

St. Joseph over the door

Jesus's foster father takes after an Old Testament patriarch in a new bronze relief being cast for the space above the columns at the entrance to the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

March 17, 2023 • Vol. 66 No. 19

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Celebrating a decade of change and renewal



Pope Francis greets the crowd as he arrives for his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 5, 2022. Vatican News March 10, 2023, published excerpts of a new interview with RSI, a Swiss radio-television broadcasting in Italian, marking his 10 years as pope. — CNS photo/Paul Haring

10th anniversary of Pope Francis's papacy celebrated on March 13

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

For a decade, even when discussing the internal workings of the Vatican, Pope Francis has insisted the Church is not the Church of Christ if it does not reach out, sharing the “joy of the Gospel” and placing the poor at the center of its attention.

Francis's pontificate, which began 10 years ago on March 13, has sent waves of change and renewal through the Church, from the Vatican to the corners of the world.

“Pope Francis has embraced his call to be our teacher and pastor, emphasizing God's mercy and calling us to look to our faith as a means to heal our painful divisions,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

In a statement, the bishop invited the faithful of this diocese to join him in prayer for Pope Francis as the world marks 10 years of his papacy.

“By inviting us all into a synodal conversation, he has asked Catholics everywhere to open their hearts as we strive to understand and live out God's plan for his Church,” Bishop McKnight stated.

“We are truly better together — always,” the bishop continued. “With prayer, let us move forward with our Holy Father. Learning from his leadership, may our parishes and our diocese grow toward a stronger communion, cultivating our faith and reflecting the beauty of God's mercy.”

See POPE FRANCIS, page 17

Barb Prasad is highlighting, facilitating women's ministry throughout the diocese

By Jay Nies

Barbara Prasad is eager to hand on what she's been given. She wants all Catholic women to have the kind of fellowship and support she's been able to count on through the best and the worst times of her adult life.

“There are a million ways my faith life has been moved forward by women in my parish,” said Mrs. Prasad, coordinator of women's ministry for the Jefferson City diocese.

“It doesn't have to be complicated — book groups, prayer groups, getting together to volunteer,” she said. “The thing is simply to surround yourself with faithful women, and they help move you around.”

Mrs. Prasad, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, came to work for the diocese last fall.

She succeeds LeAnn Korsmeyer, who retired from women's ministry last summer after helping to get it established at the diocesan level.

Mrs. Prasad has been working to provide resources to parishes for promoting the spiritual and social wellbeing of women, who are often the foundation and mortar of their families, parishes and communities.

“I know that as a woman, there are times in your life when you feel there is no time that belongs to you,” she said. “I think making sure that you're connected to other women who understand that and who can be your prayer warriors and if nothing else can just be there with you when you've run out of energy — that's something every woman needs.”

Such relationships historically developed organically through families, neighborhoods, parishes and communities. But many women today just don't have time to forge those bonds.

“We're a very busy society,” said Mrs. Prasad. “We have

WOMEN'S MINISTRY, page 14

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

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03/17/23

Pray for deceased priests

Mar. 19 — Fr. Fred J. Barnett, St. Patrick, Laurie; and St. Philip Benizi, Versailles (2011)

Mar. 27 — Fr. Patrick L. Pierceall, St. Joseph, Palmyra (2016)

Mar. 31 — Fr. Joseph G. Lawlor, Missionary Service, Peru (2011)

Catholic Charities Food Pantry open house

DATE: March 21
TIME: 4 - 6:30 pm

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri will hold an open house celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, at 1015 Edmonds St. in Jefferson City.

"We'd love for those who are able to join us in Jefferson City for an Open House to celebrate one year of bringing neighbors closer to food and nutrition security in the Catholic Charities Food Pantry," the event's organizers stated.

Catholic Charities Lenten Appeal

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri is conducting its annual Lenten Appeal to support a myriad of services.

People can donate using the tear-off envelope that was included in the Feb. 3 edition of *The Catholic Missourian*; by visiting ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give, by calling 573-635-7719, or by mailing a check to: Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, PO Box 104626, Jefferson City, MO 65110.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



The Chancery office of the Diocese of Jefferson City seeks a Chief Financial Officer who can ensure consistency, transparency, and simplicity in the financial systems of the parishes, schools and Chancery. As a member of the Bishop's cabinet, the CFO provides clear and timely communications of financial and other information throughout the diocese, maintaining confidentiality where appropriate.

The CFO is responsible for providing, developing and maintaining financial accountability standards and ethics for all diocesan entities in order to promote respect and trust among parishioners. The CFO directs, manages and supervises the financial operations of the Chancery, in conjunction with the Bishop and the members of the Corporate Board, as well as manages the diocesan assets and advises management in financial operations.

The full job listing can be found at diojeffcity.org/cfo. To apply, email resume to Brent Morton, Vice President, Catholic Recruiter Associates, Brent@CatholicRecruiter.com.

Pilgrimage of Healing in Laurie

DATE: March 30
TIME: 5 pm

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church in Laurie will host a Lenten Pilgrimage of Healing on Thursday, March 30, beginning at 5 p.m.

Pilgrims will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, available in both English and Spanish, before or after Mass.

Mass will be at 5:30 p.m., followed by Adoration of the

Most Blessed Sacrament and healing prayer.

Father Norbert Rappold, a priest of the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, will celebrate the Mass and offer healing prayer and the laying on of hands.

Fr. Rappold has said he has seen God move in miraculous ways through his devotion to Jesus Christ and the Blessed Mother.

He actively prays for healing in his parish, area hospital and nursing homes, at conferences,

and at Healing Masses.

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, is adjacent to St. Patrick Church at 176 Marian Dr., off of Highway 5 in Laurie.

Registration is not required for this event, and all are welcome and invited to come for healing and prayer. More information can be found at mothersshrine.com, or by calling 573-374-MARY (6279).

thenationalshrineofmarymotherofthechurch.com

Abortion survivor to speak in Moberly

DATE: March 30
TIME: 6 pm

Abortion survivor Melissa Ohden will be the keynote speaker at the Moberly chapter of Missouri Right to Life's fourth annual banquet.

It will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, in the Moberly Municipal Auditorium, 201 W. Rollins St.

Despite initial concerns regarding Ms. Ohden's future after surviving the attempt to end her life at approximately seven months gestation, she has not only survived, but thrived.

She is a master's level prepared social worker and the author of *You Carried Me: A Daughter's Memoir*.

Her second book, which will focus on other abortion survivors breaking their silence, will be published in 2024.

Ms. Ohden is the founder and director of The Abortion Survivors Network, the only healing and advocacy organization for abortion survivors. She and her team have con-

nected with 633 survivors as of 2022.

Banquet tickets are \$45 per person. Reservations are

required. For more information, contact Therese Sander at 660-651-9748 or email therese.sander@gmail.com.

Mass, Stations for people who are separated, divorced

DATE: April 1
TIME: noon

St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County will celebrate a Mass of Anointing of the Sick for Catholics who are separated and/or divorced and have illnesses, on Saturday, April 1.

It will be at noon in the

Sacred Heart Chapel, 421 W. Third St. in Sedalia.

Stations of the Cross oriented toward the same group will be prayed after the Mass.

All who are separated or divorced are invited to participate.

Contact Deacon Turf Martin at 660-460-0036 for information.

Wardsville/Osage Bend Knights of Columbus

BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 2

Served from 7:30am to Noon

Wardsville

St. Stanislaus Parish Gymnasium

Sausage
Pancakes
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Biscuits & Gravy
Orange Juice/Coffee/Water

Adults \$12
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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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THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN (ISSN 1083-6977 or USPS 556940), March 17, 2023, volume 66, number 19. Published biweekly at 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109. Subscription price \$14 a year through parish plan. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo. and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Catholic Missourian, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City MO 65109-0914.



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Official Notice Of Appointments

I am pleased to announce that the Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, has recently made the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:

PRIESTS

Reverend Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, VG, appointed to the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, effective 1 March 2023.

LAITY

Colleen Abbott, appointed as the Southwest Deanery Representative on the Diocesan

Pastoral Council, effective 28 February 2023.

Pat McKinzie, appointed to the Board of Directors for the National Shrine of Mary Mother of the Church, effective 28 February 2023.

Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL, appointed to the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Mis-

souri, effective 1 March 2023.

Mike Kelly, appointed as Vice Chairperson of the Diocesan Finance Council, effective 6 March 2023.

Gary Wilbers, appointed as Chairperson of the Diocesan Finance Council, effective 6 March 2023.

Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor



Decree Implementing a Quinceañera Policy

“It is a proper and grave duty especially of pastors of souls to take care of the catechesis of the Christian people so that the living faith of the faithful becomes manifest and active through doctrinal instruction and the experience of Christian life” (canon 773 of the *Code of Canon Law*).

The Quinceañera celebration is a vibrant part of the tradition of the Hispanic/Latino community within our diocese. In order that this important moment in the life of young women is properly a moment of evangelization and catechetical formation, I am introducing this Quinceañera Preparation Policy. This policy is the work of the Hispanic Ministry Advisory Council and the Office of Hispanic and Intercultural Ministries. This policy provides clear guidelines

for Pastors and Quinceañera facilitators so that this celebration and familial tradition is properly formed by the Catholic faith, and encourages all participates to a deeper involvement in the Church as good stewards in their parish community.

I, therefore, DECREE that this Quinceañera Policy shall be promulgated by being published on the diocesan website, and that it will take effect one month from the date of this letter, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

I would like to reinforce the fact that these policies and regulations are particular law for the Diocese of Jefferson City and are therefore obligatory for all who reside

See DECREE, page 14



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

MARCH

- Mar 21** Blessing of the new bells, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 10 am, Jefferson City
- Mar 22** Helias Catholic High School Board of Directors Meeting, 11 am, Chancery; Diocesan School Advisory Board Dinner Meeting, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence
- Mar 25** Confirmation Ceremony, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 11 am, Sedalia
- Mar 26** Confirmation Mass, Holy Rosary Parish, Monroe City, St. Stephen Parish, Indian Creek, and St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Paris, 9:30 am, Holy Rosary Church, Monroe City
- Mar 27** Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board Executive Committee Meeting, 11 am, Virtual
- Mar 28** Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, 2 pm, Chancery; Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Parish, Montgomery City, St. Patrick Parish, Jonesburg, and Resurrection Parish, Wellsville, 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, Montgomery City
- Mar 29** Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Folk, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church, Westphalia
- Mar 31** Jubilee Retirement, Parish Development Corporation and Diocesan Real Estate Corporation Board meetings; 10 am, Chancery

APRIL

- Apr 2** Missouri Bishops Province Meeting, 7 pm, Archdiocese of St. Louis
- Apr 3** Missouri Catholic Conference Board Meeting, 9 am, Archdiocese of St. Louis
- Apr 4** Chrism Mass, 10 am, St. Andrew Church, Holts Summit; Priest Jubilarians Luncheon and Joint Parish Corporations Meeting following

Bishop comments on the shooting of two police officers in Hermann

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight released the following statement in response to a March 12 shooting in Hermann that resulted in the death of Detective Sgt. Mason Griffith and injured Officer Adam Sullenstrup, both of the Hermann Police Department:

“The Diocese of Jefferson City is mourning alongside our brothers and sisters in our community of Hermann, where an incomprehensible act of violence has killed one police officer and wounded another.

“Let us pray together and ask God to heal all those among us who are in pain from this tragedy. May we find the capacity to free our society from these acts of violence and fully protect the dignity of human life.”

Bishop McKnight's March prayer intention for our Local Church

For a greater respect for the dignity of all human life; may our Catholic Faith inspire us to recognize all human beings — no matter their age, race, or condition — as our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

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

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

Por un mayor respeto a la dignidad de toda vida humana; que nuestra fe católica nos inspire a reconocer a todos los seres humanos, sin importar su edad, raza o condición, como nuestros hermanos y hermanas en el Señor.



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Communal reconciliation services for Lent

Lent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ's passion, death and reconciliation. Here is a partial list of Lenten communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out. Additional services will be added to updated versions of this article at cathmo.com and to the diocesan calendar at diojeffcity.org/events as they are publicized. "Come to be healed and restored to unity with God our Father, and hence with yourselves and others," said Father Matthew Flatley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

Canton — Tuesday, March 28, 7 pm, St. Joseph Church

Eldon — Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 pm, Sacred Heart Church

Ewing — Thursday, March 23, 7 pm, Queen of Peace Church

Fayette — Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

Glasgow — Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 pm, St. Mary Church

Holts Summit — Thursday, March 23, 7 pm, St. Andrew Church

Jefferson City — Tuesday, March 28, 7 pm, St. Peter Church

Kirkville — Sunday, March 26, 2 pm, Newman Center

Lake Ozark — Monday, March 20, 7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Church

Marshall — Thursday, March 23, 6:30 pm, St. Peter Church

Mary's Home — Sunday, March 19, 3 pm, Our Lady of the Snows Church

Monroe City — Thursday, March 30, 6:30 pm, Holy Rosary Church

Pilot Grove — Wednesday, March 29, 7 pm, St. Joseph Church

Russellville — Wednesday, March 29, 7 pm, St. Michael Church

St. Martins — Wednesday, March 29, 7 pm, St. Martin Church

Sedalia — Sunday, March 26, 4 pm, St. Patrick Chapel

Taos — Wednesday, March 22, 7 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church

Wardsville — Thursday, March 23, 6 pm, St. Stanislaus Church

Warsaw — Tuesday, March 21, 7 pm, St. Ann Church

Connecting with God, our ancestors during the lean time of year

By Liz Schleicher



It's Lent. Forty days of dedication to prayer, penance, almsgiving and fasting in the name of the Lord. Not fasting like medical fasting before a scan or surgery. Not trendy intermittent fasting for weight loss, either. This is fasting invented by those mean old religious people. They want you

to eat less meat and just eat less in general, and they expect that to have some kind of an effect on your relationship with God. Ridiculous.

