

Dancing with the saints

Students from four Catholic schools gathered in Linn during Catholic Schools Week to celebrate Catholic education, the Universal Church and the call to be saints in heaven.

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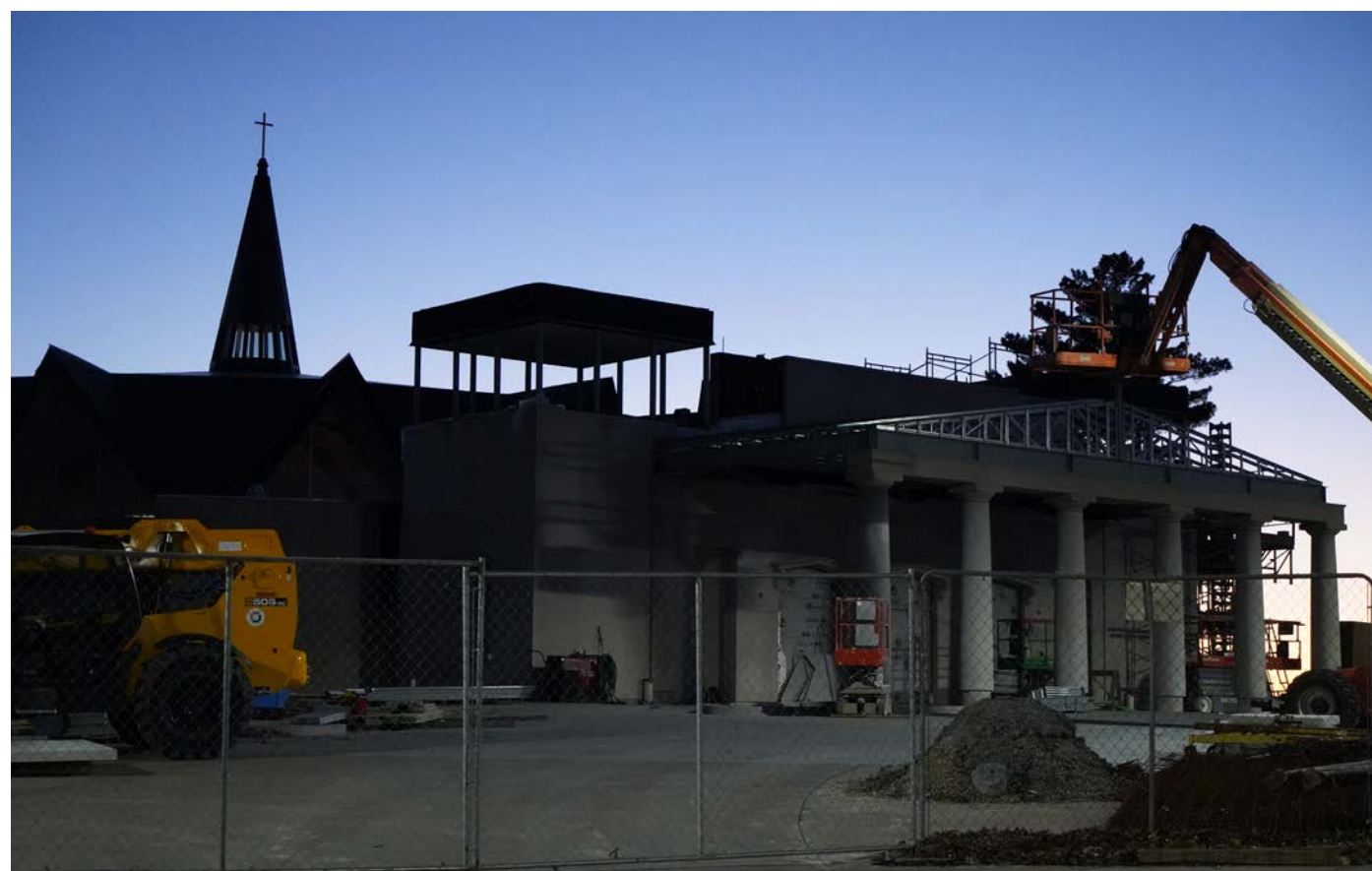
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

February 17, 2023 • Vol. 66 No. 17

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop sets May 5 Rededication for renewed Cathedral



Celebration to mark completion of major renovation and expansion
Rite of Rededication to be livestreamed online at 10:30 a.m. May 5
Public invited to May 7 open house

By Jacob Luecke

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight has set May 5, 2023, as the date for the Rite of Rededication for the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

The diocese is planning a series of events surrounding the rededication, allowing everyone the opportunity to celebrate the successful completion of this major, 16-month renovation and expansion.

Due to limited, invitation-only seating, the Rite of Rededication will be livestreamed online at 10:30 a.m. on May 5.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph is the spiritual home for the more than 75,000 Catholics who reside in the Jefferson City diocese, which covers 38 counties in central and northeastern Missouri.

The approximately \$15 million project addresses numerous mechanical and accessibility issues within the structure while greatly enhancing the cathedral's hospitality and spiritual functionality.

The rededication will also mark the unveiling of new artwork and liturgical features that more fully reflect the beauty of the Catholic faith — as well as vividly tell the story of this diocese as the people seek to enter into a new era of thriving Catholic life.

“The rededication of our beloved Cathedral of St. Joseph symbolizes the start of a bright new chapter for the

See REDEDICATE, page 23

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Cathedral's vivid new mosaics from Italy are designed to teach, uplift, evangelize

Timeless techniques employed to create artwork that will inspire awe for generations

By Jay Nies

The pieces are falling into place.

The installation of resplendent mosaics, over a year in the making, marks the latest visible milestone in the renewal of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

The picture is becoming clearer. The end is in sight.

“The arrival of these beautiful mosaics is one more sign that the completion of our mother church is drawing near,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. “Before long, God’s people, like the mosaics, will fill this place with Christ’s hope and light and make his face visible to all.”

Skilled artisans of Progetto Arte Poli in Verona, Italy, designed the mosaics to specifications given by Bishop McKnight; the members of the Cathedral Renovation Commis-

sion; and William Heyer, architectural consultant for the Cathedral renovation.

The purpose of the \$15 million renovation, expansion and renewal of the Cathedral is to upgrade its aging systems while enhancing its beauty, functionality, capacity for hospitality, and uniquely Catholic identity.

Bishop McKnight plans to rededicate the Cathedral on May 5.

Medallion-shaped mosaics affixed to the travertine marble in the sanctuary depict the Blessed Mother under her title the Immaculate Heart of Mary, patroness of the diocese, and St. Joseph, patron saint of the Cathedral and of the parish, holding the infant Jesus.

A radiant sunburst with a dove representing the Holy Spirit and the hand of the Father fills the alcove behind the

See MOSAICS, page 18

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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02/17/23



Cold day in heaven

A statue of Jesus outside St. Pius X School in Moberly looks toasty warm Jan. 31, after a St. Pius X Early Childhood Center student "brought Jesus his blanket and a hat because he said he was cold!" said Father Joby P. Thomas, pastor of St. Pius Parish. "Is that not a great story?" the priest said. "Great example of kindness in this Catholic Schools Week."

Chancery Positions Needed



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

Senior Bookkeeper — Advanced bookkeeping and elementary accounting work in the maintenance, review and analysis of detailed financial records, worksheets and statements; moderately complex to advanced bookkeeping/accounting tasks and procedures; experience with general ledger account classification, investments, insurance administration and payroll; experience with Sage Intacct a plus.

Administrative Assistant — Highly experienced and self-motivated clerical support for Vocations and Diaconate offices' activities, projects and events; advanced knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel; manage/maintain director calendars, database and comprehensive, detailed task list; oversee check requests, expense forms, supplies, vendor purchases/contracts; assist with travel arrangements; produce correspondence; record and take minutes; provide support for other needs of the Chancery office.

Ministry Assistant — Outstanding organizational skills and self-motivated support for Religious Education & Youth/Young Adult Ministry and Women's Ministry offices; advanced knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel; manage/maintain director calendars, database and comprehensive, detailed task list; produce mailing labels, reports and correspondence; record and take minutes; provide support for activities, projects and events including negotiating/securing venue sites and vendors, menu selection, setup, decorations, accurate recording of fees and parental release forms; work with volunteers and program leaders; provide support for other needs of the Chancery office.

Employer offers a comprehensive benefit package including health, dental, vision and matching 403b retirement plan. Complete job descriptions can be found at diojeffcity.org/about-us/employment.

Qualified candidates should send their resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Youth Mass, I.C. Church in J.C.

DATE: February 19
TIME: 5 pm

Jefferson City offers a Youth Mass on the third Sunday of each month.

The next Youth Mass will be at 5 p.m. on

Immaculate Conception Parish in

Sunday, Feb. 19.

Anna Porting, youth Minister at St Joseph Cathedral, will give a brief faith witness after Mass.

All are welcome. Visit icangels.com for information.

Coming in Lent 2023: A new webinar series on the Mass

In response to Pope Francis' call for a "serious and dynamic liturgical formation," the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions is pleased to present a five-part Lenten series which will explore the Mass — "Eucharist: The Work

K.C. Chiefs chaplain featured on K of C KnightCast

Father Richard Rocha, who serves as chaplain for the 2023 Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs, was recently featured in episode 11 of the KnightCast online program.

He discussed the intersection of professional sports and the Catholic faith.

He shared his experience as a former football coach, how he discerned a call to the priesthood and the ways he supports athletes' spiritual lives as a "coach on God's team."

To watch the program, visit: youtu.be/NVaCazaUKhQ

The Catholic Missourian

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

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

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of Our Redemption."

This is offered in harmony with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' campaign for a National Eucharistic Revival.

The series will include some of the nation's most respected theologians and liturgists. They will offer not merely an exploration of the elements of the Mass but will reflect on its rich theology and identify implications for pastoral practice.

The sessions will be offered live at noon each Thursday in Lent beginning Feb. 23.

Each webinar will be 75 minutes in length and will include time for questions and answers.

These webinars are offered free of charge.

The sessions will be recorded so that all registered participants may watch it at a convenient time.

More than 60 people in this diocese had already signed up for the series by the middle of January.

Online registration is now open at: fdlc.org/eucharist-series2023.

Pray for deceased priests

Feb. 19 — Fr. Peter B. O'Rourke, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1975)

Feb. 27 — Fr. James J. O'Sullivan, Sacred Heart, Eldon (2004)

Mar. 1 — Fr. Lawrence P. Mullen, St. Joseph, Edina; and St. Aloysius, Baring (1996)

Mar. 3 — Fr. Edward A. Doyle, Immaculate Conception, Montgomery City (2019)



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SIGN-UP BY APRIL 15

2023 Lenten regulations and admonitions for the Diocese of Jefferson City

As another Lenten journey of conversion begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023, Holy Mother Church calls all Catholics to a deeper spirit of penance, fasting, almsgiving and prayer, "which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* # 1434 & 1969).

In order to foster a greater spirit of penance, of reparation for sin, to encourage self-denial, and so guide us more closely in the footsteps of Christ, Holy Mother Church reminds us of the following obligations of fast and abstinence during Lent and also admonishes us all to deeper prayer and worship.

Obligations

Abstinence — All who have celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

Fasting — Everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday, is bound to fast on Ash

Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is generally understood to mean eating only one full meal each day. Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. But please note: when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the obligations of fasting nor abstinence obliges.

These are minimal penitential practices and should not be lightly excused. If in doubt, please consult your parish priest.

Other recommended forms of fasting, including alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, internet use, and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged.

Almsgiving — The act of giving to the poor, in the most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance, a witness of fraternal charity and an expression of

Lenten conversion. Therefore, all Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church — through regular stewardship to their parish and support of charities.

Prayer — In order to deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged to participate in the Sacramental life of the Church during Lent by attending daily Mass and frequenting the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Admonitions

Baptism — "To illustrate the paschal character of Baptism, it is recommended that the sacrament be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on a Sunday, when the Church commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord." (*Order of Baptism of Children*, no. 9).

Baptisms may certainly take place during Lent, preferably on a Sunday, but any day other than Good Friday and Holy Saturday (and even then in the case of danger of death).

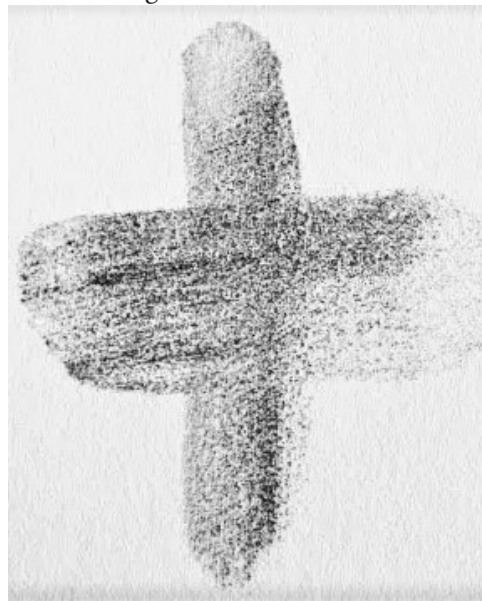
Confirmation — Any persons who were baptized Catholic but never catechized and who now wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, may be confirmed by a priest at the Easter Vigil (or any other time) only if written delegation is given to the priest by the Diocesan Bishop.

The priest is asked to contact Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in writing *well in advance* of the Easter Vigil outlining the candidate's full name; the date and church of baptism, and explain the reason for this request. Bishop McKnight will gladly consider each pastoral request on an individual basis.

Reconciliation — Lent is also a privileged time for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, including its communal celebration. Church law does not permit

general absolution at communal celebrations of Reconciliation.

Regarding the sacrament of Reconciliation for baptized adults seeking full communion with the Church, any previously baptized adult to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church should appropriately celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation before the Easter Vigil.



Wedding Masses — Wedding Masses may not be celebrated during the Easter Triduum, on the Sundays of Lent, on Ash Wednesday or during Holy Week.

Marriages that do take place at other times during the season of Lent should be according to the proper liturgical norms and provisions, mindful of the penitential spirit of the season.

