schrader. “Benedict didn’t treat the papacy like it was about him. He believed the Catholic faith and was convinced that it’s good news for people,



Pope Benedict XVI smiles as he bids the crowd farewell after celebrating Mass at Nationals Park in Washington April 17, 2008. Pope Benedict died Dec. 31, 2022, at the age of 95.
— CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec

not something that needs to be revised or something to be embarrassed about, but something that needs to be shared.

“As a result,” the priest continued, “he was very generous with inviting people to greater communion with the Church and recognizing the legitimacy of diverse expressions of the same faith. He recognized that if we’re secure in the non-negotiable, unchanging truths of the Catholic faith, we don’t have to feel threatened by legitimate diversity.”

Father Stephen Jones, diocesan director of stewardship, was formerly an Anglican priest.

“No other pope, except perhaps St. JPII (whose own death lit a spark in me which eventually resulted in my seeking full communion with the Catholic Church) has had such a profound impact on my life,” Fr. Jones wrote in a Dec. 31, 2022, Facebook post.

“Oft-maligned due to the fact that our world constantly misunderstands motive and truth, he was — in reality — a gentle man, a gentle soul,” Fr. Jones wrote. “Armed with an exceptional intellect, he was a brilliant theologian who probably would’ve rather passed his days writing, teaching, and playing piano than shepherding the Church.”

In April of 2012, Pope Benedict signed the rescript that dispensed Fr. Jones — who with his wife and children had become Catholic in

2010 — from the promise of celibacy and allowed him to be ordained a deacon and priest in the Catholic Church.

“For that,” said Fr. Jones, “I will be always grateful.”

“I’d be honored”

In 2000, Salisbury native Randall Meissen, later to become a priest of the Legionnaires of Christ, took part in a Jubilee Year pilgrimage to Rome, where he got to meet then-Cardinal Ratzinger.

“When he talked to our group, he said young people need to embrace the Church’s mission of evangelization,” Fr. Meissen told *The Catholic Missourian* in 2008. “And coming from him, I was like, ‘Wow! Sure! If you say so!’”

In that meeting, the future priest recognized the pope’s soft-spokenness and humility.

“There were several of us there — I think three or four — who had picked up a book he had written,” said Fr. Meissen, who is chaplain of St. Leo University in Florida. “I handed my book to the cardinal and asked if he would be able to sign it. ... He took the book and looked at me and said, ‘I’d be honored.’ I still have that book.”

Monsignor David Cox was able to observe Pope Benedict up-close and candid while serving as a minister of Holy Communion at Pope Benedict’s Easter Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square in 2010.

After Mass, the Pope entered St. Peter’s Basilica just as Msgr. Cox and three other priests were returning to the sacristy with the Most Blessed Sacrament.

There, still caught up in the awesome Sacrifice he had just offered before hundreds of thousands of people on the most joyful day of the Church year, Pope Benedict proceeded within a few steps of Msgr. Cox.

“He’s just a very quiet, unassuming personality — a big contrast to Pope John Paul, who was very outgoing,” observed Msgr. Cox, who is pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend.

Pathways to encounter

Jesuit Father Matthew Monnig believes Pope Benedict’s 2008 message to the U.S. Catholic bishops epitomized his approach to life.

“He was talking about the crisis of vocations and how to address it,” said Fr. Monnig, a Helias Catholic High School graduate who is now an assistant professor of New Testament studies at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

“He said that what we need to do about vocations is to pray,” the priest recalled. “Not just in the sense of praying for vocations but also teaching young people how to pray.”

“Because it’s in praying that they encounter the living Lord,” said Fr. Monnig, paraphrasing Pope Benedict.

“And it is by having that relationship with Him that they are able to discover God’s will in their life and be open to serving in a priestly or religious vocation.”

Fr. Monnig was studying in Rome during Pope Benedict’s papacy.

“I very much enjoyed being able to attend his Masses and weekly audiences,” the priest recalled.

As a scholar of Sacred Scripture, Fr. Monnig has been heavily influenced by Pope Benedict’s approach to biblical studies and his call for renewal

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

Jan. 8

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am
Jefferson City, "Bells of Christmastide," Jefferson City Community Handbell Concert, 2-3:30 pm, Wesley United Methodist Church, corner of Hwy. 179 & Wesley St.