Back in the old, old days, before the inventions of canning and freezing food, this was a lean time of year. You'd be scraping the bottom of your barrel of salt pork and wild game would be at its scarcest and scrawniest. There were no fresh fruits or vegetables, the hens were just picking up laying again after the long winter and the cow may not be giving

much milk either. That is, if you could afford a cow. Most people got by in late winter on a diet of bread and root vegetables stored up over the previous year, punctuated with a little dried fruit, an egg here and there, or a glass of milk if they were lucky. Meat was a rare treat. When spring finally sprung, people headed out to hunt for the first wild greens — onion grass, mustard greens, poke, ramps. Old granies said it "cleaned the blood" and strengthened the liver. It probably does.

A lot of people were a little hungry this time of year. Some people were a lot hungry. So when spring abundance swept in, they were not just full, but grateful. They were deeply grateful for wild greens and mushrooms, milk and eggs and fresh cheese, the first garden produce, and even lamb and veal.

Because it was seasonal and sometimes scarce, people appreciated their food in a way we

no longer can. They were intimately aware of the work it took to hunt a turkey or find a morel. They knew the heartache of sacrificing the first innocent lambs so that humans could be fed. The bread they held at supper had already passed through their family's fingers many times: first as seed being sown, then green grass, then ripe wheat being harvested, then finally as flour sifted and kneaded under the hands of the woman of the house.

The most we know is the heartache of Aldi being out of a particular kind of cheese.

Yearning, patience, hard work, sacrifice, waiting in hope. Awareness of the natural world. Shared work of family and community. Humble dependence on the mysterious caprices of sky and seed and soil. Acceptance of your limits and state in life. Solidarity with the hunger of the poor. Grati-

tude. All these will absolutely deepen our relationship with our Creator, if we let them.

The lean time of year is the perfect time to pray and do penance, to give alms out of what little we have left, and yes, to fast. Just a little hunger can connect us with nature, the poor, our ancestors, and God himself.

Those mean old religious people weren't ridiculous at all. They were our ancestors, and as usual, they knew exactly what they were talking about.

Liz Schleicher lives in Green Ridge and is a wife, stay-at-home-mother, writer and rare-cancer survivor.

This article was originally published in the Feb. 24, 2023, edition of the Sedalia Democrat newspaper (sedaliademocrat.com) and is reprinted here with permission.



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Bronze relief of St. Joseph being cast for new Cathedral portico

"If Mary was the aura preceding the Diving Sun, Joseph was the horizon illuminated by its splendors."

— St. Leonard of Port Maurice, an 18th-century Franciscan priest

By Jay Nies

The protector of the Holy Family will radiate welcome and reassurance to people entering or passing by the renewed Cathedral of St. Joseph.

A nearly life-size bronze relief of the Cathedral's patron saint, holding a staff and a ship, will adorn the triangle-shaped tympanum between the columns and the roof over the entrance.

"The ship is a symbol of Joseph's role as protector of the Universal Church," said Bill Heyer, architectural consultant for the renovation of the Cathedral.

The tympanum will be cast in Italy and shipped to Jefferson City with the new bronze doors that are being created there.

The 54-year-old Cathedral is being extensively renovated, expanded and renewed, replacing the building's failing systems while enhancing its beauty, functionality, capacity for hospitality and conduciveness to uniquely Catholic worship.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight has set May 5 for the building's rededication.

Mr. Heyer worked on designs for the tympanum with Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs, who recently painted the murals for the Cathedral baptistery.

Bishop McKnight selected symbols for the tympanum to represent specific titles from the Litany of St. Joseph.

Surrounding the central figure will be medallions depicting a sword overpowering a snake, symbolizing Joseph as the terror of demons; a shield marked with an M, pointing to him as spouse of the Mother of God; a voyager carrying a staff, recalling his role as protector of exiles and migrants; and carpentry tools, designating him as a model for workers.

Lilies symbolize Joseph's obedient chastity.

For the main image, Mr. Heyer and Mrs. Thompson-Briggs discussed how best to depict the saint's posture and expression.

"We settled on St. Joseph as



This image of St. Joseph and symbols of various names for him in the Litany of St. Joseph will be used to create a bronze relief tympanum over the entrance to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

— Artwork by Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs and William Heyer

a patriarch — possessing that sort of noble bearing that you would expect from a great man of the Old Testament," said Mrs. Thompson-Briggs.

That dignified stature points to that of the building.

"Being the Cathedral, it stands out in its role among other churches of the diocese," Mrs. Thompson-Briggs stated, "so showing St. Joseph as a leader and protector seems especially appropriate."

The ship he's holding is modeled on a Roman merchant vessel of the first century A.D.

"It makes sense for the ship that's representing the Barque of St. Peter to be a Roman ship," she said, adding that a Roman cross adorns the sail.

Greater depth

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs chose a fellow artist to be the model for her drawing of St. Joseph.

"It was wonderful, because he has done a lot of drawing of his own," she stated. "So when I said, 'I need you to move slightly or hold the boat at a slightly different angle,' he knew exactly what I was looking for."

The designers and benefactors made several rounds of revisions and refinements before the final design was approved in February.

Artisans at the foundry in Italy will use the designs to create molds into which molten

bronze will be poured, creating a three-dimensional relief.

"We've given them a design," said Mrs. Thompson-Briggs. "I'm hoping the bronze will be even better."

She visualizes the image of St. Joseph standing out prominently among the background symbols.

"My hope is for everything else to be done in a very low relief and not emerging much from the surface, with the figure of St. Joseph having a strong presence against that," she said.

Having drawn and painted numerous images of St. Joseph, she's convinced that there can never be enough representations of the man God chose to protect and help nurture his Son.

"Each image draws out a different aspect of him for meditation," she said. "Those meditations can never be exhausted."

Mrs. Thompson-Briggs believes it's important for a church — more so a cathedral — to express on the outside the importance of what takes place inside.

"If the outside doesn't match the inside, there's a disconnect that goes against what is true," she stated.

She spoke of a proper natural hierarchy of buildings within a community, in which the church is the most beautiful and dignified, followed by the buildings of state, followed by the homes of individuals.

"It just doesn't feel right when that order is inverted or ignored," she said.

Everyone's Cathedral

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

All are invited to join in praying for the safety of the many skilled builders and artisans who are renewing the

mother church of the diocese.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph belongs to all Catholics in the diocese. All are strongly encouraged to visit the Cathedral when it reopens.

Visit diojeffcity.org/cathedral-renovation for information.


The opening quote is from the March 2023 edition of the Magnificat daily devotional.



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Shelby County native professes Benedictine vows at Conception

By Jay Nies

Benedictine Brother Gabriel Chinn chose a name that reminds him of the Blessed Mother's "fiat," and of his own.

Baptized Daniel, the Shelby County native took one of God's messenger angels as his namesake upon professing simple vows in the Benedictine Order.

"I want to imitate the posture of the Blessed Mother in the moment of the Annunciation — when the Archangel Gabriel asked her to bear the Son of God," said Brother Gabriel, who processed simple vows in the Benedictine order on Feb. 3 at Conception Abbey in northwestern Missouri.

"She had no idea what that would mean for her — the absolute challenge of faith, to eventually follow her Son to Calvary and see him suffer and die," the monk continued.

"But in that docility, she said 'yes,'" he stated. "That's what I want to do, as well."

Benedictines are monks or nuns who take vows of obedience, stability, and conversion of life, which includes the traditional evangelical counsels of poverty and chastity — combining a life of contemplation, apostolic service and intentional community according to the sixth-century Rule of St. Benedict.

They profess vows of poverty, chastity, obedience to God through their abbot, and stability — meaning that they remain in community in one place.

Benedictine monks have

been calling Conception Abbey home for 150 years.

Many priests of this diocese received part of their seminary formation at Conception Seminary College, founded and led by the monks of Conception.

That's how Brother Gabriel arrived in their company.

Early interest

Brother Gabriel was one of three children born to Jim and Diane Chinn.

He grew up on a farm south of Clarence and received his Sacraments in St. Patrick Church and in neighboring St. Mary Church in Shelby.

"It was just a wonderful community to grow up in," he said. "You knew everyone, you had a lot of friends."

His father became Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults when Brother Gabriel was in middle school.

"That was a wonderful journey that I was old enough to participate in and watch," the son recalled.

Members of young Daniel's family encouraged him to pursue his childhood interest in God and spirituality. Among them were his grandmother, Carlene Waack, whom he remembers as "a great woman of prayer."

He spoke openly about wanting to grow up to be a priest.

"I had what I'd call a fascination with the Church itself and 'what is its relationship to Jesus, and what is the meaning of all this?'" he recalled.

His interest branched out into the Gospels and the Psalms. Fellow parishioners began encouraging him and praying for him to find his way to the Priesthood.

Among them was Father Christopher Cordes, who served as pastor of the Shelby and Clarence parishes from 1999-2002.

"They encouraged me to

consider going to seminary," said Brother Gabriel. "So I said, 'Yes, I'll go to the seminary and give this some real thought.'"

He entered Conception Seminary College as a seminarian of the Jefferson City diocese.

"Being here was really my first exposure to monastic life," he recalled. "I came here and saw firsthand a group of men living together in community, praying together, working together, all for the glory of God."

He felt drawn to that life.

"It spoke to my heart," he said.

Not quite ready

The future monk talked to Bishop John R. Gaydos, now retired, of Jefferson City; Father Joseph Corel, who was diocesan vocation director; and Father David Veit, who was director of seminarians, about his desire to explore monastic life.

"They were very supportive," he recalled.

Father Daniel Merz, a priest of the diocese, was serving at Conception Seminary College as vice rector and dean of students.

"He was supportive and very challenging," Brother Gabriel recalled. "He challenged me to grow quite a bit, and I appreciated that very much."

Brother Gabriel looked into other monastic communities but decided to enter formal discernment with the Benedictines at Conception.

"I found a community here that fit," he said. "It seemed like it was home."

But after two years in the seminary and almost a year in the novitiate at Conception, he still wasn't sure.

"Basically, I was afraid to make a commitment," he said. "There were other avenues I



Benedictine Brother Gabriel (formerly Daniel) Chinn professes simple vows in the Benedictine Order in the presence of Abbot Benedict Neenan, OSB, on Feb. 3 in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey in northwestern Missouri on Feb. 3.

— Photo from the Conception Abbey Facebook page

wanted to pursue."

He left the novitiate, went back to school, finished his teaching degree and taught English for two and a half years near Kansas City.

A friend, Benedictine Father Paul Sheller, invited him to return to Conception for a co-ed retreat for young adults.

A few days later, the monastery's director of development encouraged him to apply for an opening in her office. He accepted.

"I found it very helpful to see monastic life in a new way while I was not actively discerning," he said. "I was here, believing in the work we do for seminary formation and providing a space for people to encounter God through the witness of our monastic life."

"I was blessed to speak to our many supporters and develop relationships with them," he said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he and a group of friends in nearby Maryville started gathering to ask big questions about their lives and what God really wanted from each of them.

He talked to Abbot Benedict Neenan, leader of the Benedictines at Conception,

who finally encouraged him to come back and "really do the work of discernment" — praying and listening for God's direction.

"It became clear that I needed to discern monastic life within the monastery," said Brother Gabriel. "I needed to give myself over to this vocation once again and find out for sure."

Back in the novitiate, removed from many of the pressures and distractions of society and the world, he came to understand what God was asking of him.

"We don't run away from the

world to come to the monastery," he noted. "We just carry the world with us in a different way."

For years to come

One of the keys to Benedictine monastic life is the vow of stability.

"That means I'm going to commit myself to live at this monastery — with these people, in this place — in service to God for the rest of my life," said Brother Gabriel.

"This is where I'm going to serve God in whatever way I'm being called," he said. "These are the people that I'm going to pray next to, that I'm going to work next to, quite possibly for the next 50 or 60 years."

Living in intentional community with people of sometimes radically different backgrounds and perspectives can be difficult.

"But when this is your vocation, the people here will help you bear your burdens and enter into a deeper relationship with God, and you will spend your life doing the same for them," he said.

That mutuality helps the monks accomplish great things

See BROTHER GABRIEL, page 23

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Kirksville author seeks out St. Joseph's humanity in new novel

By Jay Nies

The foster father of the Word Made Flesh is conspicuously wordless in the Canon of Sacred Scripture.

What would he say if he could tell his side of the story?

"He's the only man in the history of the world to live with two perfect people," noted Joseph Benevento PhD., author of a new novel, *My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son* (Addison & Highsmith imprint of Histria Books), to be released on March 28.

"Joseph and Mary had a more interesting ride than most people might imagine," said the author, a member of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and a professor of English at Truman State University.

"It had to be complicated," Dr. Benevento asserted. "Jesus is divine, and Mary was conceived without sin. Joseph was just a regular guy. It couldn't have been easy."

Employing humor, pathos, decades of literary prowess and a lifetime of being Catholic, Dr. Benevento gives voice to a man who loves, doubts, obeys, laughs and occasionally weeps in this valley of tears.

"The main idea of the book is that St. Joseph finally gets to speak," said Dr. Benevento. "It's just Joseph telling his story of how he did the things he needed to do."

"We take for granted that he was a righteous man, and once the angel visited him, he was good to go," the author noted. "In my book, he's a person who has his doubts and sometimes second-guesses what he should do."

The story begins with the Annunciation and continues to the moment of Joseph's death — "which is a little bit before Jesus's ministry, so it covers essentially 30 years," said Dr. Benevento.

"We don't know anything about those years, except for when Jesus stayed behind with the Elders in the Temple," he noted. "The rest is something I could use my imagination to think about what it might have been like."