According to the instructions given in the *Third Edition of the Roman Missal*, the

Gloria is to be sung, or at the very least, recited, at all wedding Masses, including those celebrated during Lent.

Funeral Masses — Funeral Masses may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday, nor on the Sundays of Lent. When pastoral reasons require a funeral to be celebrated on these days, a Liturgy of the Word with the Final Commendation is to be held.

Holy Saturday — Mass may not be celebrated on Holy Saturday, April 8, 2023, except the Easter Vigil, which may be celebrated only after nightfall.

Easter Duty — All Catholics who have been initiated into the Holy Eucharist are bound to receive Holy Communion worthily at least once during the Easter Season.


Of course, Catholics are encouraged to receive Holy Communion as often as possible, not only during Eastertide.

However, anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before approaching to receive Holy Communion.

See LENT 2023, page 22

Find us online





Bishop McKnight's Calendar

FEBRUARY

Feb 23 Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund Board Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery

Feb 26 Rite of Acceptance, 3 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Columbia

Feb 28 Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery; Parish Leadership Deanery Meeting, 6 pm

MARCH

Mar 1 Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, noon, Catholic Charities Center, Jefferson City

Mar 6 Confirmation Mass, St. Stanislaus Parish, 6:30 pm, Wardsville

Mar 8 Fr. Tolton Catholic High School Board of Directors Meeting, 10 am, Chancery

Mar 9 Priests' Lenten Day of Recollection, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, Starkenburg

Mar 10 Diocesan Teachers' Mass, 8:30 am, Fr. Tolton Catholic High School, Columbia

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Longtime diocesan CFO to move into new role supporting, advising parishes

Diocese to begin search for next Chief Financial Officer

By Jacob Luecke

The longtime chief financial officer at the Diocese of Jefferson City is preparing to move into a new role focused on supporting and advising parishes across the diocese.

Deacon Joseph Braddock has served as the CFO at the diocese since 2004 and is nearing the completion of his fourth, five-year term in the position.

Rather than begin another term as CFO — and with retirement on the horizon — Deacon Braddock will transition to helping parishes in a newly-created position: Parish Financial Services Liaison.

“I wholeheartedly commend Deacon Joseph Braddock for his longstanding and continued service to the Diocese of Jefferson City,” said Bishop

W. Shawn McKnight.

“His leadership as CFO has helped modernize and strengthen the financial systems that support our efforts to share the light of God’s grace across our diocese,” the bishop stated.

“Our Chancery office has been blessed by Deacon Braddock’s leadership over the past 20 years, and I am pleased to now offer our parishes the ability to learn from his experience and



Deacon Joseph Braddock

financial mentorship.

“This is a tremendous benefit to the parishes across our diocese,” the bishop said.

Deacon Braddock will continue to serve in his current role as the diocese conducts a search for a

new CFO with guidance from the Diocesan Finance Council and the Diocesan College of Consultors.

Once a hire is made, Deacon Braddock will help famil-

iarize his successor with the CFO position before moving to his new parish-support role.

“It has been an honor to serve the Diocese of Jefferson City as chief financial officer,” said Deacon Braddock. “I greatly appreciate Bishop W. Shawn McKnight for his support, as well as Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos for

trusting me with this position nearly two decades ago.

“As I approach my retirement in the coming years, I’m grateful to have this opportunity to use all I’ve learned to help our parishes,” Deacon Braddock stated. “I look forward to welcoming our next CFO as I begin this next chapter in service to God and our diocese.”

Jefferson City diocese contributes to earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria



A child is rescued Feb. 12 after spending 150 hours in rubble in the aftermath of an earthquake in Hatay, Turkey, in this screen grab taken from a handout video. The powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked areas of Turkey and Syria early Feb. 6, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing tens of thousands.

— OSV News photo/Turkish Health Ministry handout via Reuters

On behalf of all Catholics in central and northern Missouri, the Diocese of Jefferson City is sending \$10,000 to the earthquake relief efforts in Turkey and Syria.

“The Diocese of Jefferson City offers our prayers for everyone impacted,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. “We ask God to send his help and comfort as the people of Turkey and Syria work to recover from this tragedy.”

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked the two countries Feb. 6.

According to The Associated Press, the death toll had risen more than 40,000 and about 75,000 others were in-

jured.

“As we offer our prayers, we also send this gift of financial support, which comes from all Catholics in our diocese through our work to live out a spirituality of stewardship,” said Bishop McKnight.

“We have a commitment to help all those in need, and we hope our sacrifice can make a positive impact in Turkey and Syria as recovery efforts continue,” he stated.

Catholics who wish to send additional individual contributions are encouraged to donate to Catholic Relief Services (crs.org) or the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (cnewa.org).



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Religious sisters serving in the Jefferson City gather with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight for a “happy half-hour” social and catered meal in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City to celebrate the World Day for Conserated Life.

— Photos by Barbara Prasad

Religious sisters in diocese gather to celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life for first time in three years

By Jay Nies

Fourteen sisters representing religious communities on mission to the Church in central and northeastern Missouri came together Feb. 5 to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

The sisters gathered in the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City to pray, visit, share a meal and help God reinforce each other’s unique baptismal call to holiness and service in the Church.

“I am deeply grateful for the service you provide in our diocese, along with the witness of your lives and the unique charism that each of you brings to carrying out your baptismal calling,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, who joined the sisters for their celebration.

They began with a prayer service in the St. Alphonsus Liguori Chapel.

They sang hymns, chanted Psalms, offered prayers of thanksgiving and petition and contemplated the day’s Scripture readings.

Tom Halpin, music director for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, provided keyboard accompaniment to the singing.

Bishop McKnight gave a reflection on the day’s Gospel reading (Matthew 5:13-16), in which Jesus encourages his followers to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.”

“The bishop expressed his appreciation to all of the sisters for their dedication to the mission of the church,” recalled Sister Suzanne Walker of the Dominican Sisters of the

third Order of St. Dominic of Sparkill, New York.

“He referred to the ‘salt of the earth’ and how all of us are as valuable as salt and bring flavor and life to the Church,” she said.

Together, the sisters prayed for the world, the Church and all who serve God.

They prayed for all who are called to consecrated life; for others to be called and to answer that calling; for the leaders of each of their congregations of religious women; for families throughout the diocese; and for all who have died.

They also contemplated their own call to religious life and how each could further advance the founding mission of her congregation at this time in history.

They exchanged a sign of peace and received a blessing before adjourning to a “happy half-hour” of fellowship, followed by a catered meal and an abundance of stories and laughter.

“Heavenly Father,” the bishop prayed, “we ask you to bless us as we contemplate the gift of a vocation and the gift of Consecrated Life. Bless these women who have given their lives to Christ in service of the Church.”

He presented each sister a rosary from Jerusalem, and they promised their prayerful support to him and the people of the Diocese of Jefferson City.

Good to be back

It was the first time the sisters gathered for this purpose since 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was very nice just to be together again,” said Sister Kathleen Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, director of Mission Integration for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, and the bishop’s delegate for religious sisters in this diocese.

“Thank God the weather cooperated and we were able to gather!” she stated.

Pope St. John Paul II initiated the World Day for Consecrated Life in 1997, to be celebrated each year on Feb. 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple.

The Church in the United States celebrates the day on the Sunday closest to the feastday.

Sr. Suzanne noted that the number of sisters serving in the diocese has dwindled since their last Consecrated Life celebration, “but those in attendance had a great time renewing friendships from the past.”

Sister Claret Feldhake of the School Sisters of Notre Dame agreed it was good to be back together.

“Starting the afternoon with prayer was very inspirational and uplifting,” said Sr. Claret, who teaches at St. Joseph School in Westphalia and St. Mary School in Frankenstein. “Then, proceeding to gather socially and share some good stories indeed warmed the heart.”

“I was so impressed with the great and varied ministries of our sisters,” she stated. “We may be small in number, but God is indeed using us to build his kingdom in so many ways.”

Sister Ruth Ann Klauser of the School Sisters of Notre Dame recently returned to

Missouri after serving for eight years on the SSND General Council in Rome.

“It was great reuniting with everyone and sharing their smiles, laughter and great stories — plus the delicious food,” said Sr. Ruth Ann.

She recalled Bishop McKnight’s reflection on sisters being light and salt for the world.

“He encouraged us to continue to share our light with everyone we meet,” said Sr. Ruth Ann. “He invited us to join our service with him in this diocese.”

She expressed her gratitude to the bishop and Sr. Kathleen and the Chancery staff mem-

bers for planning the celebration and to Mr. Halpin for accompanying the singing.

“It was such a gift to be together!” said Sister Mary Ruth Wand of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who serves as a pastoral minister, visiting hospitals and nursing homes in Pettis County.

“Our time is always a perfect balance of prayer, sharing, catching up and dining,” she stated. “I am grateful and appreciate all who made it happen! I smiled all the way home and prayed for all involved.”

usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-consecrated-life



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Students of St. George School in Linn, St. Mary School in Frankenstein, Holy Family School in Freeburg and Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain celebrate Catholic Schools Week together on Feb. 2 at St. George in Linn.

— Photos by Jay Nies

Four Catholic schools converge to celebrate their Catholic identity and their call to be saints

By Jay Nies

The Lord of the Dance was front and center, moving their hearts and minds and feet.

Students of St. George School in Linn, St. Mary School in Frankenstein, Holy Family School in Freeburg and Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain got together to celebrate Catholic Schools Week Feb. 2 in Linn.

Children from all grade levels in each school took turns leading the prayers of a living Rosary in the St. George School Gym, followed by festivities galore and an animated discussion about how to become a saint.

Lisa Grellner, principal of the Linn and Frankenstein school, reminded the students of Bishop W. Shawn McKnight's homily from Mass the previous Sunday.

"He was talking about being part of the greater Church," she recalled, "that we are one of many, that we are part of a Church that is universal.

"Our universal Church doesn't stop at St. George or St. Mary or Holy Family or Sacred Heart," she noted. "It's really an honor for us to be a part of something so much bigger than we are.

"So we gather today not only to celebrate our Catholic Schools, but to celebrate our Universal Church, together," she said.



The students pray a Living Rosary together.

Guests at the celebration included Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools, and Father Paul Clark, chaplain of Helias Catholic High School and diocesan vocation director, director of seminarians and moderator of youth and young adult ministry.

"There are a lot of things we need to pray the Rosary for," Mrs. Grellner noted. "We all have people in our hearts and in our minds who desperately need our prayers."

Joyful noise

She asked the students to pray especially for priests and religious, for continued vocations, for continued success of Catholic schools "and for all of us to be the best that we can be."

Following the Rosary, younger students adjourned to a bevy of games in the St. George School Gym, while the older students went to the cafeteria for an animated discussion with Fr. Clark.

Halfway through the event, the groups switched.

"Please be sure to spend some time with somebody you've never met before and get to know them," Mrs. Grellner suggested.

Students in the gym played hockey with short sticks while scooting on little floor carts; played pickleball; tossed beanbags; bounced dozens of rubber balls up and down on a large, colorful parachute; and took part in relay races on inflated bouncy toys.

Their laughter was deafening.

Created for heaven

Fr. Clark told the students in his audience that he wasn't there just to celebrate Catholic schools with them.

"We're also celebrating who we are and more importantly, whose we are," he stated.

He said his job as diocesan vocation director is to help people who are asking God to make known to them what he wants them to do with their lives.

"Doing what God is calling you to do is what's going to make you happiest in life," said Fr. Clark.

He engaged in a lively question-and-answer session about the ways God might be talking to them — through their parents, teachers and other trusted adults; in their prayers; and in their reading of the Bible.

"Sometimes when we pray, do we just speak the whole time? We need to listen, too!"

the priest stated. "Because God might be speaking back to us and wanting something."

He told them about the excitement and contentment he experienced when he thought about being a priest, knowing that priests get to be themselves and enjoy life.

"Priests don't have to become something they're not," he noted. "They're just fully themselves. And I felt like, in my heart, I kind of like that! And my heart felt this peace and this joy."

See SAINTS, page 12

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Columbia OLLIS students learn about local charities, decide which ones to support during Catholic Schools Week

By Jay Nies

This year's celebration of Catholic Schools Week was much more than fun and games at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School (OLLIS) in Columbia.

The school's 621 students took stock of the needs around them and made hard decisions about how best to help.

"It isn't easy to decide what you're going to support, but it's important," stated OLLIS Principal Elaine Hassemer.

"You have limited resources," she said. "There are a lot of great charities out there, but you can't support all of them. So, it's important to do the research and take the time and reflect on the best use of what you have."

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated throughout the United States on Jan. 29-Feb. 4. The theme was "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."

OLLIS eighth-grade language arts teacher Donna Blauch worked with her students to identify four important nonprofit charities with local ties.

Students spoke about the charities at two school Masses during Catholic Schools Week and created a video highlighting the importance of each charity.

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade were encouraged to bring \$1 to \$3 apiece to donate. Doing so earned each participant a dress-down day on Feb. 1.

\$3 was the limit.

"We asked parents to discuss it with their children at home," said Mrs. Hassemer. "They had to decide — should they give all \$3 to one charity, or spread it out."

It made for some hard decisions, which the principal believes children need more practice making.

"We were telling them: We want you to really think about it and do the research and figure out which one to give to," she said.

The teachers encouraged the students to pray before considering which charities to support.

"Depending on your situa-

tion and what you bring to the table from your own experience, there might be one or more that touches your heart more than the others," Mrs. Hassemer noted.

"Be like Bernadette"

Mrs. Blauch said this activity got started last year while Catholic Charities Refugee Services was busy resettling hundreds of refugees from Afghanistan.

The idea came from a discussion several OLLIS teachers and administrators had about how to make Catholic Schools Week and giving more meaningful.

"We took that same focus and made it much bigger this year," said Mrs. Blauch. "We wanted to think of things that our Catholic churches are involved in locally."

The middle-schoolers settled on:

- Loaves & Fishes, which offers a free meal each evening for people who are hungry, hosted by Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church, with food donated, prepared and served by local congregations, including Columbia's three Catholic parishes.