Jan. 15

St. Thomas, K of C pancake & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30 am

Jan. 21

Fulton, K of C Ladies Auxiliary Annual Candlelight Lasagna Dinner, 6-8 pm, St. Peter Parish multipurpose building
Linn, St. George Home & School Association "Taste of Italy" dinner, 4-9 pm, activity center, for info visit facebook.com/StGeorgeHomeSchoolAssn

Meetings/ Workshops

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/

Feb. 7

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

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

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

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Mar. 3-5

Camdenton, Men's Cursillo Weekend #71, St. Anthony Parish, for info visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo/

Mar. 16-19

Camdenton, Women's Cursillo Weekend #79, St. Anthony Parish, for info visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo/

Liturgical

Jan. 13

Jefferson City, Memorial Mass for Pope Benedict XVI, 7 pm, St. Peter Church

Youth & Young Adults

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

Feb. 1

Jefferson City, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult group, first Wednesday of each month, 5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall for info visit icangels.com/youngadults

Feb. 18

Monroe City, "With Great Power," Confirmation Retreat, 10 am-3 pm, Holy Rosary Parish, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/confirmation-retreat-2023

May 29-Jun. 2

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 1 for junior high boys, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 5-9

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 2 for junior high girls, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 11-13

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 3 for junior high boys, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 15-17

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 4 for junior high girls, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 19-24

Conway, Mo., Camp Macabee for high school young men, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-macabee

Jun. 25-30

Conway, Mo., Camp Siena for high school young women, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-siena

Nov. 16-19

Indianapolis, In., National Catholic Youth Conference, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/national-catholic-youth-conference

Health & Wellness

Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31

Jefferson City, "Seasons of Hope" grief support, 6:15-8:15 pm, St. Peter Parish's Fr. Ahrens Room

FRANCIS DE SALES

From page 10

her own fulfillment, with spreading his or her wings with confident trust before the gust of God's wind."

"More important than any kind of useless rigidity or self-absorption," Pope Francis wrote, St. Francis de Sales encouraged the faithful "to keep asking at every moment, in every decision, in every situation in life, where the greatest love is to be found."

Pope St. John Paul II, he noted, referred to St. Francis de Sales as the "Doctor of Divine Love," not primarily because he wrote about divine love, but because "he was an outstanding witness to that love."

"His writings were no theory concocted behind a desk, far from the concerns of ordinary people," Pope Francis said. "His teachings were the fruit of a great sensitivity to experience."

"To live in the midst of the secular city while nurturing the interior life, to combine the desire for perfection with every state of life, and to discover an interior peace that does not separate us from the world but teaches us how to live in it and to appreciate it, but also to maintain a proper detachment from it — that was the aim of Francis de Sales, and it remains a valuable lesson for men and women in our own time," the pope wrote.

SHELTER

From page 6

covering all aspects of their short-term needs.

Called Mercy Rest Stop, it will be run by the same group that helps the warming shelter. It will be a nicer, more comprehensive, year-round facility for our ecumenical community to staff and celebrate the Lord's hand in helping us to be better disciples.

"A gift to our Father"

Currently and for the past several years, we thank the Lord that St. Patrick Chapel has an undercroft with no direct interior access to the worship area upstairs. That is what prevents other churches in the city from being able to operate a shelter.

Providing a roof and a heat source was not the only issue when it came to operating all day during in the time leading up to and including Christmas.

We also had to organize food and meals to be brought in, coffee and water, sleeping cots with sheets, pillows and blankets, restrooms and cooperation with the hospital and police.

We designated two isolation rooms, which are used if someone arrives showing symptoms of illness.

For for the first time this year, we had two persons who arrived with service dogs.

Our capacity is approximately 25 people. The maximum we had during this spell was 15.

In the past, several homeless people in Sedalia have died from exposure, which is why this is so important.

If we believe in Christ and His message, we should be able to take care of people who aren't as fortunate as we are.

Yes, many of these people are mentally ill or have other problems. But for a short time, we can intervene to ensure that they live.

For every life that we save and every person that we truly help, we can celebrate! What a gift to our Father on Jesus's birthday!

We wish it could be available full-time, but with lack of a dedicated facility and volunteers, our operating conditions are 15 degrees or colder (including wind chill) or 30 degrees or colder when there's precipitation.

If it had been -28° and snowing when Christ was born, would Mary and Joseph been able to find a warm place?

What about today?

Everyone deserves to find warm accommodations when we have severe weather.

Don't close your eyes and say, "that's too bad," and hope they find some place!