Early chapters focus on messages from angels, Mary's

visit to her cousin Elizabeth, the journey to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, and the arrival of the shepherds and the Three Wise Men — all documented in the Bible.

"Then, my imagination kicks in," said Dr. Benevento. "There are chapters on their time in Egypt, on Jesus growing up and learning the craft, on Joseph and Jesus going fishing together."

The book is true to Catholic teaching, including that Mary remained a virgin throughout her life.

"That figures into their married life — what Joseph gave up out of respect for what God desired for Mary," said Dr. Benevento.

Joseph's narration is disarmingly candid.

"It's my attempt to think of him as fully human," said Dr. Benevento.

The author pointed out that numerous saints throughout history — St. Augustine, St. Francis and St. Paul, for

cracking angel named Shlomo, who's a bit disheveled," Dr. Benevento noted. "All of which makes Joseph wonder if he's really being visited by an angel at all."

The reader follows Joseph from frustration, doubt and confusion to a deeper, more complete relationship with Mary, along with clear determination that he hasn't lived in vain.

"I wanted to be sure that I was doing right by these characters as much as I could," said Dr. Benevento, "because they are people in heaven and I'm just me."

Positive early reviews for the book include one from Jesuit Father Patrick Gilger, a theology professor at Loyola University in Chicago.

He told the author that it "feels like an experience of Ignatian prayer at times" — which includes immersing oneself in the stories of the Bible as an active participant.

Chapter and verse

My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son is Dr. Benevento's 16th book and his sixth novel.

He's published several collections of poetry and fiction, including a three-book mystery series involving an erring priest, his wisecracking brother and a quest for redemption.

Dr. Benevento's first novel, *Plumbing in Harlem*, is based on his mother's battle with cancer.

"She had a great devotion to the saints," the author noted. "Through treatment and the intercession of the saints, she wound up recovering and living until she was 91."

He has also had poems, stories, essays and reviews published in nearly 300 publications, including *U.S. Catholic*, *Dappled Things*, *St. Anthony Messenger* and *The Catholic Missourian*.

He edited and wrote the foreword to *Brief Tracks*, a collection of poems by friend, mentor and fellow Mary Immaculate parishioner, the late

example — struggled to find their way before fully absorbing God's grace.

"Why wouldn't we think that Joseph had difficult things to get through in order to get to where he finally needed to be?" he asked.

"Et beati Ioseph"

In *My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son*, the angel who visits Joseph is not the Archangel Gabriel, who visited Mary.

"Joseph's is more of a wise-



Joseph Benevento PhD is author of 16 books, including *My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son*.

Jim Thomas PhD.

Patron saint

A grandson of Italian immigrants, Joseph Benevento was born and raised in the Queens borough of New York City.

It was a time and place where a person's saint day was almost as important as his or her birthday.

"You'd get a card, and people would always wish you a happy name day," he recalled.

At the same time, St. Joseph's feastday was and remains an important observance in New York neighborhoods.

"The Italian bakeries make a special pastry just for that week," said Dr. Benevento.

His family was unabashedly devout, with proud ancestral ties to Pietrelcina, Italy, birthplace of St. Padre Pio.

"I'm from a family of seven children," said Dr. Benevento. "My home parish was St. Teresa of Avila. Two of my sisters still live in the neighborhood, so I still get back to that church from time to time."

He went to Catholic grade school and a seminary high school, where he explored a possible calling to Priesthood.

"I wound up realizing that that wasn't for me," he said.

His childhood piety receded during his undergraduate and graduate studies at New York University, Ohio State University and Michigan State University.

"I never would have ever

said, 'No I'm not Catholic anymore,'" he stated. "But certainly, I would skip some church and I'd do a lot of thinking."

"The most sense"

Dr. Benevento moved to Kirksville 40 years ago to teach creative writing and literature courses at Truman State.

"I came here for a first job," he said. "I thought I'd be here for just a while, but I met and married a girl from Palmyra. We raised our four kids here. I love it here."

His wife and their children helped rekindle his ardor.

"But to be totally honest, I'm still the kind of person that questions aspects of the faith, the Church," Dr. Benevento acknowledged. "I've been dismayed by some of the scandals.

"But I always come back to — I believe in Christ, and the Catholic way of looking at things makes the most sense to me," he said.

After four decades, he's now preparing to retire at the end of the current semester.

His farewell reception, including a book-signing and reading from his and some of his favorite authors' and poets' works, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, in the Kirksville Newman Center near the Truman State campus.

The theme will be, "Saying Goodbye: How Did It Go So Fast?"

Friends from Mary Immaculate Parish, along with former students from as far away as Arkansas, plan to attend.

"I'm very flattered and humbled by that," said Dr. Benevento.

The first poem he plans to share will be "Sister Mary Leo," about his first-grade teacher, who was kind and taught him how to read.

"We'll also have music," he stated. "I like to sing. I like to read out loud."

My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target and other online outlets and at Dr. Benevento's book-signing events.

QUESTION CORNER

Holy days of obligation; Vegetarians in Lent

By Jenna Marie Cooper J.C.L.

Q: Why do Holy Days of Obligation differ from year to year, diocese to diocese, and around the world? (Los Angeles, California)



A: Holy days of obligation — days when Catholics are obligated to attend Mass — are discussed in canon 1246 in the *Code of Canon Law*. This canon first describes Sundays as the “primordial holy day of obligation” for the entire Church throughout the world, as Sundays are the day which traditionally — from the time of the Apostles — the Church makes a special point to recall Christ’s resurrection. Canon 1246 adds that besides Sundays, other universal holy days of obligations include: “the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, [Christmas] the Epiphany, the Ascension, the Body and Blood of Christ, [Corpus Christi] Holy Mary the Mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her Assumption, Saint Joseph, Saint Peter and Saint Paul the Apostles, and All Saints.”

However, section 2 of this same canon goes on to tell us that with the prior approval of the Holy See in Rome, local bishops’ conferences can: “suppress some of the holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday.” In other words, a bishops’ conference can make some holy days of obligation non-obligatory for the faithful in their territory, and/or move the celebration of that feast to a Sunday, when the faithful will already be attending Mass.

This is generally done for pastoral reasons. For instance, a country with a large, spread-out rural population might find it genuinely burdensome to travel to the nearest church twice in one week.

For similar pastoral reasons, a bishops’ conference can also add holy days of obligation specific to its own area. For example, Ireland includes St. Patrick’s Day as a holy day of obligation because of the great importance this saint has to the Irish people — even though the life and witness of St. Patrick might be less immediately relevant to, say, the people of Italy.

But of course, just because a particular feast day is not an obligation, it does not mean that the faithful can’t attend Mass that day anyway! It can be a beautiful practice to go to Mass on a feast that isn’t strictly obligatory simply to enter more deeply into the spirituality of our liturgical year.

Q: How do vegetarians or vegans, who do not eat meat, participate in this Lenten discipline of the Church? (Indianapolis, Indiana)

A: Strictly speaking with respect to the Lenten discipline of abstinence on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent, vegetarians already fulfill the requirement of the law simply by not eating meat. The Church does not demand that those who abstain from meat on a regular basis tack on an additional penance to compensate for their routine, habitual vegetarianism.

However, it could be spiritually fruitful for a vegetarian to consider freely giving up something else they perceive as a sacrifice personally equivalent to a carnivore’s Lenten abstinence. This would have to be something the individual vegetarian discerns with their confessor or spiritual director.

Like every other Catholic, a vegetarian between the ages of 18-59 would also still be required to practice the Lenten discipline of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Incidentally, it might be good to recall that while most Catholics are now only obligated to abstain from meat during Ash Wednesday and Fridays in Lent, the Church actually

See QUESTION, page 18

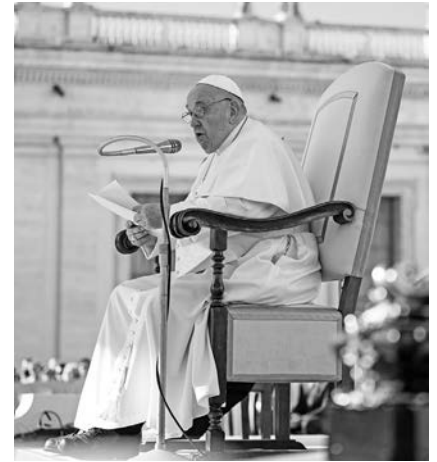
Papal Audience

March 15, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on missionary zeal, we now consider the apostolic dimension of evangelization. In the Creed, we profess that the Church is “apostolic.” An “apostle” is literally one who is “sent.” In the Scriptures, we read that Jesus chose the twelve Apostles, called them to himself and then sent them forth to proclaim the Gospel. After his resurrection, he appeared to the Twelve and said: “As the Father has sent me, so now I send you,” breathing upon them the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins (Jn. 20:21-22). Within the diversity of ministries and charisms in the Body of Christ, all the baptized are called and sent forth to advance the Church’s apostolate. Those who are ordained have received the mission of teaching, governing and sanctifying in Jesus’ name and authority, yet all the members of the faithful, as sharers in the Lord’s priestly, prophetic and regal office, are called to be missionary disciples, “apostles in an apostolic Church.” May the recognition of our common dignity and equality inspire us to ever-greater unity and cooperation in proclaiming, by word and example, the good news of our salvation in Christ.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially the groups from Sweden and the United States of America. With prayerful good wishes that this Lent will be a time of grace and spiritual renewal for you and your families, I invoke upon all of you joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Laurie’s St. Patrick statue from Ireland once was lost

By Jay Nies

The late Father Fred Barnett never let a favor from heaven go to waste.

“Pray for a miracle, and you get one,” the longtime pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Laurie was fond of saying.

Witness the limestone sculpture staring out from the wedge-shaped courtyard between St. Patrick Church and the rectory.

Parishioners were awaiting delivery of their patron saint’s larger-than-life likeness as the current St. Patrick Church was nearing completion in 1980.

Renowned Sculptor Arthur J. Breen of Dublin had spent months transforming a block of his homeland’s bedrock into the saint’s stoic visage — shamrock, crozier and subdued snake included.

Mr. Breen completed the artwork in January of that year, crated it and sent it on its way.

Longtime Laurie parishioner Donald Drake recently called around to construct a narrative of what happened next.

“It got lost!” he said of the statue. “No one knew where it was. They didn’t have online tracking back then.”

Fellow parishioners told Mr. Drake that the



statue was scheduled to arrive three weeks before St. Patrick’s Day.

“It was to be dedicated in conjunction with our annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade,” he stated. “But the days kept passing, and there was no statue.”

Prayers and sighs ascended the highest mountains while work on the church progressed.

Fr. Barnett, who retired as pastor in 2006 and died five years later, often reminisced about the day the statue finally arrived out of the blue.

One parishioner told Mr. Drake about there being a big commotion that day, but not remembering what it was for.

He asked if she knew anyone else who might remember.

“None who are alive,” she told him.

Longtime parish employee Rose Vanderbeck heard Fr. Barnett repeat the story many times over the de-

cares.

“He said he and a bunch of men from Prison Industries were in the church installing the pews when a big truck pulled in at high noon on St.

See ST. PATRICK, page 23

Up and down the mountain this Lent

By Sr Constance Veit, Isp



Jesus' Transfiguration is one of the most dramatic scenes in the Gospels. It is a central image of Lent, reminding us that during this season we are invited to ascend a high mountain with Jesus to live a unique spiritual experience.

Pope Francis has chosen the Transfiguration as the theme for his Lenten message this year.

Highlighting the voice coming from the cloud, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Mt. 17:5), he asks us to listen to Jesus.

"Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us" in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy.

"May that Word not fall on deaf ears," Francis writes, suggesting that even if we cannot attend daily Mass, we can still study the daily bible readings.

In addition to the Scriptures, he

writes, "The Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need."

So our first task this Lent is to listen to Jesus speaking to us in the Word of God and in other people.

Pope Francis offers us a second Lenten proposal.

Referring again to the Transfiguration, he suggests that we resist the temptation to take refuge in a religiosity made up of dramatic, mountaintop experiences, but that we "go down to the plain" strengthened by these experiences to be "artisans of synodality" in ordinary life.

As I reflect on this theme, I am transported back to Lent of 2020, when we were suddenly thrust into a surreal situation with the onset of COVID-19.

The first weeks of the pandemic, which coincided with Lent, were intense on both the spiritual and practical levels.

Strangers in hazmat suits walked among us in our home for the elderly and we were forced to bury ourselves under layers of PPE.

As COVID struck more and more

residents, a dark cloud hung over us — a mix of grief and fear of the unknown.

There were also moments of intense light, however.

As we went into lockdown, we were deprived of daily Mass, but we watched it online each day.

We managed to find grace and strength through meditation on the Lenten readings and spiritual communions.

Even as we felt the shadow of death engulfing us, I had a strong sense that Christ was present in the midst of it all — not in his transfigured or risen glory, but in the vulnerability of his passion and death.

I also had a heightened sense of mission, believing that Christ was counting on me to love and serve the elderly to the best of my ability, despite the many obstacles continually posed by COVID.

Regardless of the seemingly dire circumstances in which we found ourselves that Lent, we never doubted the presence of Christ in the person of the elderly, as our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan

had always said, "Never forget that the Poor are Our Lord."

Now that the pandemic has largely receded, we have descended the mountain, so to speak, back to a more normal life. Yet we are confronted with new issues indicating that life in our homes will never be quite the same.

Our greatest challenge is the critical shortage of qualified caregivers to assist us in our apostolate.

Like half of the nursing homes across the United States, our homes have been forced to limit the number of new admissions because we have not been able to recruit and retain enough staff members to care for the full number of elderly residents we could accommodate.