- Be The Change Volunteers (BTCV.us), through which individual volunteers raise money in order to spend 10 days helping local residents build education-related facilities in parts of the developing world. An OLLIS eighth-grader and his father recently took part in a BTCV project in Peru.

- St. Raymond's Society, co-founded by an Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner, which provides housing, coaching, mentoring and other resources to help pregnant mothers in need become self-sufficient and provide a stable, loving home life to their children.

- The Our Lady of Lourdes Parish conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP), a world-wide Catholic lay charity. Last year, the conference responded to over 1,400 calls, helping over 1,200 adults and 1,000 children.

A group of seventh- and eighth-graders volunteered to work with Mrs. Blauch on the



A Rosary display with beads showing the faces of kindergarteners at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia was part of the school's festivities for Catholic Schools Week 2023. — Photo by Elaine Hassemer

video promoting the four charities to the rest of the school.

It begins with a student standing by the statue of St. Bernadette Soubirous in the school. The student talks about how St. Bernadette was about the age of a middle-schooler when the Blessed Mother appeared to her and gave her an important message for the Church and the world.

Few people believed young Bernadette's account, but she persisted in revealing it.

"This year, let St. Bernadette, a young girl, be our inspiration for charitable giving during Catholic schools week," the student stated.

The student promoting Loaves & Fishes spoke while standing in the school cafeteria, where OLLIS students get plenty to eat and don't have to worry about going hungry.

"Not just around the world, but here in our community of Columbia, people go hungry every day," she noted.

The student promoting St. Raymond's Society spoke from the hallway outside the kindergarten classroom, where "children are loved and cared for" and "life is sacred."

"One day, these mothers can walk their children into kindergarten, just as my mother did nine years ago," the stu-

dent said.

Two students standing in the vestibule of Our Lady of Lourdes Church promoted the St. Vincent de Paul Society, using St. Vincent de Paul's observation that "Charity is the cement which binds a community to God and persons to one another."

A student spoke of Be The Change Volunteers from the school gym, noting that he's lucky to have a nice place to learn and play the sport he loves.

By helping BTCV, "you can

See OLLIS, page 21

take a shot at building a better future for students all around the world," he said while sinking a basket.

The students closed with a phrase from St. Bernadette: "Jesus came to earth to be my model."

Here are the final totals:

- Loaves and Fishes — \$430.35
- St. Raymond's Society — \$384.25
- Be The Change Volunteers — \$197.50
- St. Vincent de Paul — \$207.25

"I think this is one of the better things we do during Catholic Schools Week," said Mrs. Hassemer. "We're doing a work of mercy, but in the same regard, we're learning about how you as a Catholic figure out what you're going to support, and why."

"That kind of leadership"

Mrs. Blauch was amazed at the compassion and enthusiasm the students brought to deciding which charities to help.

"A lot of the kids would come and say, 'Which one hasn't gotten any money yet?'" she stated. "They were very conscious of that."

She said the students who promoted the charities learned important lessons about the power of persuasion.


See OLLIS, page 21



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QUESTION CORNER

Burning or burying sacramentals? And why use holy water?

By Jenna Marie Cooper

Q: What are sacramentals and why must they be burned or buried? (St. Cloud, Minnesota)



A: *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines sacramentals as “sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the Sacraments,” which make us more “disposed to receive the chief effect of the Sacraments” (grace), and through which “various occasions in life are rendered holy” (CCC 1667).

There are different kinds of sacramentals, including sacramentals that are not material objects at all. The catechism goes on to note that our most important sacramentals are prayers of blessing, from simply daily meal blessings up to more solemn, lasting blessings, such as the dedication of a church building, religious professions or the consecration of virgins (CCC 1671 and 1672). Interestingly, prayers of exorcism are also considered sacramentals (see CCC 1673).

However, it is clear that your question is addressing our tangible sacramentals — rosaries, holy medals, religious statues and images or other blessed objects. Canon law doesn't mention specific disposal methods for material sacramentals that are no longer useful or have fallen into disrepair, but the general idea is that blessed objects need to be disposed of in a respectful manner.

This is the same principle behind our etiquette for the proper disposal of an American flag. A worn-out flag is to be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning, because of what the flag represents. A sacramental — blessed and recognized by the Church as an aid to receiving grace — should be disposed of with honor and respect.

Burning a blessed object so that it no longer exists intact, or returning it to the earth via burial, are both intrinsically more reverent acts than simply adding a sacramental to the trash.

Practically speaking, if you have sacramental objects that you no longer need but which are still in relatively good shape, the best and easiest thing to do is pass them along to someone else who could use them. Many parishes have something like a “free table” where parishioners can leave their no-longer needed Catholic books and small religious articles for anyone who might like them.

If you have sacramentals at home that are broken beyond repair, and you are truly unable to burn or bury them yourself, you can call your local parish for advice.

Incidentally, there is one time every year when a parish will go out of its way to burn an old sacramental for you: prior to the start of Lent each year, when last year's Palm Sunday palms are collected and burned to create the ashes used on the upcoming Ash Wednesday.

Q: Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water? (Conway, South Carolina)

A: A distinctive feature of any Catholic church are the holy water fonts usually found at the entrances to the worship space. Catholics customarily dip their fingertips in the blessed water and make the Sign of the Cross upon entering and leaving the church.

We do this because holy water is, first of all, a reminder of the waters of our baptism. But also, holy water — a sacramental — is frequently used as a means of blessing persons, places and objects. Catholics bless themselves with holy water as a means of invoking God's grace and protection.

See QUESTION, page 23



Papal Audience February 15, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, the desire to share with others the joy of the Gospel, we now consider the calling of the twelve apostles, whom Jesus chose “to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the Good News” (Mark 3:14).

Both aspects of that call are essential, for only by closeness to Jesus do we learn to proclaim him and not ourselves, his word and not our own. As Jesus sends the apostles forth on mission, he tells them to share the gift that they themselves received, the unmerited gift of God's redeeming love. Their message must be his own: that the kingdom of God is at hand and requires only that we receive it with open hearts.

Jesus also tells the apostles that they are sent forth like sheep among wolves, to propose the Gospel above all by their witness of meekness, innocence and personal conviction, proclaiming Christ more by their actions than by their words. The Church, as “apostolic,” is entirely missionary; each of us, in Baptism, is called by Jesus to live in closeness to him and to be sent forth, in union with all our brothers and sisters, to bear witness to his Gospel before the world.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims taking part in today's Audience, especially those from England, Vietnam and the United States of America. Upon all of you, and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Columbia 40 Days for Life director rouses pro-lifers at Sedalia event

By Jay Nies

Fifty years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States, Pettis Countians gathered in their courthouse rotunda to renew their resolve.

The 1973 decision had been overturned, but the fight for life was just beginning.

“We must remain persistent, prayerful and passionate and be proactive to protect the pro-life status of Missouri and work to educate all so that abortion is unthinkable,” stated Kathy Forck, campaign director for Columbia 40 Days for Life and servant leader for Team PLAY. Mrs. Forck, a member of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit, was the guest speaker at Pettis County Right to Life's 49th annual Pro-Life Observance.

Local pastors and civic leaders addressed the audience.

Father Joseph Corel, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, led the participants in prayer.

The Sacred Heart High School Choir led the singing.



The Sacred Heart School Choir in Sedalia participates in the Sedalia Right to Life's 49th annual Pro-Life Observance, on Jan. 20 in the Pettis County Courthouse rotunda in Sedalia.

“Most insidious”

Mrs. Forck delivered a stern warning against complacency.

“We praise God for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, but we must realize that there is so much work to be done,” she stated, her voice echoing off century-old marble and terrazzo in the Courthouse rotunda.

“How many of you think our work is done, that today is a celebration that abortion has ended in our state because of the overturning of *Roe*?” she asked.

“We must be on the alert and never doubt that the evil one will try to overturn our pro-life laws protecting babies

and amend our constitution to allow abortions,” she stated.

Mrs. Forck has been organizing sidewalk prayer vigils outside Planned Parenthood in Columbia.

Abortions are no longer performed there, but Planned Parenthood employees still refer pregnant women to out-of-state abortions.

Mrs. Forck lauded Missouri for becoming the first state to outlaw elective abortions following the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision last June.

With that decision, the

See PRO-LIFE, page 19

Living my Lenten discipline through Black History Month lessons

By Effie Caldarola



My friend Sister Mary Hogan told me that what she remembers most vividly about her experience in Selma, Alabama, in 1965 was the “hate stare.” Sister Hogan was a young religious sister in Detroit when then Archbishop (later Cardinal) John Dearden permitted his priests to respond to the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King’s request for clergy and religious leaders to come to Selma. The day before, peaceful marchers had been met by violence from police and bystanders on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Her community’s superior asked

who wanted to go to Selma in response to Dr. King’s plea.

“I jumped up and said, ‘I do,’” Sister Hogan told me in an interview in 2015. “I thought she was kidding.”

But the next day, Sister Hogan found herself on a plane, and if you see pictures of sisters in long, traditional black serge habits sitting in the grass near that famous bridge, you may spot her.

Later, she recalled the eyes full of contempt watching her along the march and following her at the airport. Decades later, Sister Hogan said she had never again experienced the level of hatred conveyed in those eyes.

Much has changed for the better since 1965. But Black Americans still face powerful struggles and inequality in housing, employment, health care,

incarceration and education.

And how about Black Catholics?

A recent Pew research study reveals 6% of Black Americans are Catholic. That translates into about 3 million people.

Do they sense the same commitment from their church and its leadership as evidenced by Archbishop Dearden in 1965? Or do they sometimes feel invisible?

Over the recent Martin Luther King weekend, I attended a local parish. I intentionally scanned the crowd and found not one Black face. The homily did not mention our national observance and the bulletin made no reference to the holiday or to the day of service it engendered.

King’s long-ago observation rang true: The 11 o’clock hour on Sunday is

the most segregated in America.

But did not we, a church full of Catholics regardless of color, have a deep need to be reminded of the ongoing struggle for justice and the legacy of a great American?

Later, I went online and found that Sunday’s bulletin for Gesu Parish in Detroit, where my friend Jesuit Father Lorn Snow is pastor. His parish, in a neighborhood that used to be mostly Jewish and Irish, is predominantly Black. But that, too, is changing, as young and suburban white Catholics come seeking the parish’s diversity.

In pastoring a Black community, said Father Snow, who is white, “the most important thing is to listen.”

Enculturating people’s experience

See CALDAROLA, page 21

Penance, ‘because of my many sins ...’

By Bishop Robert Reed



“Because of my many sins...” If you know the phrase you probably heard it tagged on to the end of a sentence, muttered gently but with a droll sense of irony, as in: “I’ve been appointed chair of the fundraiser ... because of my many sins.” Or, “They didn’t know where to put Uncle Willie at the wedding so I said he could sit by me ... because of my many sins.”

The wry expression was, and perhaps is, most commonly heard from friends of an Irish, English or Scottish background, and for all that the phrase may mildly entertain, the theology behind it is sound.

It runs along similar rails as the admonishment to “offer up” our sufferings, large or small, but is its own distinct act, as well.

To offer up our woes and wounds, joining them to the sufferings of Christ for the sake of others, is to participate in the Savior’s own salvific action.

To agree to do something you’d rather not, “for my many sins” is to embrace a penitential mindset.

It is an “offering up” of our discomfort or inconvenience, but in reparation for our own behavior, our own failings — those times, perhaps, when we have ignored God’s presence and discomfited or inconvenienced others.

It is being mindful of our own failings and willfully doing penance for our sins of commission or omission without waiting for a priest to assign one in the confessional.

But what do we mean by, and what’s the point of, penance? Lent is a penitential season, but we use that word, “penance,” in a number of ways. So how do we understand it?

What is penance in the life of the believer?

Here’s a confession: I consider almost every meeting I am required to attend to be a penance. And, despite my best attempts to be charitable, and to love my neighbor as myself, some people simply are a penance for me.

Into each life, a little Uncle Willie must fall.

More formally, penance is that which is imposed on us by the Church to help bring about change in us — during Lent, yes, but all through the year we are asked to conform and be reformed for the sake of our growth in faith.

So things like abstaining from meat on the Fridays of Lent, attending Mass on Sundays and holidays of obligation, the daily examination of our conscience and the practice of frequent confession, genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament — in these and so many other ways, the Church encourages us, through practices of devotion and humility, to soften our hearts of stone.

There are obligatory, but also voluntary, expressions of our repentance. Fasting programs are all the rage, helping us cleanse our bodies internally or to lose weight. But foregoing things like certain foods, or programs that bring us pleasure, can help to deepen our attachment to God and foster a more merciful recognition of the struggles of those around us.

And of course, there is the Sacrament.

See BP. REED, page 19

REFLECTION

Who’s in control?

By Mark Saucier

I caught the news before bed — a 7.8 earthquake rocked parts of Turkey and Syria.

Headlines are filled with once-frightening words of epic storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and tsunamis. What was one more?

By morning, we learned of a second quake. This one 7.7. There were 5,200 people dead and fear of thousands more.

Still, in our mortal world, almost 7,000 people die every hour. This would barely bump the average.

Within days, the death toll was at 15,000, then 20,000, and then 28,000.

Now it’s 41,000 and still climbing.

Tens of thousands more were injured, and millions left homeless and displaced. Parents, children, babies in the womb and feeble elderly were indiscriminate victims of a ruptured earth.

We opened our hearts and checkbooks, as compassion demands.

We prayed for the living and the dead. But do we now return to the mundane until the next human tragedy, rinse and repeat?

What difference does this make?

I think of all those books and apps that promise to change our lives, to put beauty, power and success within our reach.

Read the subtitles. “How to get what you want by living fearlessly.” “How to stop doubting your greatness and start living an awesome life.”

Nothing against bettering oneself, but this assumes that we are in control, needing only sufficient will and work to thrive.

Surely among the earthquake dead, there were those who lacked neither desire nor diligence, but this didn’t save them. It’s hard to self-actualize with a building on your back.

If we are not in control, who is? God, you might say. But sometimes that God seems to suffer from the same illusion that it is all about us.