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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

Kirksville, Mary Immaculate
Larry & Madonna Sorrell, 65 years

Marshall, St. Peter
Percy & Eleanor Willis, 62 years

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus
Kevin & Mary McDonald, 30 years

Baptisms

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Garth Beckett Luebbering**, son of Ben & Elise Luebbering

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Jack Thomas Baumhoer**, son of Casey & Michelle Baumhoer; **Beau Andrew Wilbers**, son of Blake & Kylie Wilbers

Birthdays

Morrison, Assumption — **Adeline Kemper**, her 95th on Jan. 1

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Helen Rothermich**, her 90th on Dec. 12

Rest in peace, Freeburg native Sister Dorothy E. Lauberth

Freeburg native Sister Dorothy E. Lauberth, 90, passed away peacefully on Dec. 18 at her home in Sullivan.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Dec. 31 in St. Anthony Church in Sullivan, with Father Paul Telken presiding.

Sr. Dorothy Elizabeth was born on Feb. 28, 1932, in Freeburg, a daughter of Joseph Henry and Mary (Eisterhold) Lauberth.

She grew up and attended school in the Freeburg area before graduating and moving to St. Louis. She worked there for several years before entering religious life in the Sisters of St. Mary.

She remained a member of the community for over 25 years. During this time, she continued her education and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

Sr. Dorothy spent much of her career as a nurse, not only ministering as a nurse in many states but also in several Missouri penitentiaries.

She eventually entered the Sisters for Christian Community, remaining until her death.



Sr. Dorothy E. Lauberth
SFCC (1932-2022)

As faith-filled woman, she loved cooking, baking, making new friends and spending time with those she loved.

She was a prayer warrior and made a habit of visiting and taking Holy Communion to whomever was in need. She also loved her dog, Bandit.

Sr. Linda, a companion for 45 years, and Sr. Joann, a companion for 22 years, were sisters in community with Sr. Dorothy, as well as close friends.

Surviving are a brother, Joseph Lauberth and his wife Jane of St. Louis; a sister, Ann Tillman of Jefferson City; a sister-in-law, Esther Lauberth of Westphalia; and numerous nieces and nephews and many other cherished family and friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a brother, Jerome Lauberth; and a sister, Dolores (Ralph) Cernich.

Memorials contributions may be offered for Masses in memory of Sister Dorothy Lauberth.

Online condolences may be shared with Sister Dorothy's family at eatonfuneralhome.com.

Deaths

Colm Gormley, 93 — brother of Father Kevin Gormley, a retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese — on Dec. 21 in Gartylough, Arva, Co. Cavan, Ireland. A Requiem Mass was offered on Dec. 27 in Sacred Heart Church in Arva. Burial was in the Coronea cemetery.

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Isidora Meyer; Johanna Rademann; Michael Shea; James Werner**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Virginia Graver; Rose Mary Terhune**

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Berniece Maag; Rosemary Schmit**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Pauline Markway**

PEW AND PULPIT

From page 9

the splendor of truth. For our worship to be truly life-altering, it cannot merely hold to intellectual truth about Jesus, it also must give body to that truth by revealing His beauty.

The proper language of the Mass is poetic. A poetic mindset looks to the future with hope and grasps unnamed realities. It explores inner landscapes, timeless and wide, beauty beyond the reach of everyday language. The Church has always understood that the Mass is less a catechetical lesson and more a dizzying encounter with a Beauty, ever ancient, ever new.

Our parishioners have difficulty expressing why the Mass affects them so deeply. They only know it does, even as the children are busy with their own boisterous prayers. They only know they want to tell their friends about it.

I consider that guarding sacred beauty is my fatherly duty. As priest, my intent at Mass is to fade away so Christ

might increase, drawing each soul into His gravitation toward the great center. The insistence for imaginative beauty is not something our parish has invented as a matter of personal taste. It's already present in the ancient Mass. Our task is to be attentive, to reach out and touch the hem of Our Lord's garment.

It's interesting that this seemingly impractical insistence on the poetic has resulted in quite measurable results — a growing parish, enthusiasm for evangelization, and lives changed. Our choice for beauty has had stunning results, none more than the dawning knowledge of each parishioner who comes to Mass that they are known and loved.

Fr. Michael Rennie is pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord parish in St. Louis, Mo. His book, "The Forgotten Language — How the Poetics of the Mass Can Change Your Life" releases March 2023.

CHRISTMAS

From page 4

help seeing his place in God's miraculous plan for salvation.