How can it be, I often ask Our Lord, that at the very moment when the needs of seniors are greater than ever due to the ravages of the pandemic, and the population of older persons is growing exponentially, there are fewer caregivers prepared to meet their needs?

See SR. CONSTANCE, page 19

Learn media fasting for intentional living

By Sr. Nancy Usselman



Every Lent, I wonder what I will do to enter more profoundly into this penitential season: Should I refrain from sweets, coffee, gluten? All are good and probably healthy choices. But as I reflect, I realize that my attachment to digital technology needs an assessment. My Lenten penance includes a media fast.

Did you know there is a Global Day of Unplugging? Having been around for a decade, it began through the efforts of wellness advocates and falls this year on March 3-4 for a full 24-hour unplugging. It's appropriate that it lands during Lent since it fits with one of the Church's three Lenten penances — fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting during Lent is the Church's way of helping us take an assessment of our lives and to reflect on our relationship with Christ.

Why a digital fast?

The sometimes unhealthy choices we make with our digital media may increase our anxiety and lead us to isolation — from the people we most care about but also from God. That's a good reason for fasting, not from food, but from our screens.

Doing a digital media fast provides

numerous benefits to our physical, mental and spiritual health.

1. Awareness of God's presence: We recognize with greater clarity God's grace at work in and around us and so respond with generosity and love to a God who pours his superabundant love upon us.

2. Increased energy: Prolonged screen time can sap energy, especially if it is at night, right before going to bed, through texting or viewing. This prevents restful sleep.

3. Better focus: Shutting off phone notifications during work or study can help the brain focus on one task at a time, thereby increasing attention.

4. Inner peace: Putting away devices to notice who and what is around you affords an opportunity to recognize God in the present moment, where peace is found.

5. Better relationships: The more we give attention to those we love, and especially to God, who speaks to us in silence, the stronger our relationships will be, and that will improve our quality of life.

Ways of digital fasting

Just like fasting from food and drink, media fasts can be done in various ways. They can be intermittent — especially if we need our screens for work or study — and so can be targeted to specific me-

See SR. NANCY, page 19

REFLECTION

The other temptations

By Mark Saucier

Once a month, I meet a friend for breakfast. We've only known each other a few years, but there was an immediate bond that has deepened with time.

We talk about news, sports, families, but most of all, we talk about faith — our struggles, our progress and the hints of God in our lives.

We call our time together "mutual spiritual direction." Others probably refer to it as "the blind leading the blind" — but then the sightless often have another way.

My friend and I have very little in common. I was blessed with a loving, supportive family, while he grew up in the throes of abuse and addiction.

He found his way into a Bible-rooted, Spirit-fruited religion, while I have tried to be Catholic.

He made a living with his hands, while I relied on words. I visited the dark margins of the world, but he lived in them.

We have different politics, different hobbies, different lives — and that's what makes it so special.

Given our polarity, there is probably truth in something we agree on. Take the other day when our discussion turned to sin.

We both thought that sin is overrated. Oh, we agreed that it is real, destructive and life-sucking, but maybe we give it too much prominence.

"The wages of sin are death," Paul tells us. But apparently, those wages are paid on a commission basis. It is the commission of sins, acts of transgression, that are noted in our imagined pay ledger. We are urged to avoid temptation, the ever-present lure to indulge ourselves in the forbidden, and try to tread a sinless path.

While that's all good, Jesus reminds the rich young man that sinless is not what we're shooting for. Luke's beatitudes and Matthew's day of judgement are much more about doing than not doing.

What if we looked at our daily lives through a different prism?

What if we noted temptations to virtue, those fleeting opportunities in every day to do some small good for someone else?

What if an occasional examination of conscience focused not on our failures, but on the acts of kindness we did that day?

What if we looked for those "good temptations" that we missed? Not to dwell on the selfish reasons for resisting them, but to remind ourselves that our days are full of invitations to live, as Genesis says, "in the image of God."

Just not sinning is never enough, my friend and I agreed.

Encounter

The Joy of Security

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Fr. Dan Merz
with Ashley Wiskirchen

In the fall of 2021, Catholic Charities' Refugee Services Program established Community Sponsorships — an opportunity for local civic groups, churches and Catholic parishes to partner with Catholic Charities in welcoming refugees and helping them to integrate successfully as they rebuild their lives in their new communities.

Community Sponsors help Catholic Charities, the only local resettlement agency in mid-Missouri, connect newcomers to the resources they need to thrive. They are matched with newcomers and commit to journeying alongside them throughout the many joys and trials of resettlement. They share life together for a time, navigating the many daily, weekly and monthly tasks — from making a dental appointment to preparing for tax season — with deep care. As newcomers find self-sufficiency, their work transitions from service to friendship.

The generational work of love performed by our Community Sponsor groups has changed the course of many lives for the better and will leave a lasting imprint on each family welcomed by Catholic Charities Refugee Services, and each community that welcomes refugees. If you are interested in learning more about Community Sponsorship for your parish, family or another civic group, you can learn more at ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/community-sponsorship.

St. Thomas More Newman Parish was among the first to answer the call for Community Sponsors in the spring of 2022. This week, Father Dan Merz, pastor and Community Sponsorship group leader, shares his experience of joy as a Community Sponsor alongside his parishioners.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." (Jn. 15:11)

My parish's community sponsorship group was in the process of "onboarding" — ensuring each of our group members were vetted and trained — to sponsor a small group or family of evacuees from Afghanistan when Catholic Charities hosted an afternoon for their refugee clients at a bowling alley in Columbia.

The bowling trip closed out a cultural orientation presentation for newcomers; and what better way to experience local culture in the Midwest than to relax with friends and family and enjoy a few hours of bowling?

I decided to join the group and get a sense of the atmosphere and mood among the adults and children.

Some were quiet and reserved, some were talkative, some were eager to "throw" the bowling ball down the alley.

As more and more people

began to arrive, I saw the usual buildup of buzz for relaxation and entertainment.

One man quietly shared with me how he and his family were forced to flee the country, and how his relatives still in Afghanistan were still in danger.

His English wasn't perfect, but I understood him nonetheless, time we spent talking was meaningful, albeit intense.

He had been a driver for the U.S. military and had heard news of people who knew him being interrogated as to his whereabouts — members of the Taliban arriving, pounding on their doors.

During a lull in the conversation, my attention was caught by a young woman full of laughter who seemed very eager to "throw" a bowling ball down as many alleys as she could one after the other.

After a while, she ran up to me and grabbed my hand, tugging me in the direction of the arcade games, with a huge smile and saying over and over, "Please, oh please, please, please."



Clients of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's Refugee Services program enjoy an afternoon of bowling at AMF Town & Country Lanes in Columbia, following a day of learning about American culture with presentations, discussions and education to help clients integrate well into their new communities.

She and the others had been given a few tokens, and she wanted me to guide the Crane Machine to pull up a prize for her.

Given her talent at bowling, I was sure she could work the Crane Machine better than me, but at her repeated insistence I tried — unsuccessfully, I'm embarrassed to add.

But she and her friends didn't seem in any way disappointed.

They just seemed happy for the opportunity to enjoy some time together with no worries.

A few days later, as I was walking down the sidewalk next to the Newman Center Parish, there walking toward me was the same young woman with a couple of friends.

It was a beautiful day and they were talking and laughing, talking animatedly, and enjoying their walk.

As we drew near, she point-

ed at me with a shout of recognition.

Her English did not extend much beyond greetings, thank you, and "oh please," but it was obvious that she was happy to see a familiar face.

We greeted each other and I pointed to the church building as the place where I worked.

She, of course, is Muslim, and was very respectful and interested.

It was a brief exchange, but full of smiles and joy.

It struck me, then, how full of joy she was.

Like the man I had spoken with at the bowling alley, she had also worked for the U.S. government in Afghanistan and was forced to flee for her life.

She had come to a foreign land, culture, and language with few friends and fewer family.

And yet, she was joyful.

And what struck me even more was how comfortable she was both in the bowling alley and on the sidewalk.

Her life up to this point had been so vastly different from mine and many who live in Columbia, yet here she was — kind, vibrant and so polite with her loose headscarf among laughing friends.

That's when it finally dawned on me: she wasn't afraid.

She felt secure, and that security opened a world of possibilities for her.

I don't think her security was only based on being away from the danger of the Taliban.

It seemed deeper.

She had found a space where she could trust the people around her, and where she could trust that the situation around her wouldn't change.

That opened up for her the possibility of making new friendships and new connections.

And in that trustful security, she was able to let her extroverted and effervescent personality shine out.

She had been given the gift of joy, but now she was able to share the gift.

And with gratitude in my own heart, I began to experience her joy, too.

Fr. Dan Merz is the pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia.

Ordained in 1998, he holds a doctorate in Sacred Liturgy from the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy in Rome.

He taught courses and worked in seminary formation for 10 years at Conception Seminary College, and has also worked for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington D.C.

With an appreciation for St. Thomas More Newman Parish's tradition of justice and volunteerism, Fr. Merz approved and led the parish's Community Sponsorship efforts to collaborate in welcoming newcomers to Columbia alongside Catholic Charities' Refugee Services program.

Author leads readers to holy sites throughout Missouri

By Jay Nies

Patrick Murphy wears rose-window-colored glasses on his jaunts through Missouri's villages and metropolises.

Raised "culturally Catholic" before being properly welcomed into the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Mr. Murphy combines the "energy of a convert" with the familiarity of a "lifer" while on pilgrimage to holy places throughout the state.

"I think I find everything a bit more exciting," he asserted, "as in, 'Look at this! And then there's this! That's really cool!'"

Mr. Murphy's sense of wonder, reverence and humor are on full display in his warmly written and delightfully illustrated new book, *Places to Pray: Holy Sites in Catholic Missouri* (Reedy Press).

He plans to make a presentation about the book and sign copies from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, at the Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St. in Jefferson City.

The book, with destinations organized by diocese, is the result of a year's worth of pilgrimages to busy street corners and quiet hamlets.

Featured locales in the Jefferson City diocese include: St. Louis of France Church in Bonnots Mill; St. Peter Church in Brush Creek; St. Paul Church in Center; St. George Church in Hermann; St. Stephen Church in Indian Creek; the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception Church and St. Peter Church in Jefferson City; the National Shrine of Mary Mother of the Church in Laurie; the Shrine of St. Patrick in St. Patrick; the Sacred Heart Chapel in Sedalia; and the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkeburg.

"I knew when I started this thing that it was going to be some kind of journey," Mr. Murphy stated. "When people embark on any kind of pilgrimage, you know something is going to happen, although you're not sure what, but you're open to it.

"So I pursued this with the same openness as going on a pilgrimage: 'God, just show me,'" he said.

"And in visiting such a variety of places, from tiny little stone churches at the end of rural roads, to the massive basilicas

in the cities, I got a broader sense of my religion," he stated. "I could see it's bigger and more diverse than I ever imagined."

"The right place"

Mr. Murphy is a familiar face and voice in and near St. Louis. He has produced scores of documentary films about the city's history and culture and for many years was the announcer for the local PBS affiliate.

His *The Irish in St. Louis: From Shanty to Lace Curtain*, published a year ago, drew wide acclaim in his home city.

He and his wife, Annie, grew steady into their pilgrimage shoes. Both were raised by Catholic parents who did not regularly practice their faith.

"My dad got home from the War and kind of lapsed," Mr. Murphy noted. "I think he just didn't want anyone telling him what to do."

Nonetheless, "I always felt Catholic," the author stated. "Genetically Catholic. Culturally Catholic.

"And I do believe there is a culture to Catholicism," he said. "Just by talking to someone, it pops up on your radar within 30 seconds to a minute that they're Catholic.

"When that happens, the light clicks on, you feel a kinship, and before you know it, you're talking about soccer. Or fish fries. Or what high school you went to," he said.

He pointed to the legions of Catholic artists, writers and filmmakers, some of whom try to escape their Catholic upbringing, but to no avail.

"We're drawn to themes that are important to all of us — redemption, forgiveness, guilt," he said.

And then there's the unmistakable Catholic sense of humor — filtered, in Mr. Murphy's case, through the wit of his Irish ancestors.

"We laugh at ourselves," he noted. "We don't want other people to laugh at us, but we're good at laughing at ourselves. And we have a lot to laugh about.

"I don't know if whenever Presbyterians or Methodists get together, they talk about being Presbyterian or Methodist," he stated. "But when Catholics get together, we talk about being Catholic."

About 15 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy went to Mass together in St. Ambrose Church on The Hill, St. Louis's famously Italian neighborhood.

"We're good at doing things in parallel," said Mr. Murphy. "We hadn't been to Mass in a long time — and we both looked at each other and said, 'This is it. We're gonna' do it. Where do you sign up? We're in the right place. Let's quit wasting time.'

"So, we converted," he said. "And since then, we've been extremely active" — first at St. Ambrose, and now at Holy Redeemer Parish in the suburb of Webster Groves, where Mr. Murphy's father, grandfather and great-grandfather received their sacraments.

Not crazy

Mr. Murphy said *Places to Pray* is a convergence of topics that excite him — including history, architecture, art, ethnic cultures and Catholic spirituality.

"And it's an opportunity to extend the journey of your own faith," he stated.