YouTube abounds with preachers of prosperity. The prophets of profit assure us that God wants to rain financial blessings on us. All we must do is believe, have a positive attitude, and give an unstinting tithe.

The earthquake casualties, and most survivors, will never know wealth or physical well-being.

Did they lack faith? Did poverty and war taint their view? Did they not give enough?

We are not in control. Maybe God isn’t either — at least not in the way we want.

Unless our God passes the tragedy test, unless we find God in the effects, not the cause — in the dogged strength of survivors, in the loving help of the suffering, and in those moments when our own lives are upended — then it’s still all about us.

Encounter

How implementing healthy boundaries allows us to thrive

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Ché Wilson

Picture this: it's 6:30 AM on a weekday morning, and you've woken up without hitting the snooze button even once.

Your partner and children are going kindly about getting ready for the day, the traffic is light on your way into work, and your favorite parking spot is waiting, seemingly, just for you.

For most of us, the reality is snooze buttons, wrangling family members, hitting what feels like every red light, and pushing through the morning "routine."

But how could that ideal scenario become a reality, or even the new normal?

Can you picture how your mindset might change if your mornings beginning with hopeful expectation, rather than dread?

While we manage our daily tasks, we're confronted at every juncture with the demands of relationship, societal conflicts, and a myriad of inconveniences.

As we adapt to those interruptions, we sometimes experience an erosion to our positivity.

We begin to think of others as the "enemy." A doting parent becomes a short-tempered dictator. An industrious employee becomes the object of scrutiny. A well-meaning friend becomes the bearer of unsolicited help, and at worse, a hypocrite.

How can we shed this mindset and find again the inner peace that helps us to meet daily challenges with grace?

One way to start is by implementing healthy boundaries.

Boundaries are parameters that we position for ourselves



that not only protect *ourselves* but ensure that we have more positive and productive outcomes others we encounter.

In her book *How to Have Meaningful Relationships*, Emma Powers writes that boundaries "enable you to set the standard for how you'd like to be treated."¹

While the outcomes of boundaries are described as positive, the work that we must put into establishing those boundaries is often grueling.

Establishing boundaries requires us to be able to know ourselves, be unapologetic about protecting ourselves, and be respectful of others' boundaries.

Perhaps one of the most challenging steps is the first: knowing ourselves. Knowing ourselves is a crucial skill for us to master.

One prohibition to knowing ourselves is falling prey to believing ourselves to be only that which others have told us we are.

When we define ourselves by others, rather than by Our Creator, we are tempted into a conflicted state of resentment and appeasement.

This conflict can then lead

to resentment, because when we discard who God created us to be in favor of who others want us to be, we've chosen to ignore the beauty of our own selves.

Perhaps you've seen this play out in your own life. Maybe when your plate was full, but you said "yes" to an event — then found it to be a waste of your time.

Or, maybe you interrupted your schedule to help a friend and received no gratitude in return.



When we don't draw boundaries around our time, our well-being, or our mental peace, we end up sacrificing what we don't have, and in turn experience resentment

of others asking more of us than we can provide.

It can be hard to remember that, though we're created in the image and likeness of our God, we are not omnipotent, omniscient or omnipresent. We strive to imitate his goodness, but if we neglect our own needs in constant appeasement of others, we'll soon run short of the energy needed to serve others with love.

So, drawing healthy boundaries is a means of protecting ourselves and that protection is also a form of self-care or self-love.

And when we care for ourselves well, we can begin to climb out of the burn-out of self-neglect and begin to notice again the people and things that bring us joy, make us feel worthwhile, and engage in God's work with a renewed energy.

To put it another way, while responding to others' needs by serving in any capacity is love in action, or charity, we each

time of discernment or willing up from an experience of continued burnout due to a lack of healthy boundaries.

As we draw our boundaries, we should be mindful of communicating those to others with grace, and especially mindful of others' boundaries for us.

Powers provides us with a few tips on respecting others while asking them what we need to find the balance between their and our own boundaries. She encourages us to:

- Write a letter or send a text message, rather than calling or launching into the subject in person, to allow the other person to have time to think about the request and the response.

- Recognize time in our requests and be lenient as to when we expect others to act.

- Be aware of the other person's needs and abilities.

It's always important to remember that boundaries are not created to cut people off or insulate you from others' needs. Healthy boundaries are meant to protect ourselves from demands that we are not able to fulfill and ultimately help us transform our mindset from "surviving" daily demands to "thriving" among them.

¹Power, E. (2021). *How to Have Meaningful Relationships*. Hardie Grant Books.

In Fall 2022, Ché Wilson served as an MSW Practicum Student at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

An entity of the Diocese of Jefferson City, Catholic Charities responds to the needs of people in 38 counties regardless of faith, culture, or situation. This includes services in mental health, food security, health and nutrition education, disaster preparation and response, family reunification through immigration legal services, and resettlement of refugees.

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Lifelong Old City Jerusalem parishioner visits diocese, speaks of difficulties for Christians living in the Holy Land

By Jay Nies

Rami Salfiti is afraid that there will be no more Christians living in the Holy Land by the end of this century.

A lifelong resident of the Old City of Jerusalem and a member of that city's Church of the Holy Sepulchre Parish, he has watched the Christian population fall to less than 2 percent in Israel and the territories governed by the Palestinian Authority (P.A.).

"Most of the Christians are leaving," he said, "and within the timeframe of 50 years, there won't be any Christian parishioners living in Jerusalem."

When that happens, most of the churches there will only be used and maintained by pilgrims and members of religious orders, he said.

Mr. Salfiti spoke to the public and to members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem after a Saturday morning Mass in St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville Feb. 4.

He also gave a presentation the previous afternoon to priests and deacons of the diocese.

Joining him at both were lifetime Old Town Jerusalem native Moses Jarjoui, CEO of his own travel bureau; and George Hudson, CEO of Travel Time in St. Louis.

"I just ask that you go there and see," he said of the Holy Land. "Because when you go there, you will interact with what we call 'the living stones.'" (1 Peter 2:5)

Among those who attended his talk were Bishop W. Shawn McKnight; Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, diocesan vicar general and pastor of St. Michael Parish in Russellville; and Monsignor David D. Cox, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish.

All three have attended pilgrimages to the Holy Land led by Mr. Salfiti.



Rami Salfiti, a lifetime resident of the Old City portion of Jerusalem, speaks to members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem about the situation facing Christians in the Holy Land, on Feb. 5 in St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville.

— Photo by Jay Nies

place where Jesus founded the Church, Mr. Salfiti talked about some of the reasons it's hard for them to stay.

The cost of living is a major factor.

The Franciscans of the Holy Land and the Catholic Church's Latin Patriarchate try to help by building lower-cost

housing, but they can't build enough of it, because the land is very expensive.

Most Christians living in Jerusalem are classified as legal residents but not citizens of Israel. Their resident status can be revoked if they don't follow the law.

Citizens and residents alike are required to pay property taxes.

The average monthly rent in Jerusalem is \$1,000. The average income for a Christian in Jerusalem is between \$1,200

See HOLY LAND, page 21

"Most people, especially in the United States, believe that Palestinians are only Muslims," Mr. Salfiti stated. "But no, in Jerusalem, there are Christians."

He pointed out that when Jesus's first followers were following in his footsteps throughout the Holy Land, they were a small minority.

Echoing a 2008 message from Latin Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem, Mr. Salfiti continued: "This reality is linked directly to the mystery of Jesus in this land. Two thousand years ago, Jesus came here and with his apostles, his disciples and the small number of faithful who believed in him, and they also remained few in number. Today ... the Christians are (still) a small number of witnesses to Jesus in his land."

"Your guide is the Bible"

Mr. Salfiti noted that about 70 percent of the Holy Land's Christians make their living on tourism.

"One of the most important things you can do to help the Christians in the Holy Land is to go to the Holy Land," he said.

He emphasized that people don't visit the Holy Land as tourists but rather as pilgrims.

"Because this land is the only land in the whole world that when you go there, your guide is the Bible," he stated.

He said Catholics who visit the Holy Land arrive with knowledge of the four Gospels.

"But when you leave, you leave with a fifth Gospel — namely, everything you saw and encountered and experienced there," he said.

"Then, any time you read or hear something out of the Bible, you can visualize where it took place, because you were there," he said.

Shrinking minority

Convinced of the importance of having a community of Christians living in the

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SAINTS

From page 6

He spent his first few years in the seminary asking God to help him know whether he should be a priest.

“And the more time I spent there, the more joyful my heart became, so I know that this is what God wanted for me all along,” said Fr. Clark.

He reminded the students that when they pray, it’s good to jump into the Bible, aware that God might be using it to speak back to them.

“And maybe there are angels or saints that are telling us things God wants us to hear,” he added. “Because ultimately, as members of a Catholic school, of the universal Church we’re part of the Communion of Saints.”

“You’re part of a big body of Christ!” he said. “So not only does it include every member of the Church, who is on this world now, but it also includes the saints in heaven!”

“And you and I, we’re all called to be saints!” he reminded them.

He explained that who they are is determined by the God who created them, and he is their Father.

“He sent his Son to literally give his life for us,” the priest noted. “That’s a lot of love! And he did it for each and every one of you. And even if you were the only person who existed, you are his only beloved son or daughter, he would do it for you. He loves you that much.”

“That’s awesome!” he said. “That’s a great relationship that we’re a part of!”

Saints in training

Fr. Clark reminded the students that they are constantly hearing messages about who they are and what they’re supposed to become.



Not all of those messages are from God.

They must learn to pray and find out for themselves what God has in mind for them, beginning with the understanding that he created them and wants nothing but what’s best for them — ultimately, eternity in heaven.

“It’s important that when you hear God, he’s telling you how to be a saint,” said Fr. Clark. “And if we’re going to be saints, we’re going to be forever where? Heaven!”

Following the talk, he put on his sunglasses, turned on flashing lights and moved into D.J. mode, playing popular dance music.

The students sang along, threw up their arms, showed off their moves in unison and formed conga lines through the impromptu dance floor.

“For me, this was a preview of heaven!” said Fr. Clark.

He reminded them that heaven is going to be the greatest fulfillment of their hearts.

“The things that we love the most, we’re going to have the fullness of those for all eternity,” he said.

“It’s going to be incredible. And I want to be there with all of you!” he said. “So let’s be saints! Let’s strive to be saints. Because it’s going to be great, and I want us to experience it together.”

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Diocese of Jefferson City

New translation tweaks to sacrament of penance take effect this Lent

By Gina Christian

OSV News

The experience of the sacrament of penance in the Roman rite will be slightly different this Lent, thanks to approved changes in the English translation set to take effect in a few weeks.

Starting Ash Wednesday — which takes place this year on Feb. 22 — the prayer of absolution will include three modifications, so that the revised version will read as follows:

“God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out [formerly “sent”] the Holy Spirit for [previously “Holy Spirit among us for”] the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant [instead of “give”] you pardon and peace. And I absolve you from your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

The new text was adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during its Spring 2021 meeting, with the Vatican’s Dicastery (then-Congregation) for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments approving the text in April 2022. As of April 16, 2023, the Second Sunday of Easter known also as Divine Mercy Sunday, the revised formula for absolution is mandatory.

“The essential part of the absolution formula has not changed,” said Father Andrew Menke, executive director of the USCCB’s Secretariat for Divine Worship, during an Oct. 25, 2022, webinar co-sponsored by his office and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions.

During his presentation, Father Menke admitted the bishops had debated whether the minor changes were worth undertaking. However, he said the consensus favored striving for a more accurate translation

from the Latin.

Father Menke noted penitents “who can be a little scrupulous” might panic if priests — many of whom “have said this prayer literally thousands of times” — inadvertently use the old form of absolution.

“They might be concerned (that absolution) doesn’t count,” he said.

Yet he stressed that “the heart of the sacrament” remains intact, and the absolution is still valid.

While not a major alteration, the update to the text nonetheless offers “a wonderful opportunity to reiterate and teach the importance of the sacrament of penance as a staple for living the Christian life,” Father Dennis Gill, director of the Office for Divine Worship at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, told OSV News ahead of a Jan. 31 webinar he plans to give on the topic. “It’s also a wonderful opportunity to catechize about the sacrament itself.”

Father Menke noted in his October 2022 webinar that the updates are part of a broader effort by the Vatican to ensure accuracy in the translation of liturgical texts.

“It’s not due to anything against the Latin texts,” he said. “It’s based on the fact that the Holy See instructed the bishops of the world at the beginning of the 21st century that our translations needed to be more accurate.”

The updates do not imply that “the (older versions) are heretical,” Father Menke told OSV News Jan. 30. “It’s just that church authorities have determined we might do better.”

The translation process is a rigorous one, with plenty of opportunities for bishops to review and reconsider the proposed updates, he added.

Each bishops’ conference decides whether to implement and publish the eventual final version, Father Menke told OSV News.

Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.

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February 2023

Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

Answering the Call to a Sacred Ministry

The Catholic Church professes a consistent ethic of life. As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of all human life and are motivated by the love of Christ to improve the lives of the vulnerable. Currently, more than 14,000 children and youth are in foster care in Missouri, according to the Department of Social Services. On any given day, the National Foster Youth Institute reports there are approximately 400,000 children in foster care in the United States. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls on all Christians to become involved in this ministry, as individuals, families, and a society:

“The family should live in such a way that its members learn to care and take responsibility for the young, the old, the sick, the handicapped, and the poor. There are many families who are at times incapable of providing this help. It devolves then on other persons, other families, and, in a subsidiary way, society to provide for their needs: ‘Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction...’” (2208, quoting James 1:27).

This issue of *Messenger* details stories about foster children, adoptive parents, and how you can embrace the call to care for some of our most vulnerable.

God's Timing

Shelly Sconce was sitting behind her desk at school when a staff email came across her screen. An emergency placement was needed for a sibling group within the South Callaway School District. Shelly texted her husband. Fostering children had been on their hearts previously, but the loss of their 17-year-old son in an icy Super Bowl Sunday car crash had put those plans on hold. Nearly two years later that tug on their hearts persisted, and it came to fruition when her phone lit up with a new message: "Let's do it!"