"In Matthew's account of the birth of our Lord," the bishop noted, "Joseph had almost given up because of Mary's pregnancy. He had a reverential fear for the great mystery of her Child — not anger for Mary being pregnant."

Joseph was aware of God's promise to send His People a Savior, and of the messianic sign prophesied by Isaiah: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a Son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

"Now, seeing Mary as both virgin and mother, (Joseph) stands before the fulfillment of that prophecy," said Bishop McKnight.

And like numerous prophets who came before him and countless disciples who came after him, Joseph was overcome with his own inadequacy and unworthiness.

God sent His angelic messenger to help Joseph stay focused on his appointed task, telling him, "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."

"Or, in other words," said Bishop McKnight, "Do not be afraid of your vocation, your calling in life."

Joseph believed and acted.

Accordingly, "the mystery of Christmas changed Joseph into SAINT Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus," said the bishop.

Everyone else who celebrates the Mystery of Christmas is also subject to being changed by God's light.

"It encourages us not to be afraid to

fulfill our own vocations as disciples of the Christ Child," the bishop noted.

"Our Christmas faith is the belief that even with humanity's brokenness and unworthiness, we still have hope for a new world to come," he said.

"We are called to shine like the stars before the darkness of our world."

Journey of encounter

Bishop McKnight asked for prayers for him and a delegation from this diocese who were leaving later on Christmas Day for a mission trip to Uganda.

Four priests now serving in this diocese are from there.

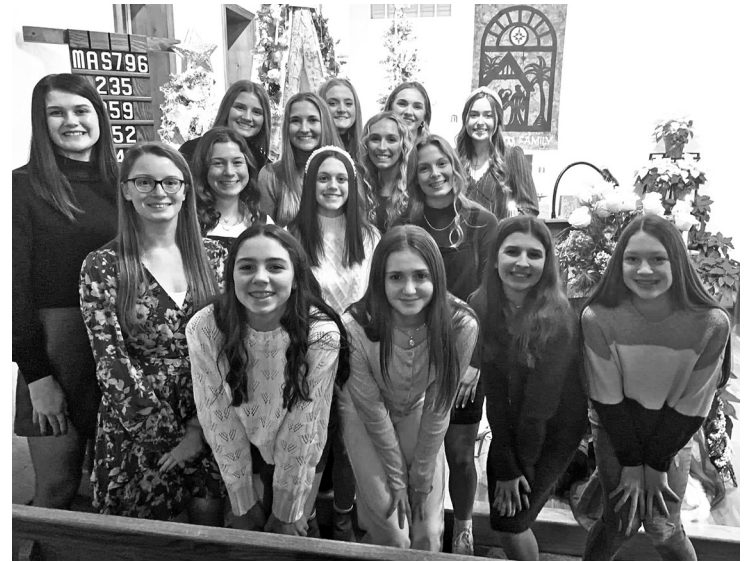
"Please pray for the safety our group, and that we may faithfully represent the faith and charity of all the people of our diocese to our Christian brothers and sisters in the Church in Uganda," he said.

"Pray that we may be a tangible expression to them of our fraternity and charity in faith."

Crossword puzzle answers

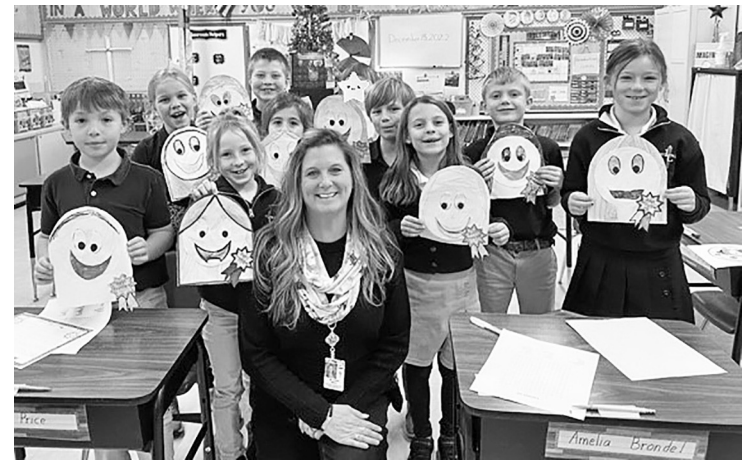
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L	S	O	H	O	S	N	O	S	I	M	E	N	I

“The hopes and fears of all the years” “Angels we have heard”