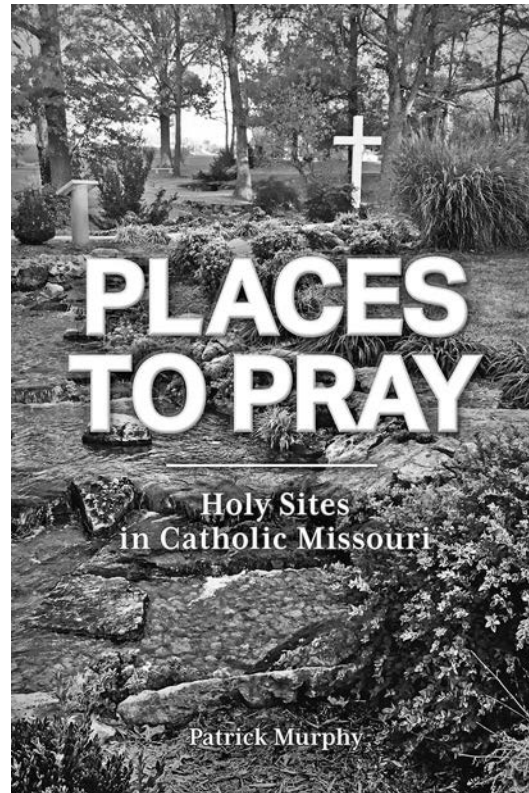
He marvels at how Catholics long ago realized that creating sacred, other-worldly environments helps people encounter God in prayer and really listen for his response.

"These are spaces that elevate you through architecture and artistry and music and light — what we often refer to as 'bells and smells,'" he said.

"They rely heavily on the senses to be able to take you to a place where you're more receptive to prayer," he stated. "I like that. It recognizes our humanity and the gift of our imaginations."

Interspersed among the author's bite-size chapters on shrines, basilicas, monasteries and chapels are simple explanations of Catholic concepts such as veneration of Mary and the saints; relics; the Rosary; special types of prayer such as Ignatian spirituality and the Divine Mercy Chaplet; and miracles.

"These are basically things that make a lot of non-Catho-



lics think we're crazy," said Mr. Murphy. "In focusing on some of them, I try to bring out the beauty and the truth and the reasons behind them."

He noted that many St. Louisans don't venture very often into the heartland.

"I was pleasantly surprised and was enlightened when I did," he said. "I went into so many Catholic communities, particularly around Jefferson City, that have amazing histories and strong traditions and vestiges of their ethnic cultures." He noted that when many European immigrants arrived in decades and centuries past, one of the first things they did was build a church.

"These places are sources of strong community and connections with history and identity," he said. "They built these noble and beautiful structures as places for prayer and community. And in the case of more than a few, they were also saying to those around them, 'We're here now, and we're not going anywhere — whether you like it or not.'"

"So quiet"

While gathering information and taking photos, Mr. Murphy was struck by the friendliness of local parishioners and their eagerness to share stories about their communities.

He was drawn to the stained-glass windows in St. Stephen Church in Indian Creek, in-

stalled in 1944 in memory of a parishioner who was killed in World War II.

"Little things like that that show me the power both of saints and communities," said Mr. Murphy.

Also notable to him were the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal on the grounds of a 200-year-old Vincentian seminary in Perryville, the inescapably French Catholic aura of the village of Old Mines and its St. Joachim and Ann Church, and the early-morning sunlight reflecting off the rustic stones of St. Peter Church in Brush Creek.

"Brush Creek was an amazing experience," he recalled. "Just getting there allows you a lot of quiet time in your own mind, driving through some breathtaking countryside."

Venerable Augustus Tolton, a son of two enslaved people, was baptized in 1854 where St. Peter Church now stands. He grew up to become the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

Names on headstones in the nearby cemetery point to waves of immigration in past centuries. But the section where enslaved people were laid to rest contains no names.

"The place really speaks to you," Mr. Murphy said. "It's so quiet, yet so much had happened there."

A time to whisper

Mr. Murphy hopes people won't just read about places featured and photographed in his book.

He wants them to get up and go.

"That feeling you get when you travel to places like Conception or Ava or Old Mines or Center — it's like you're passing through time," he said, "or time is standing still."

"You're lifted out of the muck of your daily life," he stated. "You're transformed, you're transfigured.

Besides, he said, "it's just

A feast before the fast

The St. Martin Parish Stewardship Council in St. Martins organized a Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, Feb. 21, the day before Lent began. About 300 people signed up for the dinner, which took place right after the 5:30 p.m. Tuesday Mass. "It was a great event," said Father Jason Doke, pastor. — Photo by Father Jason Doke



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DATE: March 23
TIME: 6 pm

All are invited to a presentation by John-Paul Buzard, FV

founder and president of the Buzard Organ Company, and Fred Bahr, tonal director for the company, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

The organ builders will speak about the tonal philosophy of their company and the unique design and construction of Opus 49, which will be installed in the renovated cathedral.

This event is free and open to the public.

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Pipes are calling: St. Clement Church organ is a jewel from the Emerald Isle

By Jay Nies

For 40 years, the organ in St. Clement Church in St. Clement has been speaking with a distinct brogue.

The church was the first in the United States to be outfitted with an instrument designed and custom-built by Kenneth Jones Organ Builders of Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

“It’s in very good shape,” said Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, and the diocese’s moderator for pipe organs. “It’s definitely a testament to its construction and voicing. Proof positive of the enduring value of real pipe organs.”

Kenneth Jones grew up in Ireland and studied organ-building mostly in Holland and worked in West Africa for 16 years. He founded his own company in 1973, building instruments for cathedrals, universities and parishes throughout Ireland, England and West Africa.

“He gave a new impetus to organ-building, richly inventive



The organ in St. Clement Church in St. Clement was built in Ireland and installed in 1983.

— Photo by Father Jeremy Secrist, Organ Historical Society database

in organ-case design, layout and mechanism design of any of his generation,” according to the company’s website (kennethjonespipeorgans.com).

Father Edward Doyle, now deceased, a Dublin native and priest of the Jefferson City

diocese, was pastor of St. Clement Parish from 1978-87.

The parish’s previous organ was near the end of its serviceable life, and parishioners were weighing their options.

Fr. Doyle was visiting family in Ireland in 1981 when he heard an organ built by Mr. Jones.

The priest visited the company’s workshop in Bray and liked the sounds he heard there.

He obtained cost estimates and presented the information to the St. Clement Parish Council upon his return.

Convinced by Fr. Doyle’s enthusiasm and finding the cost to be within acceptable parameters, the council invited Mr. Jones to visit the church.

Arriving in November of 1981 to measure the space and acoustics, he returned to Ireland to design and build an instrument with 888 pipes distributed over 17 ranks and controlled by 14 stops.

He came back to St. Clem-

ent in June 1983 to install the newly built instrument in a magnificent case near the front of the church, where it could be readily seen and heard.

Fr. Doyle described the in-

strument as the “Rolls-Royce of organs,” having a sweeter sound than most of its contemporaries.

See ORGAN, page 23

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WOMEN'S MINISTRY

From page 1

to be intentional about taking time to build ourselves and each other up. You've got to fill your own cup before you can fill someone else's."

Sometimes, just being together, sharing stories, listening and laughing out loud can make all the difference.

"There are so many things the world tells you is wrong," said Mrs. Prasad. "Women's ministry should be showing you what's right, and doing it joyfully."

Elevating and mobilizing these relationships is more than any parish or any office in the Chancery can do on its own.

"My philosophy for women's ministry is that many hands make for light work," said Mrs. Prasad. "We want to tap into the women who are stepping up in their communities."

By helping develop regional coalitions of women throughout the diocese, she hopes to give parishes the tools they need to build up women's ministries that are strong, holy and fruitful.

"The No. 1 thing they're asking us for is faith formation," she noted. "They want to see us have some events and bring in some speakers to help keep the fire going."

"Gathering together to grow in faith and be more deeply formed in it is a universal priority, whatever stage of life we're in — single, married, widowed, houses full of kids or empty nests," she said.

It's everywhere

Mrs. Prasad is adamant that women's ministry is happening every day, all over the diocese.

"Women are automatically involved in women's ministry whenever they minister to people in their lives — it's just part of what we do," she said.

"I'm hoping this office can be a means of putting a spotlight on that," she stated, "telling the story of what's already going on, and encouraging people who want to be a part of it."

Based on what had been set into motion before her arrival, her own experience and the results of an online survey conducted last spring, Mrs. Prasad put together mission and vision statements for women's ministry.

"It's a starting place," she noted. "I wanted it to be very fluid, so that in every parish, in every group, in every coalition, women can tell me what they need my role to be for them."

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight approved the statements she submitted.

The mission of women's ministry in this diocese is: "Supporting women in their journey to sainthood by providing opportunities for growth in prayer, fellowship, service and faith formation/education."

The resulting vision is: "A community of women who look to the Church as the center of their lives and who actively seek to share the joys of their faith with others by participation in the life and mis-

sion of their parish."

How does that work in each community?

"I find that out by listening," said Mrs. Prasad. "It's not about anything being my idea. It needs to be our idea as a community."

"Be it done"

A helpful abbreviation Mrs. Prasad uses for women's ministry is "faith in action, together," which spells out "fiat."

That happens to be the Latin word for "Be it done," which the Blessed Mother said to the angel in consenting to be the mother of the Savior.

"My inspiration is from Mary," said Mrs. Prasad. "I dedicate my ministry to her, so that through her, we will point all women in our community to Jesus."

Mrs. Prasad has always been drawn to volunteering and helping out at church.

She believes the Holy Spirit guided her to this role, beginning with several friends encouraging her to apply for the position when it opened.

The process culminated with her praying the Novena of St. Therese of Lisieux and then unwittingly visiting a church that had been elaborately decorated with roses.

In many ways, this is something she's been preparing for all her life.

Having grown up in a parish that gave focus to her family's existence, "I feel that's the best vision for women's ministry: for the women of our diocese to look to the parish as the center of their human interactions," she said.

A group of women she came to know through volunteering at the Cathedral Parish gradually coalesced into a spiritual support group.

Several years ago, she and six friends started meeting weekly in order to pray a Consecration to Mary together.

"The Consecration to Mary is basically giving everything that you do — all your payers, all your works, all your petitions — over to Mary to give



Barbara Prasad

to Jesus," she said. "You just turn it over to her and ask her to use it in the best way possible."

The group still gathers each Thursday.

"I can't imagine not having that group of woman in my life," she said. "We've helped each other through illnesses in our families and the deaths of some of our parents."

"Always having them there, praying for me and getting together is really life-changing," she said.

Something to build on

In addition to working with local pastors to convene regional women's ministry coalitions, Mrs. Prasad is organizing two large diocesan events: a spring pilgrimage and a fall retreat.

"I hope these events help women get recharged and then take that with them back to their community and their parish," she said.

This year's women's pilgrimage will be held on Saturday, June 10, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

She's also working on cultivating a speaker's bureau, a book and movie club, a trove of online resources, and a robust presence on social media.

She sees all of this as a way to help the women of each parish use their God-given talents

to assist each other in becoming better disciples.

She's grateful to Mrs. Korsmeyer for laying the groundwork for fruitful women's ministry in the diocese.

"I'm especially thankful for all the work LeAnn put into forming the coalitions," said Mrs. Prasad. "It's really nice to be able to come in and take off running because of the groundwork she laid."

Having lively coalitions means no parish will have to "reinvent the wheel," she said.

Stop and listen

Mrs. Prasad suggested that women who feel drawn to some aspect of parish life

should pay close attention — it may be an invitation from the Holy Spirit.

"If there are things you want to see happen in your parish and your community, try reaching out and seeing how you can start making it happen," she said. "If you don't know how to do that, my office can be a resource for you."

"Get in touch with me, and we can explore together how to make it happen," she said.

Men can assist by being supportive and encouraging the women in their lives to get involved in their parishes and do what God is calling them to do.

"There are things we can all do to stay connected and make sure we're growing in faith," said Mrs. Prasad.

She asked for prayers for humility and openness to what God has in mind for her and for women's ministry in this diocese.

"Pray for us to keep his Church and his way as our guide," she suggested. "And we also need to pray for the capacity to do whatever we do with joy."

"Because if we approach this ministry with joy, that's what will make other people want to join in with us," she said.

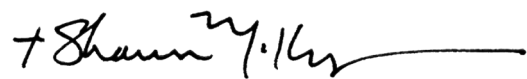
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DECREE

From page 3

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Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City on the 10th day of March in the Year of Our Lord 2023.



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



Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

Rest in peace, Sr. Laura Jean Spaeth SSND, educator, former Rolla Newman Center director, spiritual director

By Jay Nies

“Within every difficulty and struggle lies the opportunity for grace and transformation. The sooner we learn to let go and let God be in charge, the happier and wiser we will be.”

Sister Laura Jean Spaeth of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) spent most of her adult life learning to articulate that wisdom and put it ever more deeply into practice.

That effort concluded on Feb. 5 when Sr. Laura Jean, 79, died peacefully at Trinity Woods in Milwaukee.

She had served as director of the Newman Center in Rolla from 2009-2012 and then had given spiritual direction and retreats in this diocese until her election to congregational leadership in 2015.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 20 in Christ King Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

“She struggles no more,” a fellow sister stated before the Mass. “She experiences the transformation we all hope in, and she prays for us and always will.”

Sr. Laura Jean spent years serving as an educator, school administrator, SSND international counselor, local community-builder and one-on-one spiritual director.

“She was attentive to God’s presence and call in her life,” said Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, who lived in community with Sr. Laura Jean for three years.

“She was a good friend, co-worker and community member,” said Sr. Kathleen. “I am grateful for the gift she was to me and to so many.”

Catching a vocation

Sr. Laura Jean was born on Sept. 15, 1943, near West Bend, Wisconsin, the ninth of Isadore and Loraine Spaeth’s 12 children.

She and her siblings grew up on a 90-acre farm and in a family deeply rooted in the Catholic faith and their relationship to God and creation.

“They were convinced that their daily Rosaries — on their knees of course — were essential to the growth of their crops,” said Sister Susan Hebrueg of the School Sisters

of Notre Dame, who spoke before Sr. Laura Jean’s funeral.

With plenty of chores to go around, Sr. Laura Jean and her siblings saw going to school as their vacation time.