The siblings were a group of four boys, ages 4, 9, 14, and 16. The staff email mentioned wanting to keep them together. "I see it as God's way of telling me now is the time," Shelly said. Having already raised three children, Shelly thought the process would be challenging, but similar. The math teacher, who loved following formulas, soon discovered it would take a new method to parent four boys who were not used to having rules or expectations.

More than 14,000 children and youth are currently in foster care in Missouri, according to the Department of Social Services (DSS). Caseworkers often add to their workload in order to meet the demand of children needing placement, which leads to a high turnover rate.

"Sadly, they don't have enough people or time to sit down and hold your hand to get things done," Shelly said. "It was trial by fire."

Shelly found support groups on social media, which she said helped her navigate court appearances, visitations with biological parents, a child in rehab, and other unfamiliar territory. It was an emotional roller coaster for her, but also for the kids.

"You just have to work with them and ride the roller coaster with them," she said.

Prior to placement, the boys had missed around 60 days of school. Teaching them routines, watching them thrive and develop aspirations have been a highlight for Shelly.

"That's been really the most rewarding to see them really think about life so that they can be successful adults and break the cycle."

Fostering doesn't equal adoption. The goal is always reunification with biological parents whenever possible. In this case, the two oldest boys, now ages 17 and 20, were adopted by the Sconce family. Due to having a different father, Shelly and her husband have legal guardianship over the youngest boys, now ages 7 and 12. She reminds us, life is messy and that's okay.

"Don't be afraid because there are kids that need love. And that's all they want. They don't want things. They just want love."

She went on to say that even if foster children are only placed with you for a brief period of time, you can make an impression on them, create a safety net, and show them love.

"I think God put them into our heart to help grieve and deal with that loss," Shelly explained. "They're not perfect. We're not perfect, but together, we're pretty darn close."

"Don't be afraid because there are kids that need love. And that's all they want. They don't want things. They just want love."

-Shelly Sconce, foster and adoptive mother

The Sconce Family





SILENT REFLECTION FOR CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 19: 13 -14

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, you saw in the innocence of children the attributes which make us worthy of heaven—trust, joy, humility, obedience, and faithfulness. Bless all children who are awaiting adoption. They seek love—may they find it in loving parents. They seek stability—may they find a home rooted in faith. They seek acceptance—may their gifts be recognized and nurtured. And may they always know your steadfast love for them and the true joy of loving you.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH

Blessed St. Joseph, You welcomed the Christ Child into your home, provided for his daily needs, and helped him to grow in wisdom, age, and grace. Hear the prayers of all children who are awaiting a loving home, and intercede for them before your adopted Son and Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Joseph, Guardian and Protector, pray for us.

Thomas

It was during October, Respect Life Month, that MCC staffer Heather Buechter first met Thomas. The 15-year-old has been in state custody for four years and has struggled to find a foster home that would take him. He has been separated from his three siblings. At the time, he was in a residential care facility, which helped him process his emotions. After all, losing your family, home, and everything you've known can be traumatizing. Despite all that, he was willing to chat with me about life. He likes candy, Halloween, crocheting, cross stitching, and sewing - he's good with his hands. That could explain why he wants to be a neurologist when he's older. He can make a lot of money and give some money away to people who need it, he tells me. Before that though, he hopes to get transferred to an individualized supported living (ISL) service. This will allow him back into a traditional high school setting. It also provides him transitional living in a place he can call home, with the benefit of staff assistance.

A Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) Public Policy Priority

Uphold and Strengthen Marriage and Family

Family is the basic cell of human society and the foundation of civilized life. Presently, the institutions of marriage and family are threatened by a culture that no longer values authentic marriage and stable families. The MCC will support legislation and funding for programs that encourage two-parent families and provide assistance to single parents and their children; promote responsible parenthood; assist victims of domestic violence; and, help families who are poor or have children with health problems or disabilities.

“The importance of the family for the life and well-being of society entails a particular responsibility for society to support and strengthen marriage and the family.”
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2210)



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Have you ever wondered what the foster parent process looks like? Hear one mom's journey about feeling called to foster and eventually adopt a group of siblings. Shelly Sconce discusses the surprises and rewards of expanding her family in this episode of MCC from the Capitol.

Dr. Michael Meehan is the CEO of Marygrove, a child welfare agency near St. Louis that helps children, teens and young adults learn how to transcend an abusive past or overcome other life challenges and move toward a brighter future. He discusses how individuals and parishes can get involved in supporting youth and foster families, in this episode of MCC from the Capitol.

Volunteer

Contact your local Catholic Charities to learn more about specific volunteer services needed within their partner agencies.

Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer to work hands-on with foster youth.

Parish Support

Start a support system for foster families in your parish. Host a supplies drive, offer meals, respite care, or social support by creating a small group that meets regularly.

Get Involved



Join the Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network! (MOCAN)

Join the 10,000+ Catholic Missourians who make up the team of advocates who help the Catholic voice ring through the halls of the Missouri State Capitol. If you want to stay updated on pro-family legislation — or any of the many other legislative priorities the MCC advocates for — you will not want to miss the opportunity to join MOCAN.

If you're already a member, encourage your family, friends, and fellow parishioners to join! As MOCAN grows, so does the Catholic voice in Missouri's Capitol. Visit mocatholic.org or send us an email at mocatholic@mocatholic.org for details.

Education

Learn about the efforts taking place in your community including:

- Good Shepherd Children & Family Services
- Marygrove
- The Central Missouri Foster and Adoption Association
- Lutheran Family and Children Services

Donate

Make a donation to agencies that provide foster care case management services or work with foster children.

Fr. Merz: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was one of greatest teaching popes in recent history

By Jay Nies

Father Daniel J. Merz believes Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI will be remembered as one of the greatest teaching popes in recent history — “probably going back several centuries.”

“I would put him in the class of the early Church Fathers, including Pope Leo the Great,” said Fr. Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia.

Pope Benedict, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, died on Dec. 31, 2022.

He had led the Church from 2005-2013. 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 would venture to say that he has been one of the more transformational popes in recent history,” said Fr. Merz.

He said that it would be harder to find a man of greater humility, gentleness and meekness than the former Cardinal Josef Ratzinger.

•“Humility,” Fr. Merz stated, “because he never put himself forward for high office and at least three times he petitioned Pope John Paul II to accept his resignation from Prefect of the CDF, and yet he was not disparaging of the gifts with which God had blessed him.”

When, as a 35-year-old priest, he was asked to serve as the peritus (expert) for his Cardinal Archbishop at the Second Vatican Council, he accepted; when asked to become the archbishop of Munich-Freising, he accepted; when asked to become the chief doctrinal officer for Pope John Paul II, he accepted; and when elected as successor to Pope John Paul II, he accepted.

“He was not afraid to say



This sketch of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was done by Igor Babailov during an audience with the late pope and before he began his oil portrait of the pontiff. Babailov was commissioned in 2006 to do the pope's official portrait and completed it a year later.

— OSV News photo/courtesy Igor Babailov

that he was not blessed with the gift of governance and administration, and so he did his best to surround himself with the right people to help him,” Fr. Merz noted. “Perhaps, the greatest example of humility was not only his resignation from the papacy, but the way he lived his remaining years in quiet prayer, avoiding attention and shunning controversy.”

•“Gentleness,” Fr. Merz continued, “because those who actually engaged him all testify to how he listened first and attentively. He was a man who desired to propose and dialogue and learn and persuade.”

•“Meekness,” said Fr. Merz, “because his gentleness and humility never led him to back away from proclaiming the truth as he was given to see it despite pressure, tension or coercion.”

Fr. Merz noted that prior to being elected pope, Cardinal Ratzinger was not afraid to use the authority of his office as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to

sanction or discipline wayward theologians.

“Nor was he afraid to confront the ‘filth of the Church’ — cases of clerical sexual abuse — and to work tirelessly and compassionately for justice,” said Fr. Merz. “He was the first pope to meet with victims of such abuse and it filled him with tears every time.”

“Thermonuclear”

Fr. Merz called to mind the day in October 2005 when Pope Benedict was elected to succeed the recently deceased, long-reigning, tremendously popular Blessed Pope John Paul II.

Addressing the world from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, the new pope described himself to the world as a “humble worker in the Lord's vineyard.”

“I think he has remained true to that,” said Fr. Merz. “And he continues to teach us even in this act of resignation — teaching that no single individual is indispensable, and showing a greater love for the

Church than for himself or for the theoretical ideal that the pope must die in office. His desire to finish his days in quiet prayer for the Church is very inspiring.”

Fr. Merz recalled that when “The Passion of the Christ,” a jarringly graphic motion picture depicting Jesus' suffering and death was released in 2004, the future pope declined to watch it because he said that he possessed a very sensitive soul and wouldn't feel comfortable absorbing the violent scenes of the movie.

Fr. Merz credits Pope Benedict with many positive developments in the Church, including:

- A more focused response to and appreciation of the seriousness of the sex-abuse crisis in the Church, including numerous meetings with victims and referring to the crisis as evil from within that needs to be purged.

- Instituting a new level of openness and accountability in Vatican finances;

- Opening a door for members of the Anglican Communion to come into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church while retaining a significant portion of their juridical and liturgical heritage;

- Establishing a new Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization and becoming the first pope to open a Twitter account;

- Bringing matters of ecology and stewardship for God's creation to the forefront by what he said, and by making the Vatican buildings more environmentally friendly;

- Writing a three-volume best-seller, *Jesus of Nazareth*;

- Promoting an awareness of the plight of Christians in the Middle East;

- Drawing overdue attention to the Church and society in Africa, including a synod of bishops, a post-synod exhortation and several visits there;

- Reasserting the historically mutually beneficial relationship between faith and reason and, by extension, faith and science, and promoting a healthy tension between the secular world and the life of faith;

- Opening up a meaningful dialogue with Muslim leaders;

- Establishing many new diplomatic relations between the Vatican and other countries;

- Promoting music, culture and the arts;

- Beautifully blending the Liturgy with Scripture and theology in his liturgical writings, and helping to draw theology into the realm of common understanding.

For instance, Fr. Merz recalled the Pope's preaching on Christ's resurrection to the young people at World Youth Day in Cologne.

“He spoke of the resurrection as being similar to a thermonuclear explosion, transforming Christ in its wake and causing a ripple effect in the world that continues to this day,” said Fr. Merz. “Now there's an image for you!”

“Yes”

Fr. Merz thinks back to Pope Benedict as “as a man blessed with many gifts, who used them as fully as he could, and who asked for help when he needed it.”

“Because of his sense of duty and stewardship, he was challenged to respond to hard and difficult realities which he would not have willingly chosen,” the priest stated. “But he did not run away. He responded as best he could. Perhaps, he would have chosen to be a professor his whole life, but the Church kept calling him elsewhere, and as an obedient son of the Church and a sincere devotee of the Blessed Mother ... he kept responding yes.”

“Now,” Fr. Merz concluded, “we pray that all the work of his long life, every yes to Jesus, may be taken up and purified in the resurrection to eternal life on high with Christ Jesus.”

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MOSAICS

From page 1

wood beam, upon which the new crucifix will be placed. Together, they represent the fullness of the Paschal Mystery — the death and resurrection of Jesus.

An image titled “Christ, Ruler of All” faces the sanctuary, directly above the main entrance to the Cathedral.

“People will see it before they go, to remind us that Christ is still in charge, even after we leave this holy place,” said Bishop McKnight.

An intricate mosaic of the Blessed Mother under her title Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, will be

installed in a shrine within the Cathedral.

Artists from Progetto Arte Poli are also creating an ornate stand for the Easter candle, and the delicate mosaics that will embellish the front of the new altar and ambo.

Each mosaic is made up of small, hand-cut pieces of colored glass and stone, affixed to the wall with mortar.

The various materials, hues and textures give shape and depth to the figures they depict.

Using techniques dating back to antiquity, the mosaics are designed to last for centu-



This mosaic image, titled “Christ, Ruler of All” adorns the space above the main entrance of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. It is made up of hundreds of intricately hand-cut pieces of stone and glass. — Photo by Jay Nies

ries, to animate the spirits of people whose grandparents aren’t even born yet.

They are part of a polychromatic array of sacred artworks — stained glass, painted murals, cast bronze, carved wood and stone — all designed to instruct even as they beautify.

“The forms that we use are timeless,” said Mr. Heyer. “We’re using materials from right around here as well as from all over the world. So there’s a sense of local and universal in everything you see here.”

him to attend the art school in Verona.

“That’s how the Holy Spirit started guiding him down the path,” said Anna Pighi, the studio’s export manager.

At age 17, Master Albano stepped forward to do a large stained-glass project in Naples, Italy.

“That was the start of his career,” said Ms. Pighi. “Most of the work he’s done since then has been for churches.”

News of his artistic passion, prowess and scrupulous attention to detail spread by word of mouth. He gradually drew together a circle of likeminded artisans committed to learning and adhering to classical art forms.

About 60 of them now work in various materials at Progetto

“Another world”

Progetto Arte Poli is the largest artistic studio in Italy. Master Albano Poli, the founder, has been overseeing the work for 70 years.

Growing up in post-World War II Italy, Master Albano was one of the many children there who had little to eat.

His parish priest would bring food for children to share with their families.