The Angel Choir of Holy Spirit Parish in Centralia gathers in the sanctuary of Holy Cross Church after singing at Mass on Christmas Eve. “I kept thinking, ‘This is exactly what the shepherds heard on that first Christmas Night,’” said their pastor, Father Michael Coleman. — Photo by Fr. Coleman

A matter of principal



Students from Janet Henke’s second-grade class at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City present to Principal Heather Schrimpf letters of praise and thanks for being their principal. — Photo from the Immaculate Conception Catholic School Facebook page



ABOVE AND LEFT: Young members of St. Mary Parish in Shelbina act out a Living Nativity before Mass on Christmas Eve in St. Mary Church. — Photos from the St. Mary’s Catholic Church of Shelbina, MO Facebook page

“Raise your voices, lift your hearts”



Students of St. Peter School in Fulton sing Christmas carols for the school and parish staff before heading off for Christmas break.

— Photo by Joanne M. Schrader

Bible Accent

The Magi were not the only ones who received a warning in a dream.

In Matthew 2:13, we read that after the Magi departed, an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream.

“Rise, take the Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him,” the angel said.

When he woke up, Joseph took the Child and His mother and fled to Egypt by night.

Joseph, Mary and Jesus stayed in Egypt until the death of King Herod. This fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called My Aon.”

When Herod died, an angel again came to Joseph in a dream.

“Rise, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child’s life are dead,” the angel said.

But when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father, he was afraid to go back there.

And because he had been warned in a dream, he instead departed for Galilee and dwelt in the town of Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazorean.”

St. Paula

St. Paula was born to a noble family in Rome in 347. She married and had five children, but was widowed at age 32.

Another widow introduced her to St. Jerome, a priest who was St. Damasus’ papal secretary. Jerome became her spiritual director, and she helped him translate Greek biblical texts for his new Latin version of the Bible.

When Jerome left Rome for the Holy Land, Paula followed. She taught herself Hebrew, and she spent all of her wealth building a monastery, three convents and a hospital in Bethlehem.

Paula died in 404, and we remember her on Jan. 26.



The Magi find Jesus and give Him gifts

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

When Jesus was born, King Herod was ruler of the region of Judea, which included the cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

One day, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem.

“Where is the newborn King of the Jews?” they asked. “We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he and all of Jerusalem were very troubled.

The king gathered the chief priests and scribes to find out where the Christ was to be born.

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they said, “for thus it has been written through the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd My people Israel.’”

After receiving this answer, King Herod secretly summoned the Magi and learned from them when the star they had been following had first appeared.

Then he told them the Child could be found in Bethlehem.

“Go and search diligently for the Child,” he told the Magi. “When you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may go and do Him homage.”

After their audience with King Herod, the Magi set out, and the star they had been fol-



lowing continued to lead them.

Finally, the star stopped over the place where the Child was in Bethlehem.

The Magi were overjoyed and, on entering the house, they saw the Child with His mother, Mary.

They prostrated themselves and did the Child homage, then gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Afterward, the Magi left for their country by another route, because they had been warned in a dream not to return to King Herod in Jerusalem.

When King Herod realized

the Magi had deceived him and would not be returning, he was furious, because he actually wanted to destroy the Child.

The king then implemented an evil plan based on what the Magi had told him about the star’s appearance. He ordered the deaths of all boys age 2 and under who lived in Bethlehem and its vicinity, thinking that the Child would be among them.

Read more about it...

Matthew 2

1. Who was looking for the infant Jesus?
2. What gifts did Jesus receive?

Essay

Gospel Reading for Jan. 8, 2023: Matthew 2:1-12

When have you refused to do something you felt was wrong?



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Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in these sentences about Jesus’ birth:

1. The angel _____ spoke to Mary about Jesus’ birth. (Luke 1:26-27; 31)
2. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in _____ clothes. (Luke 2:7)
3. _____ went to find Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. (Luke 2:15-16)
4. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to _____. (Luke 2:22)

Answers: 1. Gabriel; 2. swaddling; 3. shepherds; 4. the Lord.

Priest with autism offers prayer resource for others like him

God Loves the Autistic Mind: Prayer Guide for Those on the Spectrum and Those Who Love Us, by Father Matthew P. Schneider, LC. Pauline Books and Media (Boston, 2022). 211 pp., \$16.95.