Sr. Laura Jean often snuck unto church to pray in the silence over recess.

The sisters who taught the Spaeth children were kind and generous, which helped Sr. Laura Jean and her older sister, Sister Gabriel Mary, discover their calling to religious life.

Sr. Laura Jean entered the SSND aspiranture, a high school for girls who were interested in becoming a sister, in Milwaukee.

Her first teaching assignment was in a rural school in northern Wisconsin.

She then was assigned to an inner-city school in Milwaukee, serving during violent Civil Rights clashes of the late 1960s.

While there, she professed final vows and completed her teaching degree.

She then went to Superior, Wisconsin, to serve as a full-time teacher, principal, director of religious education and superior of the local SSND community.

Over the summers, she earned a master’s degree in Scripture and theology at St. John’s University in Minnesota.

She was then summoned to join the staff of the Capuchin Justice and Peace Center in Milwaukee, focusing on the center’s educational aspects of the justice programs.

Three years in, she became the administrator.

She later spent a year participating in the Spiritual Integration Program at Regis College in Toronto, followed by two years directing the RE-NEW program at a parish in the heart of Milwaukee.

She was then appointed to serve as a resource staff person for the SSND’s worldwide general counsel in Rome.

Three years later, she became the director of a holistic renewal program in Glens Falls, New York, for men and women religious.

She was elected provincial leader of the SSNDs’ former Milwaukee province, helping to oversee the creation of a girls’ school for young Hispanic students in Milwaukee.

She served two five-year terms on the SSND general counsel in Rome, which involved visiting sisters who were ministering in more than 20 different countries.

“Holy listening”

Sr. Laura Jean was eager to return to local ministry when she got back to the United States.

She found out about an opening for director of the Rolla Newman Center, and applied for it.

She was grateful to be selected for that role, and treasured her time on campus and the friends she met there.

She especially enjoyed helping the students organize retreats and days of recollection.

“I feel I have been given so many opportunities and experiences in my life,” she said. “I feel called to share these gifts as well as my own humanness and weakness in this ministry in the ways God is calling me.”

Three years later, she moved to Jefferson City to help satisfy numerous requests from women and men seeking spiritual direction, as well as leading retreats and workshops.

“It’s guiding people in spirituality,” she stated at that time. “That can be through retreats, prayer days, workshops, discernment — the whole thing of facilitating the growth of people in their hunger for God.”

“My own life’s passion has first and foremost been to grow in personal spirituality, to live an integral life,” she continued. “And it’s been my desire to help facilitate that same growth in other people and help them satisfy their hunger for God.”

She loved the diversity that came with working with many different people.

She emphasized that the foundation of spiritual direction is “holy listening” — “helping people listen to God’s promptings in the joys and difficulties He sets before us in life.”

After three years, she was elected to the leadership team of the SSNDs’ newly created Central Pacific Province, headquartered in St. Louis, which takes in a large part of the United States.

She found out that she had cancer shortly after her term in



Sr. Laura Jean Spaeth (1943-2023)

leadership ended.

Following treatment and a yearlong sabbatical, she moved to an SSND community at a Milwaukee parish, eager to return to teaching and ministry.

“Unfortunately, that dream couldn’t come to fruition,” due to declining health, Sr. Susan noted.

Sister and friend

“Laura Jean was a wonderful beacon of light in so many ways,” said Franciscan Father Ralph Parthie, who presided at her funeral. “She was a woman of faith who taught and encouraged the rest of us to have faith.”

“She showed us every day of her life ... to continue to strive and to work and to be focused on the love that is being given to us,” he said.

“She had a beautiful smile

and exuded kindness and grace,” said one of Sr. Laura Jean’s nieces. “She poured her whole heart and soul into everything she did. She encouraged people to enjoy the little things in a loving way.”

“She was like the matriarch of our family,” another niece stated. “She truly listened and never judged.”

Sister Julie Brandt SSND lived in community with Sr. Laura Jean in Jefferson City for two years.

They first met at the SSND General Chapter in Brazil in 2007, where Sr. Julie drafted official summaries in English of each week’s proceedings under the supervision of Sr. Laura Jean.

Striving for precision and perfection, Sr. Laura Jean routinely saturated the first drafts with red ink and called for several more drafts before approving the finished documents.

Albeit leery from that experience, “I quickly found that she was a wonderful community member,” Sr. Julie recalled of their time together in Jefferson City. “She had a delightful, welcoming spirit.”

Later on, they got together once or twice a month in St. Louis, while Sr. Julie was traveling back and forth from Jefferson City to work on her doctorate.

“It was a wonderful gift, really,” Sr. Julie recalled. “She was no longer the exacting supervisor, but a sister and a friend.”

Msgr. Cox leads prayer at Right to Life event

Monsignor David Cox, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend, led the opening prayer for a rally in the Missouri State Capitol Rotunda on March 8, 2023, during the Missouri Right to Life Pro-Life Action Day.

Loving Father, you formed man from the dust of the Earth and breathed into him the gift of life.

Today, we gather to praise you for that precious gift of life that you have given to us.

We pray that we may recognize the sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death.

We pray for our country, that it may be faithful to the vision of our founding fathers as one nation under God.

May our president and all elected officials enact laws that protect the most innocent and vulnerable among us.

May we use the gift of life that you have given us for your greater honor and glory. Let us praise you with every breath that we take!

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Missouri's wildlife has developed and evolved many special abilities to both _____ and to thrive.
7. Every millimeter of a catfish's _____ from its whiskers to tail is covered with taste buds. This isn't to savor flavors but to find food in dark, murky water.
10. "Yes, Lord God almighty, your judgments are _____ and just," (Revelation 16:7).
11. 1/12 of a foot.
13. State bordering only the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts (abbr.).
14. A person who looks down their nose at people.
16. The attack on Pearl Harbor in Dec. of 1941 sent U.S. soldiers marching off _____ (2 wds.).
18. "One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse _____," —Helen Keller (2 wds.).
20. It fell to Pope Paul _____ to courageously implement Vatican II.
21. A thin, tapered tool to fill in gaps between objects, with putty or grout, for ex.
22. Paddlefish have huge flat noses which are used not for smell, but more like a TV _____ to detect the weak electrical signals of insects, tiny crustaceans and other plankton drifting in the water. Yum, yum (?).
25. _____ Tse Tung; early Chi-

- nese Communist leader.
26. 7th note.
27. Top _____ is an 1986 action/drama movie starring Tom Cruise. It is supported by one of the most popular soundtracks to date. One song won an academy award.
28. Restaurant list.
29. Word before cube or cream.
31. A place for deep cleansing and massages.
32. One reason butterflies don't wear _____ (!) is because they have "tongues" on their toes! Landing on a flower, a butterfly's feet instantly tells if there is nectar there or if it's a safe place to lay eggs.
34. Airport security agency.
37. Prefix for them or gel.
38. The _____ guy was in charge of the CEO's image in advertising and public appearances.
40. "The whole of our lives _____ a spiritual battle," —Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, *Columbia Magazine*.
42. "_____ be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope..." (1 Peter 3:15).
44. In the army, letters for Area of Operations.
45. "The abbess of Farewell was a dumpy round _____ of a woman with shrewd brown eyes that weighed and measured in a glance..." —*The Confession of Brother Haluin*, Ellis Peters.
46. Most birds can see ultraviolet light. Some prey, like voles, mark their _____ through the grass with dribbles of urine. We humans can't see the urine (just as well, I think), but urine reflects UV light, so a hawk sees a neon sign to dinner.
48. In medical diagnoses, let-

- ters for Time To Progression (i.e., the length of time between diagnosis of a disease and the time when it gets worse or when treatment began).
50. Letters for Lightning Network; Domino's Pizza's name for their "fast delivery" service in their electric cars.
51. "_____ *transit gloria mundi*"; Latin phrase meaning "Thus passes the glory of the world"; formerly this was a chanted refrain accompanying a newly elected Pope to keep the outpouring of applauding sentiment in perspective.
53. Cry of distress.
56. The nickname for _____ de Janeiro in Brazil is The Marvelous City (*Cidade Maravilhosa*).
58. Bats are the most familiar animals that use _____ (i.e., they "see with sound"). They use high-pitched squeaks (200 each second!) that bounce off objects to somehow triangulate and zero in on insects even in wide open spaces.


DOWN

1. There are two quarterbacks available. Let's check their _____. Informal for statistics.
2. Abraham's ancestral home.
3. French, Catalina or _____ dressing.
4. Rattlesnakes, and all Mo.'s _____ snakes, hunt at night but they are never in the dark. They have organs between their eyes to "see" heat from other animals. In complete darkness, a rattler can detect a mouse two feet away and strike with deadly accuracy.
5. Scorpions have eyes on both their backs and heads but still can't see squat. Instead they rely on two extra organs on their bellies to help them smell and taste their environment. Also, sensitive hairs on its pincers feel _____ in the air.
6. Prefix for sign or core.
7. "Take This Job and _____ It" —1977 Country Music song by Johnny Paycheck.
8. Savings plan.
9. Goal for a Hindu.
12. The Constitution State. In 1639, this colony wrote what is considered the first

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
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18	19					20				
21				22	23			24		
	25			26			27			
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34	35	36		37		38	39	40	41	
42			43					44		
45					46			47		
		48		49			50			
51	52			53	54		55		56	57
58										

- written constitution of a democratic government (abbr.).
 15. Short for Office of Administration which serves as the administrative and managerial arm of (Mo.) State Government.
 17. When a bumblebee flaps its _____, the fuzz on its body becomes charged with static electricity. A flower swaying the wind takes on a static charge, too. So, when the bee lands on the flower it gets a tiny zap of static. If the bee feels no zap, it knows another insect has already visited the flower.
 19. I'm going to do it! What about you? _____ too, I guess (2 wds.).
 23. "Little girls are made of sugar and spice and everything _____," —from an 1820 nursery rhyme.
 24. Referring to a wedding.
 28. If lost, it helps to have a compass. Birds traveling long distances have them built in. Some have tiny bits of _____ in their beaks to use the earth's magnetic field to determine their direction. Some have proteins in their eyes enabling them to actually see the magnetic field.
 30. Sixth sense.
 33. Word before field or fever.
 35. In education, letters for
- Student Learning Objective; it's a teacher's academic growth plan for a student.
 36. "Time is irrelevant to me. I never wear _____," —singer Mariah Carey; referred to by Guinness World Records as the "Songbird Supreme" (2 wds.).
 39. "In the Liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the _____ presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine..." —*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1378.
 41. I wasn't expecting you back _____ (2 wds.).
 43. Back of the boat direction.
 46. Gillette _____ II men's razor.
 47. Cross letters.
 49. "My most useful acting tip came from my _____ John Wayne. Talk low, talk slow, and don't say too much," —actor Michael Caine.
 51. Dir. from Canton to Sedalia.
 52. Short for parishes in Montgomery City and Loose Creek.
 54. "But now I seek out what was in that theft to give me delight, and _____, there is His loveliness in it," —*Confessions*, St. Augustine, 354-430 A.D.
 55. Columbia's _____ continent (abbr.).
 57. Moon of Jupiter.

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POPE FRANCIS

From page 1

To the margins

Signals that Pope Francis's papacy would be different started the moment he stepped out on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica the evening of March 13, 2013: He was not wearing a red, ermine-trimmed cape, and he bowed as he asked the crowd to pray that God would bless him.

His decision not to live in the Apostolic Palace, his invitations to Vatican trash collectors and gardeners and other employees to join him for his daily morning Mass, his insistence on going to the Italian island of Lampedusa to celebrate Mass and pray for migrants who had drowned in the Mediterranean captivated the attention of the media.

But not everyone was pleased with the seeming ease with which he set aside pomp and protocol. And tensions within the Catholic community grew as he expressed openness to LGBTQ Catholics and to those living in what the Church considers irregular marriage situations and when he said in an interview in 2013 that the Church cannot talk only about abortion, gay marriage and contraception.

One kind of summary of his first 10 years as pope can be found in numbers:

- he has made 40 trips abroad, visiting 60 countries;
- in eight consistories he created 95 cardinals under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave and paid tribute to 26 churchmen over the age of 80; and
- he has presided over the canonizations of 911 new saints, including a group of more than 800 martyrs, but also Pope St. John Paul II, Pope St. John XXIII and Pope St. Paul VI.

"Sense of faith"

In his first major document,



Pope Francis kisses the foot of an inmate after washing it during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at a prison in Civitavecchia, Italy, April 14, 2022.

— CNS photo/Vatican Media

the apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis laid out a program for his papacy, looking inside the Church and outside at the world to see what needed to be done to "encourage and guide the whole Church in a new phase of evangelization, one marked by enthusiasm and vitality."

The document included a discussion of the need:

- to reform Church institutions to highlight their missionary role;
- to encourage pastoral workers to listen to and stand with the people they were ministering — his famous line about having "the smell of the sheep";
- to deepen an understanding of the Church as "the entire people of God" and not as an institution or, worse, a club of the elect;
- to integrate the poor into the Church and society, rather than simply see them as objects of assistance; and
- to promote peace and dialogue.

For Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the agenda of Pope Francis is the

original agenda of the Second Vatican Council.

Unlike Pope St. John Paul II and the late Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis did not attend any of the council sessions. And, in fact, because he was ordained to the Priesthood Dec. 13, 1969, he is the first pope to be ordained a priest after Vatican II.

"After Scripture and Tradition, the council is the significant foundation, and I would say, characteristic orientation of this papacy," Cardinal Czerny told Catholic News Service (CNS).

"He has taken the council not from a collection of decrees, but from the lived experience of the council as implemented, as lived, as

tested, as developed, you might say, in the Church of Latin America," the Cardinal continued.