Recognizing young Albano’s talent, the priest encouraged

See ARTWORK, page 27

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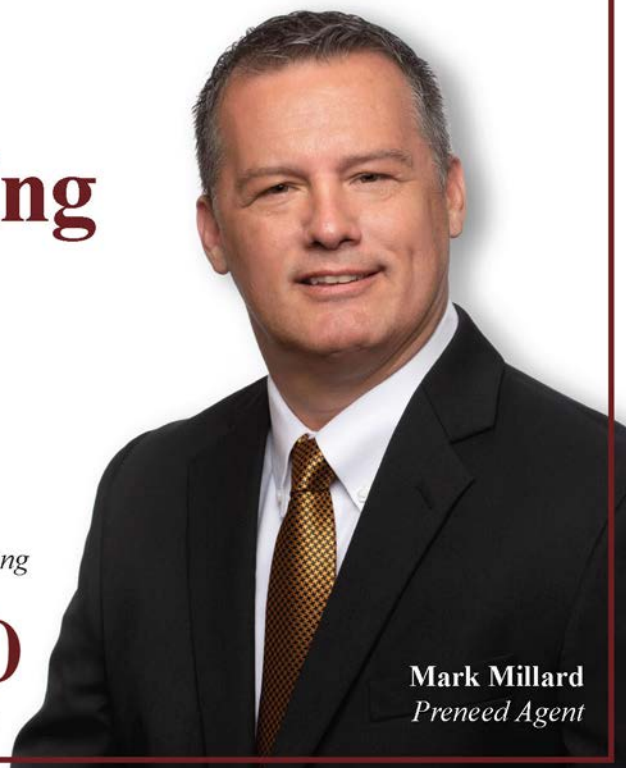
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**DIocese OF
Jefferson City**

PRO-LIFE

From page 8

Court reversed the Jan. 22, 1973, rulings that struck down every state abortion ban in the country.

She noted that while the *Dobbs* decision is reason to rejoice, life in the womb remains unprotected in all but 14 states that ban elective abortions.

Furthermore, 1 in every 4 women in this country experience an abortion by age 45. About three-fifths of those are between ages 20 and 29.

About half of all abortions in this country are repeat abortions — either a woman's second, third, fourth or more.

"And for every woman who has an abortion, there is a man involved in the pregnancy who has also been affected by the abortion," she noted. "There are a lot of people who are regretting this decision and are hurting."

Mrs. Forck pointed to a disturbing trend: The percent of abortions carried out by what is referred to as a medication abortion or chemical abortion or RU486 increased from 6 to 54 between 2001 and 2020.

It has been predicted that this year, 80 percent of elective abortions in this country will be carried out by that method.

She noted that in the 20 months between September 2020 and June 2022, chemical abortifacients contributed to 28 deaths, 414 infections,

71 severe infections, 1,048 hospitalizations and 616 transfusions required due to loss of blood of the women who took them.

"The most insidious thing the evil one has concocted is the Medication abortion, RU486," Mrs. Forck stated. "This dangerous pill must be kept away from women and children."

Yet, they can be bought online and sent through the mail.

"You were chosen"

Mrs. Forck said an important key to making abortion unthinkable is for girls to know that their parents will love and affirm them if they become pregnant.

"Show compassion," she told the parents in her audience. "Remember, a baby is a blessing."

Frank and open communication is essential.

"We need to give our children the talk," Mrs. Forck stated, "the one where we advise them of God's plan for marriage and the beauty of saving their virginity for that special person."

"But we also need to say that if something should happen, always know that they are loved and that they need to let you know if they should be-



Participants in the Pettis County Right to Life's Pro-Life Observance gather in the rotunda of the Pettis County Courthouse in Sedalia.

come pregnant or impregnate their girlfriend," she said.

She urged all who were listening to become familiar with their local pregnancy resource center, where woman in crisis can receive free, compassionate, non-judgmental help choosing life for their baby.

She noted that healing is available to women who have an abortion. Those who are experiencing post-abortive trauma or depression can call 833-403-HEAL for help.

She encouraged everyone present to attend this year's Midwest March for Life (www.midwestmarchforlife.com) on April 26 on the grounds of the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City.

She also asked the people to consider spending an hour praying on the sidewalk in Columbia.

She urged everyone to stand boldly and fearlessly against oncoming threats to Missouri's abortion-free status.

"You were chosen to be here," she stated. "God knew who would answer his call, he knew who he could count on to save His children."

"Raise the dignity"

That weekend, Fr. Corel wrote to parishioners that while it's important to pass and defend laws that protect life in the womb, it's also essential to care for the woman who is carrying the child.

"As long as there are people who have their dignity trampled upon, from within themselves or from others, the

misplaced desire for abortion will still be around," Fr. Corel stated. "So, let's raise the dignity of all those around us."

Faith in action

One of the ways St. Vincent de Paul parishioners help pregnant mothers and their babies is through Birthright of Sedalia (birthright.org/sedalia).

"We are here to support women and babies through the pregnancy and beyond," stated Marge Watson, a St. Vincent de Paul parishioner and Birthright volunteer.

Birthright is interdenominational and staffed by volunteers.

"Thanks to support from St. Vincent de Paul and other churches, along with private donations and memorials, we are able to continue our services," said Mrs. Watson.

Birthright furnishes pregnancy tests, layettes for each baby born, toddler clothing up to size 3, diapers, formula, maternity clothes, and case-by-case assistance with other needs, such as cribs and utility costs.

"More importantly, we offer presence and encouragement,

answering questions about pregnancy and having other resources we can refer them to as needed," Mrs. Watson stated.

One Birthright volunteer from St. Vincent de Paul Parish has been active in the pro-life movement since 1973.

"I see Birthright as a ministry where I can help pregnant women have the help and care they need to take care of their needs and support them during their pregnancy and for a time later during the baby's growth," the parishioner stated.

Another volunteer wrote: "It is important that we see ourselves as missionaries, in a sense. We deal with different cultures from the one we live in, with different values and different influences.

"We sometimes deal with life and death when a client, whether in-person or on the telephone, reveals that she is considering abortion," the volunteer stated.

"It is important that we commit each day we work to the Lord and his wisdom, so that they may see or hear his love for them through us," that volunteer said.

BP. REED

From page 9

While most often referred to as Confession or Reconciliation, the more venerable term is the "Sacrament of Penance," for it is penance that motivates a good confession and that opens the door to reconciliation with God and the people in our lives. Here, we recognize the powerful help that the sacrament of penance is for the one who desires to please God and to prepare themselves for judgment.

To be in that state of God's grace, friendship restored, is the fruit of penance.

As a priest and pastor of two parishes, I often struggle in the confessional to find a most helpful penance for every good person who comes to the sacrament. I myself have benefited from a number of the penances given to me in the confessional, many of which have become part of my daily spiritual routine. For that reason, after listening to a worthy confession, I try to give something that will both fit the faults and help to spiritually restore and refine (or redefine, in a way) the person as penitent.

So, as Lent looms, get yourself to the sacrament of penance. "Do" penance — don't "be" a penance upon those you know, love and serve.

Let no one sit beside you and think, "because of my many sins ..."

Bishop Robert Reed is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston, pastor of Sacred Heart/St. Patrick Church and president of the CatholicTV network.

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By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Opened in 1851, the Fulton State Hospital is the ____ public mental hospital west of the Mississippi River.
7. "It is a ____ thing to live in slightly dull times, esp. after disorder, siege and contention," —*Summer of the Danes*, Ellis Peters.
12. "Shall We ____ At the River"; popular Protestant hymn composed by Baptist pastor Robert Lowry in 1864.
13. Letters for Victory in Europe, celebrating the defeat of the Axis powers and the end of WW II in Europe.
14. This State is called the Mother of Presidents, with 8 Presidents having been born there.
15. Licensed healthcare professional.
16. The Fulton State Hospital ____ is spread across three buildings with 3 levels of security.
19. "I expect most witches are like that. They are not interested ____ things or people unless they can use them; they are terribly practical," —*The Silver Chair*, C.S. Lewis.
20. Newsman Bradley and TV Emcee Sullivan.
22. "You who detest idols, do you ____ temples?" (Romans 2:22).
23. Wildebeest.
24. 51 to Cicero.
25. Federal agency overseeing pollution regulations.
26. By the 1990s, the Hospital became primarily forensic, i.e. the majority of those coming to the hospital were sent by criminal ____, esp. for those initially deemed unfit for trial by mental defect or incompetence to stand trial. Most of these respond to treatment and are gradually restored to competency and safely transitioned into the community.
29. Letters often used for Saturday Night Live, an American late-night live TV sketch comedy show, hosted by a celebrity guest; on air for 4 decades, since 1975.
30. ____ Bean; outdoor clothier.
31. A small book that gives Catholic liturgists information about each day's liturgy.
32. French friend.
33. Second tallest bird next to its cousin the ostrich.
35. Good ____ Tire Co.
38. The psychologists at Fulton State Hospital emphasize evidence-based ward-wide programs, including Social Learning, Behavior and Mood-____, Recovery and Self-Motivation.
42. Prefix for angle or dent.
43. Museum contents.
44. Forensic TV series.
45. "His fame spread to all of ____, and they brought to him all who were sick..." (Matthew 4:24).
48. St. Teresa of ____; Spanish Carmelite nun; promi-

nent mystic and religious reformer of both men and women Carmelite Orders; Doctor of the Church; active in the Catholic push-back to the Protestant Reformation; 1515-1582.

52. Hawaiian dance.
53. Stomach muscles.
54. Letters in medical diagnoses for Rheumatoid Arthritis.
55. Comparative suffix.
56. Electrical Engineer degree.
57. The new Nixon Forensic Center, opened in 2019, with its three-tiered organization of ____ patient space and state-of-the-art care is one of the first of its type constructed in the world, the coming thing in behavioral health hospital design.

DOWN

1. Shrek, for example.
2. In 1847, Callaway Co. won the bid for the State Hospital with an offer of \$11,500 and 500 acres of ____.
3. 5th book of the Bible.
4. "____, what's up, Doc?" said Bugs to Elmer Fudd.
5. "His words were choked by sobbing. I did not know how I could reach him and go on hand in hand once more. It is such a ____ place, the land of tears," —*The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint Exupery.
6. The original Hospital had 72 beds. During the Civil War the Hospital was closed and briefly used as a barracks for Union ____.
7. Letters often used for Bureau of Prisons, the federal agency founded in 1891 with the Three Prisons Act; it is responsible for the care, custody and control of incarcerated individuals who have committed federal crimes.
8. "Martha can be seen as a female counterpart to Peter: a strong impetuous and outspoken friend of Jesus who believes ____ as she feels free to question," —*Jesus, A Pilgrimage*, Fr. James Martin.
9. According to the Dept. of Mental Health, at Fulton State Hospital, the high security unit is a 300-bed facility; a separate high security unit for the civilly committed ____ violent predators is 100 beds; a minimum security unit for developmentally disabled is 22 beds.
10. "The fumbling Cure of Ars's ability to die to himself was another pinch of salt in the gaping lesion of the ____ one, who is the festering wound of the world," —*Cure d'Ars Today*, Fr. George Wm. Rutler.
11. The title Jesus identified himself with the most was as the "son of man" harkening back to this prophet; 34th book of the Bible.
17. Master's degree in business.
18. A T-shirt size.
21. A learner, esp. in a formal classroom setting.
26. A punctuation mark used, for example, to separate items on a list.
27. Either this ____ that; I don't care.
28. Capital of Italia.
29. "Many ____ and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles," (Acts 5:12).
30. Though a king in one of Shakespeare's plays bears this name, it also belongs to William ____ (1902-1978). He first made his mark in car radios, then invented 8-track tape players, but he is best known for manufacturing business jets which bear his name. He had over 140 patents.
32. "The chief ____ of order is to give room for good things to run wild," —G.K. Chesterton.
34. "Behind them, seven other cows, ____ and gaunt came up out of the Nile..." (Genesis 41:3).
36. Small ornamental case for holding needles, cosmetics, etc. Spouses of Union soldiers often gave their soldier one of these as a handy sewing kit for clothes in camp.
37. The capital of this State is Providence.
39. "The Pharisees came forward and began to ____ with him," (Mark 8:11).
40. A digital cryptocurrency.
41. A crown.
45. "I looked up my family tree and found out I was the ____," —Rodney Dangerfield.
46. Actor Romano, singer/musician Charles, or country singer/comedian Stevens.
47. Brand of root beer, founded in St. Louis, now owned by Dr. Pepper.
49. Where grape-stomping might happen.
50. Hawaiian necklace.
51. Joan of ____; 17-yr.-old girl who, guided by visions of saints, led the French against domination by the English; falsely burned at the stake for heresy; patron saint of France; d. 1431.

ANSWERS on page 23

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HOLY LAND

From page 11

and \$1,500 a month.

“So they would pay at least 75 percent of their income as rent to live there,” said Mr. Salfiti. “That’s why they move to Bethlehem, where the average rent is \$400 a month, which they can afford.”

But Bethlehem and the West Bank are under the Palestinian Authority, rather than Israel. People living there don’t pay the Israeli property tax.

“That gives the Israelis the right to withdraw their residency, meaning they won’t ever be living in Jerusalem anymore,” he said.

“It’s a very crucial thing that is facing the younger generations,” he stated. “They can’t afford to get married and stay there.”

Mr. Salfiti pointed out that prior to 1948, when the nation of Israel was created, the total combined population of what is now Israel and the P.A. was 500,000, of whom about 10 percent were Christian.

Three-quarters of a century later, there are about 9 million people living in Israel, of whom 1.33 percent Christian; and about 5 million living under the Palestinian Authority, of whom about 1.6 million are Christian.

The majority among the 14

Christian denominations there are Melkite Catholics, who celebrate their Liturgies according to the Eastern Rite, said Mr. Salfiti.

Jerusalem, the second-largest city in Israel, has about 900,000 inhabitants. Among them are about 6,000 Christians, most living in what is known as the Old City, within the ancient city walls.

The Old City portion of Jerusalem, comprising about 2 square miles, has about 35,000 inhabitants, among whom about 28,000 are Muslims, 4,000 Christians and 3,000 Jews.

There are other difficulties, ranging from scattered instances of vandalism of Christian properties; government-sanctioned expropriation of Church-owned property at the end of multigenerational leases; and the prospect of taxing Church property, Mr. Salfiti stated.

“Come and see”

Mr. Salfiti noted that outside tourism, most of the other 30 percent of Christians in the Holy Land work in Christian institutions, such as churches, monasteries, schools and hospitals, with a tiny minority working in manufacturing.

He pointed out that because there aren’t enough Christians



Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki VG; Rami Salfiti; Bishop W. Shawn McKnight; and Moses Jarjoui gather in the sanctuary of St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville Feb. 5 after a presentation given by Mr. Salfiti to members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

— Photo by Jay Nies

to support such large institutions on their own, most of the students in Catholic schools in the Holy Land, including Bethlehem University, are

Muslim.