Reviewed by Brian T. Olszewski
Catholic News Service

When one seeks guidance about how to improve in a particular sport, it is preferable to get it from someone who has played that sport. When one seeks guidance regarding an addiction, one who is well into recovering from it is an excellent resource.

Thus, it makes sense for autistic people and their families seeking better ways to pray to get direction from an autistic person, especially when the person giving it is a Catholic priest.

That is how Father Matthew P. Schneider, a member of the Legionaries of Christ, sees his goal in writing *God Loves the Autistic Mind*.

The priest begins by sharing his story and giving a summary of how autistic people pray differently than neurotypicals (i.e., those who have a “standard system of connectivity”).

The former’s prayer, he notes, focuses on information, while the latter’s is emotional.

He writes, “The autistic logical foundation tends to be more solid than the more emotional foundation neurotypicals may

have for their spiritual life. We autistics often need a reason: ... If you say I should do X because you say so, I will pretty much ignore you. If you give me a decent reason, I will generally follow through. We need a reason why, but once we have that reason, we remain steadfast in our resolve.”

In the first part of the book, Fr. Schneider provides an overview — primarily by comparing and contrasting how autistic people and neurotypicals think and how knowing this is critical to their prayer lives. He familiarizes readers with words (e.g., stimming, that are an integral part of the autistic mind).

He addresses myths about autism, including the idea held by some that it is some sort of demonic possession. He relates the story of a woman who was the subject of an attempted exorcism.

He also notes that autistic people, even in adulthood, are likely to pray in a “childlike” manner, which he writes “refers to someone who relates to God simply, a person for whom faith and the spiritual world seem ordinary in this life,” adding that “childlike” is different than the



self-centeredness and pettiness of one who is “childish.”

While the first part reads like a research paper, complete with footnotes, the second part of *God Loves the Autistic Mind* is engaging, as it includes 52 mediations, several of which include

the personal stories of autistic people, including the author’s, a Scripture passage and a reflection.

tion.

Topics include “Jesus Loves Me as an Autistic,” “From Loneliness to Being Alone with God” and “Remain Watchful in Our Own Lives.”

Fr. Schneider considers *God Loves the Autistic Mind* a “first attempt at enculturating the faith to autistics. I don’t expect it to be perfect, but I do intend to keep some important truths in mind: the orthodoxy of the Catholic faith and the reality of being autistic.”

This first attempt is important because of the autistic faithful for whom it was written. However, tighter editing

(e.g., elimination of the frequent and distracting use of “I think”) would have made it a better book.

Nonetheless, it is eye-opening for neurotypicals and one that autistic people might find affirming in their prayer lives.

As Fr. Schneider writes: “We need to avoid stigmatizing autism and recognize that autistics are called to be and can become saints.”

Olszewski has been involved in Catholic communications for more than 46 years and has reviewed books for Catholic News Service since 1985.

New book offers spiritual wisdom from Father Ted Hesburgh

Come, Holy Spirit: Spiritual Wisdom from Fr. Ted Hesburgh, edited by Todd C. Ream, Gerard J. Olinger, CSC, and Hannah M. Pick. Ave Maria Press, (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2022). 256 pp., \$18.95.

Reviewed by Timothy Walch
Catholic News Service

God, Country, Notre Dame.

That was the title that Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh chose for his autobiography.

The title reflected the order of importance of these elements in his life.

Well known for his 35-year career as the president of the University of Notre Dame, he also served the country on numerous boards and commis-

sions.

Most important to “Father Ted,” however, was his service to God and Church as a Catholic priest.

It is not surprising, therefore, that he produced limitless homilies and pastoral reflections on myriad spiritual issues.

Unfortunately, most of his thoughts were never published but remained among his personal papers in the Hesburgh Library at Notre Dame.

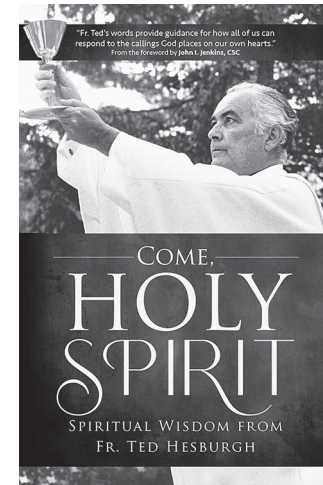
To share his spirituality with a larger audience, Ave Maria Press has published a handy, substantive selection of his remarks over the course of a momentous life.

Commentary was provided by friends and scholars who knew and collaborated with him.