Pope St. John XXIII launched the council with a pastoral focus on what it means to be the Church in the modern world, he said. The papacies of Pope St. John Paul and Pope Benedict, he said, "reverted to a more doctrinal understanding of the council" with "some very good results and with some massive, unfinished business."

While the work of Pope Francis' predecessors was important, he said, "I don't think it picked up the primary agenda (of the council), which was implementing a new understanding of Church in the modern world, a new way of evangelizing because the world is so different from how it was, let's say, at the end of World War II."

Emilce Cuda, an Argentine theologian and secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, agreed that a key to understanding Pope Francis' pontificate is knowing how Vatican II was lived in Latin America with respect for popular piety and culture, and trust in the "sensus fidei," the notion

that the baptized together have a "sense of faith" and an ability "to understand what God says to us, to his people, in every moment."

"There in the popular culture, in the peripheries, and in all the people of God, we can hear what God wants from us, or what God tells us to do in response to social problems and in the Church in each moment," she said. "We are in history and history is a movement, and the situation is not the same (as) in the 20th century or in the 21st century."

"Ancient way"

As for disagreements with or even controversies about the papacy of Pope Francis, Cardinal Czerny warned against confusing "loud with representative or loud with majority. Loud doesn't mean any of those things; it means loud."

But, he said, "the patience of Pope Francis" leads him and encourages others to recognize that the pope's critics "are not 100% off beam," or off track; there usually is a grain of truth in what they say or an important value they hold dear that is being overlooked.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, told CNS he believes the first 10 years of Pope Francis' pontificate have been preparation for "what's happening right now, and that's the synodal conversation."

The Second Vatican Council called Catholics to read the "signs of the times" and respond.

And, the cardinal said, "this notion that we don't have automatically prepared prescriptions for every challenge that faces us leads us to a fundamental tenet of our belief," which is belief "in the Holy

Spirit, the lord and giver of life."

The synod process, which began with listening to people around the globe and will move toward two assemblies mainly of bishops, is about listening to the Holy Spirit.

While the synod involves meetings, Cardinal Tobin said, "synodality is a way of being Church. It's an ancient way of being Church that is being recovered and lived in the circumstances in which we face ourselves today. And so, to my mind, that's sort of the capstone of what Pope Francis has been working for over the last decade."

"I've called synodality his long game," the cardinal said. "He's convinced that the changed circumstances of our world and our world going forward demand a new appreciation for the role of the Holy Spirit and a way to access that gift that is given to all of us by virtue of our baptism."

"He's free"

Pope Francis has been laying the foundation for the new synod process since the beginning of his pontificate, said Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago. "There's an organic whole to all of this."

"I just wonder if, from the very beginning, he had in his

See DECADE, page 19

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Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Mar. 17

California, K of C & Ladies Sodality fish fry, 4-6:30 pm, dine-in, drive-thru, to-go, Annunciation Parish basement; **Camdenton**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 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; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Hall; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Mar. 18

Edina, St. Joseph & St. Aloysius Parishes St. Joseph Day Celebration, 5:30-10 pm, with Mass, carry-in meal, games and speaker; **Fulton**, K of C Cornhole Tournament, 9 am-7 pm, St. Peter School gym, for info call 573-291-4712; **St. Anthony**, K of C St. Patrick's Dance, 8:30-11:30 pm, St. Anthony Parish Hall

Mar. 21

Jefferson City, Vitae's Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders Annual Pro-Life Event, featuring keynote speaker Rachel Campos-Duffy, luncheon program noon-1:30 pm, dinner program 6:30-9 pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, to register visit vitae.foundation.org

Mar. 23

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School Project Graduation fundraiser at Freddy's, 5-9 pm, 2103 Mo. Blvd.; **Rolla**, Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla's Banquet for Life, featuring keynote speaker Steven Holland, 6:30-8:30 pm, Havener Center, for info or to register visit supportmyprc.com/banquet-for-life

Mar. 24

Camdenton, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Chamois**, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm; **Columbia**, K of C Council 1529 drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross

Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fulton**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 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; **Mary's Home**, K of C fish & shrimp dinner, 6-8 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Home & School fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, school gym; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Fellowship Hall; **St. Thomas**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Mar. 25

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows Parish Food Truck & Dance, Pizza Kwik food truck from noon-9 pm in church parking lot, dance with Shiloh from 7-11 pm at school gym

Mar. 31

Camdenton, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall; **Fulton**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Laurie**, K of C dine-in and drive-thru fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Mary's Home**, K of C fish & shrimp dinner, 6-8 pm; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Fellowship Hall; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Apr. 1

Jefferson City, K of C Msgr. Pleus Council 14906 carry-out BBQ dinner, 11 am-4 pm, McCarty Plaza

Apr. 2

Argyle, St. Aloysius & St. Boniface chicken & ham dinner, 11 am-5:30 pm, VFW Hall; **Belle**, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Wardsville**, Wardsville/Osage Bend K of C breakfast, 7:30 am-noon, St. Stanislaus School gym

Apr. 5

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School Project Gradua-

tion fundraiser at Panera, 5-8 pm, 2214 Mo. Blvd.

Apr. 7

Hannibal, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Meetings/ Workshops

Mar. 23

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. 25

Rolla, National Men's Conference live broadcast from Cincinnati, 8 am-5 pm, St. Patrick Parish Center, for info email greg.j.strat@gmail.com

Apr. 15

Sedalia, Piano Skills Workshop for pastoral musicians, sponsored by the Jefferson City Chapter of NPM, 9 am-noon, Sacred Heart School, limited registration by emailing jeffer_soncitymo@npm.org

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

marzo 17-19

Sedalia, Retiro de Vida en el Espíritu para Hombres, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte al líder RCC de su parroquia o a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a Comite DiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

marzo 24-26

Sedalia, Retiro de Vida en el Espíritu para Mujeres, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte al líder RCC de su parroquia o a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a Comite DiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

abril 14

Varios lugares, Asambleas de Jóvenes, 7-9 pm, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a Comite DiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

abril 15-16

Columbia, Retiro de Comunidad Columbia-dirigido, Sagrado Corazón, para más

información contacte a Jacqueline de la Cruz al 573-673-2091 o por correo electrónico a jpuertoplata@yahoo.com

abril 30

Sedalia, Kermes, 1-3 pm, capilla de san Patricio, para más información contacte a Maria Gomez al 660-620-3405 o Raul Lopez a 660-287-8920

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Mar. 18

Jefferson City, "Invitation to (W)holiness" women's mini-retreat, 8:45 am-noon, Immaculate Conception's Kertz Hall, for info or to register email jacknjo@embarqmail.com or mcalflowers@gmail.com

Mar. 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. 20-22

Hannibal, Holy Family Parish Mission with Fr. William Rhinehart, C.M., 6 pm each evening

Apr. 2

Taos, "From Trauma to Triumph," overcoming life's most difficult challenges with faith and resistance," with Jason Holzer and Rhea Lalla, 1-3 pm, St. Francis Xavier School cafeteria

Liturgical

Mar. 30

Laurie, Lenten Pilgrimage of Healing, with Reconciliation, Mass, Adoration and healing prayer with Fr. Norbert Rappold, 5-8 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

Apr. 4

Holts Summit, Chrism Mass, 10 am-noon, St. Andrew Church

Apr. 11

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass, 11 am-2 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, for info visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org

QUESTION

From page 8

still requires us to practice some sort of penance on every Friday throughout the year (barring those times when a major solemnity falls on a Friday). While abstinence from meat is the traditional Friday penance, another suitable penance can be substituted according to a good-faith discernment of individual members of the faithful.

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@osu.com.

Youth & Young Adults

Mar. 19

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

Apr. 5

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

May 29-Jun. 2

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

Jun. 5-9

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

Jun. 11-13

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

Jun. 15-17

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

Jun. 19-24

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

Jun. 25-30

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

Health & Wellness

Mar. 23

Jefferson City, Blood drive, 10 am-4 pm, Helias Catholic High School auxiliary gym

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

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul
Chris & Celeste Bowman, 45 years
Jeffrey & Alicia Cotton, 30 years

Vandalia, Sacred Heart
Christopher & Laura Straube, 10 years

Baptisms

Russellville, St. Michael — Bohannon
Augustus Bruemmer, son of Thomas & Madison Bruemmer

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — Alexis
Dahlia Elaine Rhodes, daughter of Alexander Rhodes & Emily Bias

DECADE

From page 17

mind that this would be the trajectory of his pontificate, and the synod on synodality I think is, in some way, the opportunity for him to pull everything together,” he said. “There are people who want him to go faster, but he wants things to be held together and the Church to be held together.”

Asked what he thought was the most significant aspect of Pope Francis’ pontificate, the cardinal cited his predecessor, the late Cardinal Francis E. George, who participated in the 2013 conclave, and said the best description of Pope Francis was “He’s free.”

“He’s free in the sense of wanting to listen to different

voices in the life of the Church,” Cardinal Cupich said. “He’s free in being imaginative, but also he has the kind of freedom that really allows him to be joyful in this ministry.”

“John Paul II told us what we should do. Benedict told us why we should do it. And Francis is saying, ‘Do it,’” the cardinal said.

Pope Francis is leading by example in how he cares for the poor, sees God at work in people’s real lives and reaches out to people often overlooked by the Church.

“I think history will look back on this pontificate as historic, as pivotal in the life of the Church,” Cardinal Cupich said.

SR. NANCY

From page 9

dia or apps. Or they can be centered on conscious choices about what we post to (and how often we engage with) social media. Here are some suggestions:

Daily Fasts

— Turn off your phone from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. the next morning. Living without digital interruptions for eight hours straight offers a peaceful evening and a complete night’s rest.

— Limit your entertainment, gaming or viewing to one hour.

— When catching up with friends or family, suggest no phones during your meal. See where the conversation goes!

24-hour Fasts

— Do a complete digital fast by turning off your digital devices and storing them away for a 24-hour period.

Weeklong Fasts

— Stay off of all social media for a week. Remove the apps from your phone.

— Fast from your favorite video game or streaming show for a week.

Seasonal Fasts

— Fast from certain media during Lent. Replace that time with prayer or spiritual reading.

SR. CONSTANCE

From page 9

Individually and as a society, we need to show greater esteem and gratitude to caregivers.

We need to advocate for more educational opportunities and incentives for young people to enter the field of geriatrics, for better working conditions, compensation and benefits, and for care and support for those experiencing exhaustion or burnout.

These suggestions may seem like a departure from our Lenten theme, but I believe that Our Lord is speaking to us through the elderly — whom St. Jeanne Jugan called the mouthpiece of God — and we need to listen.

As we deepen the ideal of journeying together in a spirit of synodality, let us come down from the mountain convinced that the eldest members of the human family are everyone’s concern.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

Birthdays

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — Doris Kempf, her 91st on Jan. 3; **William A. Lang**, his 93rd on Jan. 6; **Geraldine Smith**, her 94th on Jan. 8; **Martha L. Potter**, her 94th on Jan. 9; **Alice Browning**, her 91st on Jan. 30; **Fay Kempf**, her 94th on Feb. 9; **Doris Stoecklein**, her 90th on Mar. 1; **Edward Fahrendorf**, his 91st on Mar. 7; **Marlene Bodine**, her 92nd on Mar. 15; **Adrienne Fairley**, her 90th on Mar. 23; **Catherine Whitehurse**, her 103rd on Mar. 30

Indian Grove, St. Raphael — James Speichinger, his 90th on Feb. 17

Jefferson City, St. Peter — Mary Ann Kramer, her 90th on March 29

Marriages

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — Megan Borges & Zachary Koenig

Deaths

Mary Beth Flatley Tajkowski, 67 — sister of Father Matthew Flatley, pastor of Immaculae Conception Parish in Jefferson City — on March 9. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on March 18 in Ss. Joachim and Ann Church in St. Charles. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis.

Centralia, Holy Spirit — Joseph Castrop; Rebecca McCollum; Zeta Ryan; Dorothy Wright

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — Betty O’Connor

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — Norbert Schaefer

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — Logan Lowry

PLACES

From page 11

good to get out and see this beautiful state of Missouri! This is a beautiful state, and even the most beautiful church pales in comparison to God’s creation that you encounter along the road.”

All of this, the author hopes, will draw people into a state of prayer.

“A lot of people think they’re supposed to be talking nonstop to God,” he noted. “I think we sometimes forget that God is just desperately trying to get a word in edgewise.”

“He doesn’t do as many burning bushes as he used to,” the author stated. “He’s into whispers now. If you listen, you’ll hear and understand him.”

Places to Pray: Holy Sites in Catholic Missouri is available in bookstores and at patrickmurphyauthor.com.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

My peace I give to you



Students of St. Peter School in Jefferson City gather in the shape of a peace sign on Feb. 3, "For he himself is our peace." (Ephesians 2:14). — Photo from the St. Peter Catholic School Facebook page

Dragon power!



Students at St. George School in Hermann cheer on their schoolmates during the annual 8th Grade vs. the Teachers volleyball game Feb. 3. — Photos from the St. George Catholic School - Hermann, MO Facebook page

It's in the bag!



Aging gracefully



Students of Holy Family School in Hannibal dress up as their 100-year-old selves for the 100th day of school on Feb. 5. — Photo from the Holy Family School – Hannibal Facebook page.

Pennies from heaven



ABOVE: Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School students in Columbia, along with principal/present Dr. Daniel Everett, present a donation of \$2,960.44 to the St. Raymond's Society, raised from an inter-house Penny War during Catholic Schools Week. Bragging rights went to the House of Sebastian for winning the Penny War. — Photo from the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Facebook page

LEFT: St. Joseph School students in Martinsburg bag 2,000 pounds of cereal during a Catholic Schools Week service field trip to the Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri during Catholic schools week. — Photos by Katie Swaim

Bible Accent

In biblical times, it was very important for Jews to bury their dead honorably. When a family member died, the female relatives would prepare the body for burial by washing it, trimming the hair and nails, applying spices and wrapping it in strips of linen. The body was then wrapped in a shroud and laid in a family tomb, which was oftentimes a cave with a large rock placed in front of it.