This helps to build up a spirit of mutual trust and understanding among Christians and Muslims, he stated.

CALDAROLA

From page 9

into the Liturgy is also important, he said. Gesu’s music ministry incorporates a lively African-American vibe.

Gesu’s bulletin for MLK week contained a full page of events relative to social and racial justice — an archdiocesan Mass at the cathedral, a parish event, an invitation to the National Black Catholic Congress in July. There was a reminder that the Novena of Grace, a nine-day preached event in March which is a tradition in Jesuit parishes, will have racial justice as its theme. If the novena is live-streamed, I plan to attend as a good (hopefully fruitful) Lenten exercise.

But what else can I do for Lent?

One Lenten wake-up call for those who often sit in segregated pews is to read “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” King’s

stirring admonition to “moderate” whites and to Christian church leaders who often disappointed him.

Written in 1963 while King languished in jail for civil disobedience, the letter still holds relevance and challenge

for our Church today.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” wrote King.

As the Church, how do we stand for justice?

Effie Caldarola writes bi-weekly for OSV News.

OLLIS

From page 7

“It was so positive,” she said, “and they felt so good when they did it. They felt like they accomplished something and talking to all the classes, that they were leading these charitable works for the whole school.

“That’s the purpose of Catholic education,” she said. “We’re promoting and hopefully building that kind of leadership for the next generation.”

Like every child, Mrs. Blauch’s middle-schoolers can act up or have a bad day.

“But there’s that empathy in them, and they like being of service to people,” she said. “They love that. And that’s something very, very special.”

Eight of Mrs. Blauch’s grandchildren attend OLLIS, and the ninth will when he gets old enough.


Mrs. Blauch plans to retire from the classroom at the end of this school year but temporarily continue coaching the school’s cheer squad.

“It’s been fun,” she said. “They have great teachers here. I have a great teacher taking my place. I know these kinds of great things will continue.”

As for her grandchildren, one of whom she has for class this year, Mrs. Blauch is confident that OLLIS is helping them always remember that God loves them unconditionally.

“No matter how hard things get in life, no matter what challenges they have, God is always the one thing they can trust,” she said. “He will always be there for them, always guiding their path. Even when something dark happens, he’s always guiding them to bring them to grace.”

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

Fundraisers & Social Events

Feb. 17

Loose Creek, K of C 2027 drive-through fish fry, 5-7 pm, Immaculate Conception School

Feb. 19

California, K of C country breakfast, 8-11:30 am, Annunciation Church basement
St. Anthony, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11:30 am, St. Anthony Parish Hall

Feb. 24

Chamois, Assumption Parish Fish Fry, 4:30-7:30 pm
Cuba, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm
Holts Summit, K of C fish fry, 3:30-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall
Laurie, K of C dine-in and drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm
Taos, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

Mar. 3

Columbia, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School
Cuba, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm
Holts Summit, K of C fish fry, 3:30-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall
Laurie, K of C dine-in and drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm
Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, Sa-

cred Heart School
Russellville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall
Taos, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

Mar. 5

Starkenburg, Church of the Risen Savior (Rhineland) men's breakfast, 7-11 am, Valentine Hall

Mar. 10

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm
Columbia, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School
Cuba, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm
Jefferson City, Bishop McAuliffe K of C Council & Boy Scout Troop 101 drive-thru only fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral Undercroft
Laurie, K of C dine-in and drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm
Wardsville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, St. Stanislaus gym

Mar. 10-12

Jefferson City, "West Side Story" presented by Helias Catholic High School, Fri & Sat 7 pm, Sun 2 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center, for tickets call 573-635-6139

Mar. 12

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

Mar. 17

Cuba, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm
Laurie, K of C dine-in and drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm
Loose Creek, K of C 2027 drive-through fish fry, 5-7 pm, Immaculate Conception School
Russellville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall
Taos, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

Liturgical

Feb. 26

Columbia, Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, with Bishop McKnight, for people taking part in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, 3-5 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette, Columbia

Meetings/ Workshops

Feb. 23

VIRTUAL, "Eucharist: The Work of Our Redemption" Lenten lecture series present-

ed by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, noon, for info or to register visit fdlc.org/eucharistseries2023

Feb. 25

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

Mar. 2

VIRTUAL, "Eucharist: The Work of Our Redemption" Lenten lecture series presented by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, noon, for info or to register visit fdlc.org/eucharistseries2023

Mar. 4

Jefferson City, Diocesan Advocate Training Program for those interested in working with the diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal as advocates in marriage nullity cases, 10 am-3 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/advocate-training-registration

Mar. 8

Jefferson City, Safer Homes Collaborative training for suicide-prevention and safe storage of firearms, 6:15-7:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Kertz Hall

Mar. 9

VIRTUAL, "Eucharist: The Work of Our Redemption" Lenten lecture series present-

ed by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, noon, for info or to register visit fdlc.org/eucharistseries2023

Mar. 11

Columbia, Pre-Cana Conference for engaged couples, 9 am-4:30 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/precana-registration

Jefferson City, Diocesan Advocate Training Program for those interested in working with the diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal as advocates in marriage nullity cases, 10 am-3 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/advocate-training-registration

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Feb. 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27

Folk, "Restore," women's Lenten book study, 6:30-7:45 pm, St. Anthony Parish Hall. Call 573-291-3556 or 573-694-6319.

Mar. 2-5

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/

LENT 2023

From page 3

Covering of crosses and images in Lent — From a rubric of the *Roman Missal* for the Fifth Sunday of Lent: "In the dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday of Lent may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's

Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

Neither the Stations of the Cross nor stained glass windows are ever veiled.

The veils are usually made of lightweight purple cloth without any decoration.

Use of Holy Water during Lent — The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments has stated (3/14/03: Prot. N. 569/00/L): "This Dicastery is able to respond that the removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular, for two reasons:

"1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being 'praeter legem' is contrary

to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.

"2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the sacraments is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The 'fast' and 'abstinence' which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church.

"The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those

days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday)."

Musical Instruments during Advent and Lent — The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (2011) states in no. 313:

"In advent the use of the organ and other musical instruments should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord.

"In Lent the playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only in order to support the singing. Exceptions, however, are Laetare Sunday (fourth Sunday of Lent), Solemnities, and feasts."

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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

Hermann, St. George
Albert & Bernice Jacquín, 50 years

Vandalia, Sacred Heart
Troy & Denise Allen, 30 years

Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Abraham L. Libbert**, son of Clayton & Caley Libbert

Marshall, St. Peter — **Tony Almazan**, son of Tony & Cristela Almazan; **Analia Mejia**, daughter of Carlos Mejia & Brenda Vaughn

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Carter Dean Hinkle**, son of Kyle Hinkle & Shelby Clark

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Jace James Tappel**, son of Blake & Kelsey Tappel

Birthdays

Indian Grove, St. Raphael — **Wayne Reigelsberger**, his 90th

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Dorothy Selby**, her 93rd on Feb. 6

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Leonard Strope**, his 90th on Feb. 2; **Norma Ullman**, her 93rd on Feb. 13

Shelbina, St. Mary — **Catherine Schlatt**, her 93rd on Feb. 19

Deaths

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Bobby Lee Ferguson**

REDEDICATE

From page 1

Diocese of Jefferson City,” said Bishop McKnight.

“This moment in our history signifies a time of rebirth, renewal and rededication to our church and faith,” he stated. “As we once again open the doors to our cathedral, everyone is invited to experience the beauty of our Catholic faith — and we joyfully welcome home all who have been away.

“Let our worship in the Cathedral of St. Joseph bring greater glory to God and more fully enable us to lead souls to his mercy,” he said.

While there were originally hopes the project would be completed in early 2023, shortages and supply-chain issues ended up pushing the rededication to a providential date — the cathedral was first dedicated on May 5, 1974.

That means the anniversary of the dedication and the anniversary of the rededication will always fall on the same day going forward.

That anniversary is celebrated as a feastday throughout the diocese and a solemnity at the Cathedral.

In addition, everyone is invited to come see the renewed Cathedral of St. Joseph in person during an open house event on the afternoon of Sunday, May 7. Open house details will be announced soon.

“This is a historic time for our diocese and also our parish,” said Fr. Louis Nelen, rector of the Cathedral and pastor of the 2,500-member Cathedral Parish.

“I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back home for Mass at our Cathedral of St. Joseph,” he said. “While we couldn’t have the Cathedral open for Holy Week, we are happy we will be back inside by the end of the Easter season.”

Parishioners have been gathering in a school gymnasium for Sunday Masses during construction.

“We thank God for the many blessings that allowed us to undertake this ambitious project,” said Fr. Nelen. “While the past year has been difficult for our parish family, we know that our sacrifices today will be beneficial for generations to come.

“Our parish community stands ready to welcome everyone who wishes to visit our magnificent cathedral and join us as we praise God’s love and grace,” he added.

The renovations are entirely funded by generous donors, including lay Catholics, deacons and priests who sent gifts directly in support of the renovation, going above their regular support for their own parishes.

In addition, the Cathedral Parish funded the significant improvements to the community space in the Under-

croft, located below the Cathedral.

Jefferson City-based Sircal Contracting is serving as the general contractor for the renovation. In addition to leading the construction work, the project has involved coordinating with artists from the local region and around the world.

“It has been an honor for our company and our skilled tradesmen to work inside and outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph alongside so many talented individuals,” said Chris Hentges, president of Sircal Contracting, Inc.

He said the project has been a rewarding challenge, both in the detail and complexity of work, and the pandemic-related issues that have affected the entire construction industry.

“We are taking the time to complete the renovations with the utmost quality and care, and the finished product will be breathtaking,” said Mr. Hentges.

As the celebration of the completion of the renovation approaches, Bishop McKnight is calling everyone in the diocese to join together in safeguarding this gift for future generations.

Bishop McKnight has established a new Cathedral Preservation Fund, a forward-looking fund that will pay for major repairs and extraordinary expenses at the cathedral in the years and decades to come.

“Even as we enjoy this moment and appreciate all God has enabled us to accomplish, we should also look forward,” said Bishop McKnight.

“As we open this new chapter in the history of our diocese, I am calling everyone to come together behind protecting and preserving the gift of our renewed cathedral,” he stated.

“The Cathedral of St. Joseph belongs to all of us,” he said. “Working together toward its safekeeping can unite us as a diocese as we celebrate this historic rededication.”

Mr. Luecke is communication director for the Jefferson City diocese.

QUESTION

From page 8

Although we most often see holy water in churches, it is also possible to use holy water in other places and situations. For instance, many Catholics observe the beautiful custom of keeping personal holy water fonts inside the doors of their own homes.

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osv.com.

Bishop McKnight’s February prayer intention for our Local Church

For engaged couples preparing for marriage in our Church; that they may grow together in their love for one another as they seek to enrich their matrimonial commitments with the grace of God.



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

Por las parejas comprometidas que se preparan para el matrimonio en nuestra Iglesia; para que puedan crecer juntos en su amor mutuo mientras buscan enriquecer sus compromisos matrimoniales con la gracia de Dios.

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

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Off to the races!



Kindergarteners at Sacerd Heart School in Sedalia are on the inside track for reading thanks to Hot Rod, a character in their SuperKids reading program. Inspired by Hot Rod, students built their very own hot rods to race around the gym. They had to make a pit stop to visit the fifth-graders situated at 20 different locations, each holding a sentence. Once the sentence was correctly read, the hot rods could race on to the checkered flag finish line!

— Photo by Liz Suter-Van Leer

Capital letters



Learning about when to use capital letters, first-graders at St. Brendan School in Mexico wrote letters to their parents, addressed and stamped the envelopes and dropped them into the mail.

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

Home of the Chiefs!



St. Thomas the Apostle School pre-schoolers in St. Thomas get ready for a Kansas City Chiefs win the Friday before the Super Bowl.

— Photo from the St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool Facebook page

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Oh, happy day!



Father Joseph and Father Joseph, who were filling in at the parishes in Chariton County, give students at St. Joseph School in Salisbury a lesson in the sacraments, including a pretend demonstration of Baptism using their dolls and stuffed toys. Afterward, they celebrated with donuts, fruit and king cake.

— St. Joseph School-Salisbury

Bible Accent

There are many parts of the Bible that talk about temptation.

In Genesis 3, the serpent in the Garden of Eden tempted Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, even though God had said not to eat it. Eve, in turn, tempted Adam to eat the fruit, even though he knew it was wrong.

In 2 Samuel 11, King David was tempted by a beautiful woman named Bathsheba, who was married to a man named Uriah. David purposefully sent Uriah into battle, knowing Uriah would be killed. After Uriah died, David married Bathsheba. God was very upset with David's evil actions.

In the Book of Job, the devil tested Job to see if he could be tempted to curse God. Even though the devil killed Job's children, caused him to be covered in boils and lose all of his possessions, Job never lost his faith. He resisted the temptation to curse God.

And in James 1, the faithful are told of the reward they will receive from God for resisting temptation: "Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him."

St. Constantine of Cornwall and Govan

St. Constantine of Cornwall and Govan was a minor British king who lived in the sixth century. In 537, he likely succeeded his father as king of Dumnonia, in what is now southwest England.

Constantine was married to the daughter of the king of Brittany, France, and lived a sinful life until he converted to Christianity.

After his wife's death, he abdicated the throne and entered religious life. He built churches in Cornwall and served in monasteries in Wales and Ireland. He then went as a missionary to the Picts in Scotland, where he was abbot of Govan before being killed by pirates in 576.

We remember him on March 11.



Jesus is tempted by the devil

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

After Jesus was baptized, he was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit then led him into the desert for 40 days and to be tempted by the devil.

Jesus did not have anything to eat while in the desert, so at the end of the 40 days, he was very hungry.

The devil knew this and tried to use Jesus' hunger to tempt him.

"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread," the devil said to Jesus.

But Jesus was not so easily tempted. He refused to turn the stones into bread.

"It is written, 'One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God,'" Jesus replied.

The devil didn't give up.

He took Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and made him stand on the Temple's parapet, which is a low wall or railing at the edge of a roof.