The collection is divided into seven parts — each a selection of Fr. Ted’s thoughts and advice on specific values.

The first section, for example, focuses on “Lives of the Baptized.” The emphasis here is the transformative role of that first sacrament as it incorporates us into the body of Christ. Baptism is the spark to begin a life of vocation, faith, prayer, learning and action.

The second part shares his



thoughts on vocation — both to the clerical and the lay life.


In this section, Fr. Ted stresses his conviction that priests and laity alike must “actively participate in the life of the church and the redemptive work of Christ.” The

work will be hard; all will face inner doubt and frustration; the rewards will be “glorious and life-giving,” he says.

Lives of faith are the focus of the third part. “Faith is a highly personal matter,” Fr. Ted begins. “Faith gets at us in the depths of our personality and being, what we do or do not believe and why, and what this belief or unbelief does to our lives at the innermost level of our personality.”

The fourth part concentrates on the life of prayer. “Real prayer is simply talking with God,” he notes, “who has a personal interest in each one of you and is only too glad to listen to you and to help you whenever you speak up and ask for help.” There is a calming influence in Fr. Ted’s words.

Learning, the fifth part, was a central part of Fr. Ted’s daily life and inextricably linked to

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BENEDICT

From page 17

of biblical scholarship in the Church.

In 1988, as Cardinal Ratzinger, the future pope gave a lecture titled “Biblical Interpretation in Crisis.”

“He talked about the deficiencies of many contemporary approaches to the Bible, and stated the need to find a distinctively Catholic hermeneutic of faith,” said Fr. Monnig. “I’ve tried very hard to take that to heart in my own life and teaching as a biblical scholar.”

What impressed Fr. Monnig most about Pope Benedict was a point he repeated numerous times in various contexts: “Our faith is not a doctrine or a philosophy or a set of ideas. Our faith is in a person, Jesus Christ.”

“You could see that Pope Benedict’s life was rooted in an actual living person, Whom he encountered in Scripture, in the Word, in the Church and in the Liturgy,” said Fr. Monnig.

That, he believes, is why Pope Benedict had such reverence for the Mass.

“He understood it as being an encounter with Christ,” the priest said.

Giving thanks

Fr. Doke admired Pope Benedict for many years.

“He’s the first pope I’ve seen go full cycle — watching on TV as he came out onto the loggia, getting to meet him, and now he’s off to his eternal reward,” the priest noted.

As a seminarian in Rome, Fr. Doke attended numerous events at which Pope Benedict presided.

At one such event, Fr. Doke entered the massive St. Peter’s Basilica and took a seat near the back of an aisle through which the pope would be passing in procession.

“There were two kids sitting in front of me with their parents,” the priest recalled. “And as he came out over by Michelangelo’s ‘Pieta,’ he sees those kids and walks right over to them. He was standing about three feet from me.”

In 2010, for the 150th anniversary of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where Fr. Doke was preparing for Priesthood, Pope Benedict gave a private audience to the



Seminarian Jason Doke, now a priest of the Jefferson City diocese, greets Pope Benedict XVI during an audience with fellow seminarians of the North American Pontifical College in Rome in 2010.



Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky greets Pope Benedict XVI during Bishop John R. Gaydos’s *ad limina* visit to the Vatican in 2012.

seminarians and greeted each of them, including Fr. Doke.

For the Mass with Pope Benedict during the 2012 consistory, each of the altar servers presented one of the pope’s vestments to him as he put them on for Mass.

“I carried his alb to him,” Fr. Doke recalled, referring to the white vestment priests wear beneath the more decorative chasuble for Mass.

Fr. Doke had been ordained a transitional deacon by the time Pope Benedict announced in 2013 that he would relinquish the papacy.

As such, Fr. Doke was chosen to be one of the deacons who helped distribute ashes at the pope’s Ash Wednesday Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

“Any Mass that you are assisting with that is celebrated by the Holy Father is always something very special,” Fr. Doke recalled. “But this was also Pope Benedict’s last public Mass, which added that much more emotion.”

A few weeks later, on Feb. 28, 2013, Fr. Doke watched

the helicopter depart from the papal residence, as the newly resigned pope emeritus rode off into the sunset.

“Quite literally,” said Fr. Doke. “Papal-style.”

In light of Pope Benedict’s passing, Fr. Doke suggests offering prayers “first in thanksgiving for the life he led and the ability to overcome the obstacles of his early Priesthood and difficulties during World War II, and for the repose of his soul, and for the Church, which he loved very much.”

BOOK

From page 22

spirituality. The editors use his invocations from convocations and commencements to stress the bond between the divine hand of God, the wonders of creation and our ability to understand the mysteries and intricacies of nature.

Part six addresses “Lives of Action.” Fr. Ted was passionate about civil rights, world peace and social justice. His thoughts in this section call us to join in his passions to do better for this world.

The final part reflects on lives lived well. The editors begin with a question: “What does a Christian life well-lived look like?” Fr. Ted offers

a thoughtful answer in an expression of hope: “May all of your lives, today and every day, be living sermons to those with whom you live.”

Come, Holy Spirit is a wonderful selection from the head and heart of an exceptional American priest, who died in February 2015 at age 97.

It’s a book that will resonate with anyone in need of spiritual guidance far beyond the campus at Notre Dame.

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

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jan 8

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Is. 60:1-6
Ps. 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt. 2:1-12

Sunday, Jan 15

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Is. 49:3, 5-6
Ps. Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Cor. 1:1-3
Jn. 1:29-34

Monday, Jan 9

The Baptism of the Lord
Is. 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38
Ps. 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Mt. 3:13-17

Monday, Jan 16

Heb. 5:1-10
Ps. 110:1, 2, 3, 4
Mk. 2:18-22

Tuesday, Jan 10

First Week in Ordinary Time
Heb. 2:5-12
Ps. 8:2ab, 5, 6-7, 8-9
Mk. 1:21-28

Tuesday, Jan 17

St. Anthony, abbot
Heb. 6:10-20
Ps. 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c
Mk. 2:23-28

Wednesday, Jan 11

Heb. 2:14-18
Ps. 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9
Mk. 1:29-39

Wednesday, Jan 18

Heb. 7:1-3, 15-17
Ps. 110:1, 2, 3, 4
Mk. 3:1-6

Thursday, Jan 12

Heb. 3:7-14
Ps. 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11
Mk. 1:40-45

Thursday, Jan 19

Heb. 7:25-8:6
Ps. 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17
Mk. 3:7-12

Friday, Jan 13

St. Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church
Heb. 4:1-5, 11
Ps. 78:3, 4bc, 6c-7, 8
Mk. 2:1-12

Friday, Jan 20

St. Fabian, Pope and martyr; St. Sebastian, martyr
Heb. 8:6-13
Ps. 85:8, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Mk. 3:13-19

Saturday, Jan 14

Heb 4:12-16
Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 15
Mk. 2:13-17

Saturday, Jan 21

St. Agnes, virgin and martyr
Heb. 9:2-3, 11-14
Ps. 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Mk. 3:20-21

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for January:

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

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Memorial Masses planned for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Catholics across the Diocese of Jefferson City are invited to attend a memorial Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who died on Dec. 31, 2022.

Pope Benedict's Funeral Mass was to be offered on Jan. 5 in Rome. Following the funeral, Catholics throughout the world will observe nine of-

ficial days of mourning, called the Novendiales.

Public memorial Masses for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI will be held during that time in the Jefferson City diocese.

Here is a partial list of memorial Masses:

Church, 400 St. Andrew Drive, Holts Summit. Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos will be the presider and homilist for this Mass.

•4:30 p.m., Mary Immaculate Church, 716 East Washington St., Kirksville

Church, 21509 Highway 161, Bowling Green

Wednesday, Jan. 11

•8:15 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 17 St. Patricks Lane, Rolla

Thursday, Jan. 12

•6:30 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive, Columbia

Friday, Jan. 13

•7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway, Jefferson City

Saturday, Jan. 14

•10 a.m., Sacred Heart Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 421 W. Third Street, Sedalia



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Children's author to discuss Julia Greeley on EWTN program

Maura McKeegan, author of *Julia Greeley: Secret Angel to the Poor*, has been invited to appear on two episodes of EWTN's "At Home with Jim and Joy" program this month to talk about Servant of God Julia Greeley, a former slave who was born near Hannibal, Missouri, became Catholic in Colorado and became known as "Denver's Angel of Charity" by the time of her death in 1919.

The Denver archdiocese opened a sainthood cause for her in 2016.

Ms. McKeegan's book tells Ms. Greeley's story in a way that's appropriate for children.

The taping for the program is set for Jan. 13, and it is scheduled to air at 12:30 p.m. central time on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 18 and 19.

ewtn.com/tv/shows/at-home-with-jim-and-joy



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