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down," the devil said. "For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

"Again it is written," Jesus countered, "you shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

The devil tried one last time to tempt Jesus.

He took Jesus up to a very high mountain and showed



Illustration by Linda Rivers

him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence.

"All these I shall give to you," the devil said, "if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

"Get away, Satan!" Jesus exclaimed. "It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."


The devil realized he could not tempt Jesus and left him. Afterward, angels came and ministered to Jesus.

Jesus then left the desert and withdrew to Galilee, where he lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.

From that time on, Jesus began to preach saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Read more about it...
Matthew 4

1. Who led Jesus into the desert?
2. How many ways did the devil try to tempt Jesus?



Whose arrest did Jesus learn about after leaving the desert? (Hint: Matthew 4:12)

Answer: John





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Puzzle

Unscramble these words and put them in the correct order to form a quotation from the children's story.

yawa

egt

tasan

Sentence: _____!

Answers: away, get, satan; Get away, Satan!

Force and suffering: Five suggestions for Lenten reading

By Kenneth Craycraft

“Put your sword back into its sheath,” Jesus rebuked a disciple in the Garden of Gethsemane. “Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me ... with ... legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:52-53)

But the kingdom that Christ came to establish would not be initiated by force. Rather, in a central paradox of Christianity, the kingdom would be inaugurated by suffering and even death.

Christ eschewed the power of violent force, not simply because of its effect on the victim, but rather because of the corrosive effect of violence on the soul of the one who perpetuates it.

This might be the framework for a program of Lenten reading and reflection, especially in a political culture so riven by violence and threats of violence.

•Simon Weil’s classic 1939 essay “The ‘Illiad’ or the Poem of Force” shows us how the human spirit is deformed by the force that it presumes to wield over others.

First published in an English translation by Mary McCarthy in 1945, Weil’s essay explains how the *Illiad* demonstrates that the exercise of violent force exacts emotional and psychological violence on the perpetra-

tor as much as the victim.

No one really controls violent force, she explains. Rather, one is controlled by the force one presumes to brandish.

As such, the violent will always be defeated by the violence they flaunt.

Weil’s analysis of the *Illiad* is confirmation of the way of the desert, in which suffering — not violence — is the path of both the redeemer and the redeemed.

“Only he who has measured the dominion of force, and knows how not to respect it,” writes Weil, “is capable of love and justice.” Put away your sword, indeed.

•Evelyn Waugh’s novel *Helena* is in part an exercise in contrasting the soul-crushing result of wielding violence with the spirit-enriching effects of selfless service.

Using considerable literary license, Waugh tells the story of St. Helen, mother of the fourth-century Roman emperor Constantine, and discoverer of the true cross of Christ.

Waugh accounts for St. Helen’s triumphant expedition for the cross as the culmination of a life of quiet, painful suffering.

Abandoned by her husband, Constantius Chlorus, and forced to witness her son Constantine’s descent into murder-

ous madness, St. Helen’s triumph came only at the end of a life of sorrow and anguish.

Waugh’s narrative of St. Helen’s patient suffering and quiet triumph is a sustaining guide through Lent.

•The way of suffering in the face of violence is also illustrated in Shusaku Endo’s unforgettable novel *Silence*, a fictionalized account of the persecution of Portuguese Jesuit missionaries and their Christian converts in 16th-century Japan.

The success of Endo’s novel is not found in triumph and happy resolution, but rather in spiritual struggle and moral ambiguity.

Silence is a reminder that we may be called to suffer for our witness to the Gospel but that few of us ever have been.




The life of Christian discipleship, while ordered toward a blessed resolution, is not devoid of sorrow. The road to joy may be the path of suffering. Endo’s *Silence* is a brilliant account of that paradox, and perfect Lenten reading.

•Finally, perhaps no account of suffering is more acute than Oscar Wilde’s *De Profundis*, his classic letter from prison.

While we focus on suffering during Lent, Wilde reminds us that suffering does not respect the season or the calendar.

“Suffering is one very long moment,” he writes. “We cannot divide it by seasons. We can only record its moods, and chronicle their return. With us time itself

Movie Ratings

 Adults	80 for Brady (PG-13) A Man Called Otto (PG-13) M3GAN (PG-13) Missing (PG-13) The Pale Blue Eye (R)
 Limited Adult Audience	Knock at the Cabin (R) Plane (R) Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody (R)
 Morally Offensive	Magic Mike’s Last Dance (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

does not progress. It revolves.”

But “nothing in the world is meaningless,” Wilde continues, “and suffering least of all.” Rather, suffering reveals “something hidden away in my nature, like a treasure in a field.”

In Wilde’s case that hidden treasure was “Humility.” But *De Profundis* shows us that suf-

fering can reveal our own particular faults and sins — and maybe even purge them in the desert of Lent.

Kenneth Craycraft is associate professor of moral theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary & School of Theology in Cincinnati.

Jesus was the theme of two Super Bowl ads

OSV News

Glendale, Arizona

A feature of every Super Bowl is a panoply of commercials that air during the game touting the latest Budweiser beer, Doritos, laundry detergent and celebrities.

This year was no different when the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs faced off Feb. 12 at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, a Phoenix suburb, with the Chiefs besting the Eagles 38-35, rallying after a 10-point deficit in the first half to win their second Super Bowl in four years.

But one surprising ad theme creating buzz ahead of the Big Game was Jesus. A group of 50 Christian individuals and companies, including craft retailer Hobby Lobby, purchased air time on FOX, which broadcast the game, for two “He Gets Us” commercials. The 30-second and 60-second spots cost roughly \$20 million.

The commercials, which are part of a broader ad campaign that began in March and utilizes billboards around the country and YouTube channels, were meant to send “a message that Jesus understands the human condition and a message of the uniting love of Jesus that will set us on a better path as a country,” said a spokesman for the campaign.

USA TODAY reported Feb. 13 that according to its Ad Meter, which ranks commercials by consumer rating, the “30-second and 60-second ads run by ‘He Gets Us’ placed eighth and 15th, respectively.” The ads “also generated some social-media buzz, with ‘Christian Super Bowl’ among the trending topics on Twitter on Monday morning,” the paper said.

David Green, co-founder of Hobby Lobby, told talk show host Glenn Beck recently that the “He Gets Us” campaign is sponsored by “a lot of people” who want to say that Jesus “gets us. He understands us. He loves who we hate. I think we have to let the public know and create a movement.”

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103.3 FM, Fulton
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

ARTWORK

From page 18

Arte Poli.

"You enter this place and you feel time has stopped, with all the people working with their hands," said Ms. Pighi. "It's really another world."

Master Poli, now 87, still oversees the work at the studio and fuels "the passion that drives us to perfection," she said.

Ms. Pighi noted that in most fields, technology is seen as the future.

"Here, it's very different — a progression of experience and ability," she stated. "Here, we go

back in history. Our only machines are the hands and the heart."

The human touch has a more profound impact on the people who view the artwork, day after day, Sunday after Sunday, generation after generation.

"It's not merely a decoration that you're putting in your Cathedral," said Ms. Pighi. "It's really an artwork. And it's going to last forever."

"Many satisfactions"

Because these techniques are so difficult to master, it's important for the artisans to be filled with zeal for every aspect of their work.

"It takes years and years to get to the perfection that we all want to achieve," said Ms. Pighi. "That passion is what drives you."

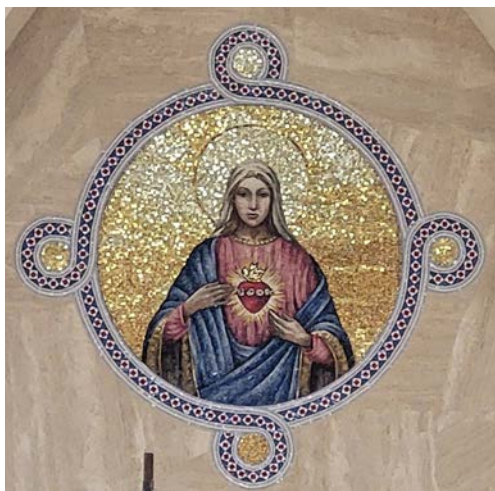
The artisans' work adorns sacred and secular spaces throughout Italy, as well as points throughout the United States, China, Hong Kong, and several countries in Africa.

Progetto Arte Poli recently created a new marble ambo for the breathtaking, fourth-century Basilica of St. John Lateran, cathedral for the Diocese of Rome and the official church of its bishop, the pope.

The ambo blends newly created stonework with ancient pieces from the basilica's past.

"We are very thankful always to the Lord for giving us the opportunity to do projects such as these," said Ms. Pighi.

"Having so many people 'sotto un unico tetto' — 'under one roof,' as we say in Italian



This radiant mosaic image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary adorns the travertine marble wall behind the sanctuary of the Cathedral.

— Photo by Jay Nies

— it's also important to have new challenges, new projects," she said. "Many challenges, but so many satisfactions!"

Other projects have included the mosaics donated by several South American embassies to the Holy See and installed in the Vatican Gardens, the stained glass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome, and work at the Basilica of Our Lady of Health in Venice, the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Florence, and various locations in Vatican City.

"These works belong to humankind, to the Church," Ms. Pighi stated.

Cardinal Antonio Tagle, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, com-

More photos will be posted with the online version of this article at cathmo.com.

missioned Progetto Arte Poli to work on a project in China.

"He told us that art is a form of evangelization that draws people of different backgrounds together for one unified purpose," Ms. Pighi recalled.

The results are transcend boundaries of language and culture.

"When we do artwork, it's not just an artistic piece," she noted. "It's something that will then be seen by its community, will be perceived, will be experienced and will bring emotions to the people."

Many parts

Mosaics are among the

most ancient forms of art. Perhaps the most famous examples in the United States cover the walls and ceiling of the massive Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, in St. Louis.

Progetto Arte Poli uses an array of materials to create mosaics, primarily marble and smalti, a glass-based material developed centuries ago in Venice.

"And whether you're using stone or smalti, everything is cut by hand," Ms. Pighi noted.

"You have to imagine one of our artists with a special hammer, busily taking one big piece of either stone or glass and cutting it," she said.

Fashioning each tiny piece with precision is essential.

"Like the Madonna of Guadalupe and the others where we present a face, you have to make sure the features of the face are exactly those that are going to be perceived — from a few feet away, as well as from a great distance," Ms. Pighi noted.

She said the Guadalupe image is likely the most challenging for the artisans.

"It's an image that we all know," she said, "but from a technical perspective, the image is very, very complex for a mosaic, especially with the dimensions we decided. It took a lot of time and attention to detail."

Because it is an interpretation of an image that appeared miraculously on the tilma of St. Juan Diego as a result of his encounter with an apparition of the Blessed Mother, it must be precise and accurate.

"It's not something that's bound to interpretation," Ms. Pighi noted.

Grand assembly

The large mosaics had to be created in pieces that were small enough to be shipped from Verona to Jefferson City without breaking.

From the earliest stages of the design, each of the large pieces was created to fit seamlessly together after delivery.

"They arrive in several pieces like a very big puzzle," said

Daily Readings

Sunday, Feb 19

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Lv. 19:1-2, 17-18
Ps. 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Cor. 3:16-23
Mt. 5:38-48

Monday, Feb 20

Sir. 1:1-10
Ps. 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5
Mk. 9:14-29

Tuesday, Feb 21

St. Peter Damian, bishop and doctor of the Church
Sir. 2:1-11
Ps. 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40
Mk. 9:30-37

Wednesday, Feb 22

Ash Wednesday
Jl. 2:12-18
Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-14, 17
2 Cor. 5:20-6:2
Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, Feb 23

St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr
Dt. 30:15-20
Ps. 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
Lk. 9:22-25

Friday, Feb 24

Is. 58:1-9a
Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19
Mt. 9:14-15

Saturday, Feb 25

Is. 58:9b-14
Ps. 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Lk. 5:27-32

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for February:

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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Ms. Pighi. "And once they are all put together, you don't see any kind of joint. It all becomes one piece."

She said the ultimate purpose for all of these mosaics is to help the entire community feel increasingly closer to each other and the Lord, "and for more and more and more people who do not come to church often to be drawn back."

The artisans at Progetto Arte Poli are convinced that they are doing God's work with proj-

Sunday, Feb 26

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Gn. 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17
Rom. 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19
Mt. 4:1-11

Monday, Feb 27

St. Gregory of Narek, abbot and doctor of the Church
Lv. 19:1-2, 11-18
Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 15
Mt. 25:31-46

Tuesday, Feb 28

Is. 55:10-11
Ps. 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19
Mt. 6:7-15

Wednesday, Mar 1

Jon. 3:1-10
Ps. 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19
Lk. 11:29-32

Thursday, Mar 2

Est. C:12, 14-16, 23-25
Ps. 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8
Mt. 7:7-12

Friday, Mar 3

St. Katharine Drexel, virgin (USA)
Ez. 18:21-28
Ps. 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8
Mt. 5:20-26

Saturday, Mar 4

St. Casimir
Dt. 26:16-19
Ps. 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8
Mt. 5:43-48

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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ects such as these.

Their goal is that generations from now, people will still perceive the great passion and devotion with which these works were created.

"It's really the passion to deliver the message of God to the community that's receiving these artworks," Ms. Pighi stated. "Like Cardinal Tagle said, it is the home of evangelization and of really bringing all people together."

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Columbia 40 Days for Life Kick-Off Rally

DATE: February 21
TIME: 6 pm

The Kick-Off Rally for the Spring 2023 Columbia 40 Days for Life will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the Sacred Heart Activity Building next door to Sacred Heart Church, 105 Waugh St.

All who wish to take part in the rally are invited, whether they have prayed on the sidewalk previously or not.

After the rally, participants will head over to Columbia Planned Parenthood, 711 N. Providence Road, for a short prayer time and candlelight vigil on the sidewalk.

Mass will be offered at 5:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church prior to the rally.

40 Days for Life prayer vigils take place on the sidewalk from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Sundays, beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, and continuing through April 1.

Contact Kathy Forck at 573-821-5130 for information.

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Friday, March 10 4:30-7:30 pm
St. Stanislaus Gym
Wardsville

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\$14 per order



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