Loved ones would visit the tomb, and on the third day after the burial, the body would be checked, because sometimes people were accidentally buried alive. Afterward, the body was anointed with oils or perfumes.

Once the body had been in the tomb for a while and only bones were left, the bones would be gathered and placed in a box called an ossuary. That way, there would be room in the cave to bury other family members who had died.

Jesus calls Lazarus to come out from his tomb

Lazarus, who lived in the village of Bethany, was very sick. Because they were very close friends with Jesus, his two sisters, Mary and Martha, sent a messenger to find Jesus and ask him to please come to heal Lazarus. The messenger found Jesus and said to him, "Master, the one you love is ill."

Jesus answered, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." So Jesus remained where he was for two more days. Then he said to his apostles, "Let us go back to Judea."

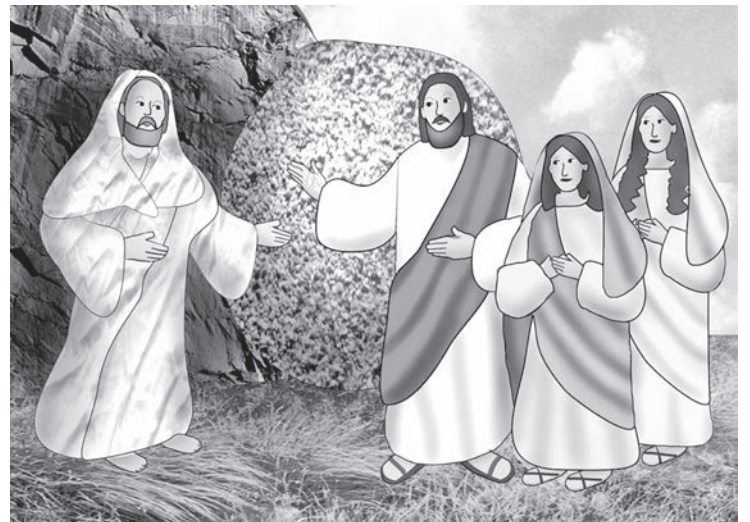
But the disciples did not want to return to Judea. "Rabbi," they said, "the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?"

But Jesus insisted: "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him."

"Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved."

But Jesus did not really mean that Lazarus was asleep, so he said to them directly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." By the time Jesus and his followers reached Bethany, Lazarus had been dead for four days.

Martha heard Jesus was coming, so she ran out to meet



him. She said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (But) even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

"Your brother will rise," Jesus said.

"I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

But Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me ... will never die."

Later Mary came to Jesus and cried over her brother's death. "Where have you laid him?" Jesus asked.

"Sir, come and see," she answered. Then Jesus wept.

When he reached the tomb Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

When Martha told Jesus

Lazarus had already been dead four days, Jesus answered, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

The tomb was opened and Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

And Lazarus came out, alive, still wrapped in his burial cloth.

"Untie him and let him go," Jesus said.

And many people believed in God because of what Jesus had done.

Read more about it... John 11

1. What did Jesus tell the messenger sent by Mary and Martha?

2. How did Jesus help Lazarus?

St. Benezet

Benezet (1163-1184) led a very quiet life as child, spending most of his time caring for the sheep on his mother's farm. Being both thoughtful and imaginative, he used some of his idle time to find a way for people to be able to cross the nearby Rhone River.

On a very important day in his life, during a rare eclipse of the sun, Benezet heard a voice from the darkness telling him to build a bridge over the river. Even though bridge building was usually commissioned by wealthy men in their wills, he set out to try. He appealed to the Bishop of Avignon, France, who at first doubted what such a young man could do. The Lord used Benezet to perform several miracles to convince the bishop, who released the funds to build the bridge.

When Benezet died only seven years later, the bridge was almost completed. We honor him on April 14.



Puzzle

The following sentences were spoken to Jesus by his friend Mary or his friend Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. On the blank line next to each sentence, write the name of the sister who was doing the speaking. Hints have been provided.

1. "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." (John 11:27) _____
2. "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (John 11:32) _____
3. "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving?" (Luke 10:40) _____
4. "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." (John 11:24) _____

Answers: 1. Martha; 2. Mary; 3. Martha; 4. Martha.

Essay

Gospel Reading for
March 26, 2023:
John 1:1-45

Why do you think Jesus performed miracles?

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Befriending St. Joseph, and imagining his silent sorrows

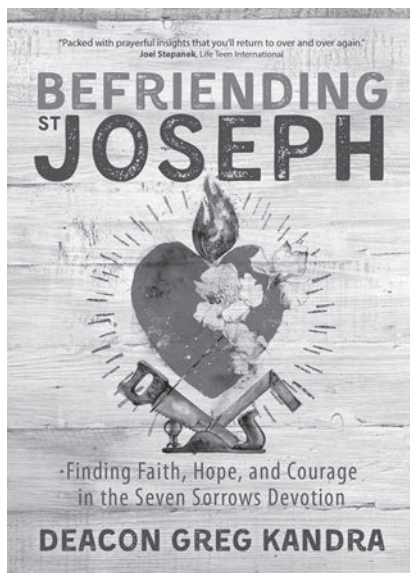
By Elizabeth Scalia

St. Joseph's feastday will be observed this year on Monday, March 20, since the Lenten Sunday takes precedence in the calendar.

In *Befriending St. Joseph: Finding Faith, Hope and Courage in the Seven Sorrows Devotion* (Ave Maria Press, 2022), Deacon Greg Kandra was challenged to find a way to speak of — and perhaps for — this saint of silence. He talked with OSV News about that project.

OSV News: Was “Befriending Joseph” born out of a relationship with Joseph, or was a relationship born of the assignment?

Deacon Greg Kandra: I'd



been sort of indifferent about St. Joseph. Like many Catholics, I saw him as that plaster figure over on the side altar, and had a hard time thinking about him as anything more than a silent carpenter. But when Ave Maria Press approached me about this book, it was near the end of the Year of St. Joseph, and he'd been getting a lot of attention. That already had me wondering whether there was more to Joseph than I knew, and it helped give the book its shape.

OSV News: What are the





seven sorrows of St. Joseph?

Deacon Kandra: Basically, they parallel the seven sorrows of Mary. They're moments from Joseph's life in which he experienced great sorrow that was later transformed into joy — wrestling with whether to divorce Mary; seeing Jesus born in poverty; having to flee with his family to Egypt, etc. As for the devotion itself, the story goes that two Franciscans nearly died in a shipwreck and prayed fervently to St. Joseph to rescue them. He appeared to them, guided them to safety and asked them to reflect on the seven sorrows of his life. The Seven Sorrows Devotion is the result. This book is really a new take on that, for a contemporary audience.

OSV News: Silence is always a challenge, right? How did Joseph's scriptural silence challenge you with this project?

Deacon Kandra: The interesting thing about Joseph is how, in his silence, he shows us who he is. He shows us a type of fidelity, prayerfulness and discipleship just by “doing.” He doesn't have to say a word — it's all in the choices he makes and the path he follows, and so much of it is rooted in holy trust. He listened to angels and basically thought, “OK. Whatever you say. I'm on board.”

Movie Ratings

	Jesus Revolution (PG-13)
	65 (PG-13) 80 for Brady (PG-13) Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania (PG-13) Champions (PG-13) Creed III (PG-13) Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre (R)
	Knock at the Cabin (R)
	Cocaine Bear (R) Magic Mike's Last Dance (R) Scream VI (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

How many of us can do that today? He really was one of the first to “let go and let God,” and his simple faithfulness and obedience models a powerful way of following God's will.

OSV News: You were forced to tap into your imagination to write parts of this book, bringing the reader into Joseph's world. This was a different kind of writing for you, wasn't it?

Deacon Kandra: A lot of this involved, kind of, prayerfully imagining what might have been. Again, challenging, but it was actually a great spiritual exercise. But it did feel risky, writing in sort of novelistic fashion to help round out the life of Joseph — putting myself in his sandals, so to speak. I wasn't sure about it but, to my relief, my editor liked it and encouraged me to follow the impulse. From there it almost wrote itself. It was liberating, really, and I'm so grateful at the responses I've gotten from readers.

OSV News: Has completing the book impacted your regard for Joseph, now?

Deacon Kandra: Oh yeah. He's become my go-to guy! I

turn to him a lot when I feel insecure, or if I'm anxious about starting something new, or just feeling unable to trust God's will for my life. Writing about Joseph and what he went through has brought me a sense of purpose and peace that I've come to treasure.

OSV News: With the book, you've helped us to better know St. Joseph — and possibly given the church a classic reference for him. Who would you like to write about next?

Deacon Kandra: It might be interesting to tackle the life of another deacon, St. Stephen. We know so little about him, but he's venerated as the first martyr and a patron saint of deacons. Was he married? Did he have a family? What led him to that fateful moment when he gave his life for the Lord? Maybe there's a “Befriending St. Stephen” in my future. I also have a long-aborning labor of love that I need to do: a book about Thomas Merton and his impact on my life and vocation, filtered through the lens of New York City. Maybe I need to just go off to a monastery with my laptop for a year and get these done! My wife would probably appreciate having me out of the house.

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and reflections

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Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

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94.7 FM, Columbia
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K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

ST. PATRICK

From page 8

Patrick's Day, March 17, with the statue from Ireland," she recalled.

The statue had been shipped to at least three states enroute to its new home.

"Father often marveled that St. Patrick arrived on St. Patrick's Day," said Mrs. Vanderbeck.

Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, blessed the statue when he dedicated the church on Memorial Day of that year.

A time capsule containing a list of parishioners and guests at the dedication was buried in front of the statue.

A copper plaque on the statue's base tells the story. The plaque's presence points to Fr. Barnett's penchant for



This undated photo belonging to a relative and posted on Reddit shows the late Arthur J. Breen of Dublin carving a limestone statue of St. Patrick — perhaps the one that now stands in Laurie.

recognizing God at work in mysterious ways.

"There is absolutely nothing God can't do," the priest would say, "except what you won't let him do."

Mr. Breen, the sculptor, died in 1989.

A relative recently posted grainy photos on Reddit from a faded album of the artist's nearly five-decade career.

One of the photos is of Mr. Breen standing next to a work in progress that appears to be the statue in Laurie.

"His work is in Ireland, in what looks like various churches and cemeteries," the relative stated.

And also in the heart of Miller County, where it arrived 43 years ago in God's good time.

ORGAN

From page 13

Instead of a digital, electronic or electro-pneumatic apparatus, it has an elaborate collection of rods, slats and counterweights — centuries-old technology that gives the organist a direct, mechanical connection from the keys to the pipes.

"It's what opens the pallets to the let air into the pipes to make it speak," said Fr. Secrist.

Such an organ is commonly known as a "tracker."

Fr. Doyle predicted that the solid workmanship and simple mechanism would allow the organ to last for hundreds of years.

"Definitely among Catholic churches, it was

the most recent tracker instrument that's been built in this diocese," said Fr. Secrist. "It's continued good sound is testament to the durability of instruments that make use of fully mechanical action."

He noted that the St. Clement organ doesn't speak with the same kind of high-German Baroque voice that was common for new organs in the late 20th century.

"I would describe it as a very Catholic instrument," said Fr. Secrist. "It doesn't have a strident diapason chorus. It's made to function, to work in Catholic Liturgy. And it does."

BROTHER GABRIEL

From page 6

That mutuality helps the monks accomplish great things for God and his Church.

"Our work of prayer and common life allows us to provide the care and attention to the seminarians we're forming in the seminary in a unique way that only we can do, and provide a restful retreat for the people who come here as guests that allows them to know that they are in the presence of God," said Brother Gabriel.

"Right now"

By professing simple vows, Brother Gabriel stated publicly before God that he accepts this as his lifelong calling from God.

"And that is to be my gift

to the Lord right now," he said.

This time in simple vows is a period of discernment of whether or not to make the vows perpetual.

Brother Gabriel talked about how everyone who is baptized has received a calling to follow Christ and live and grow in the holiness that comes from God.

Each person also receives a particular calling, a path and mission through this life, willed by God as part of his plan to offer salvation to all people.

"It goes back to what Jesus said is the greatest commandment: love God with your whole being, and love your neighbor as yourself," said Brother Gabriel.

"And also his command at the Last Supper to 'love one another as I have loved you,'" he continued. "For me, that's what I'm trying to live out, and that's what all vocations are trying to live out in different ways. And this is how I am now convinced that I am being called to do that."

He will remember and re-profess those vows again and again, each time someone addresses him by name.

"That reminder of the Annunciation will prompt me to say, 'Yes, today, I am going to live out this calling and to rely on God to help me,'" he said.

It will also remind him of all the people who have encouraged and challenged him to say

Daily Readings

Sunday, Mar 19

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
1 Sm. 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Ps. 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Eph. 5:8-14
Jn. 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday, Mar 20

ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
2 Sm. 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
Ps. 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22
Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk. 2:41-51a

Tuesday, Mar 21

Ez. 47:1-9, 12
Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
Jn. 5:1-16

Wednesday, Mar 22

Is. 49:8-15
Ps. 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18
Jn. 5:17-30

Thursday, Mar 23

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop
Ex. 32:7-14
Ps. 106:19-20, 21-22, 23
Jn. 5:31-47

Friday, Mar 24

Wis. 2:1a, 12-22
Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21, 23
Jn. 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, Mar 25

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Is. 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11
Heb. 10:4-10
Lk. 1:26-38

Sunday, Mar 26

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Ez. 37:12-14
Ps. 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Rom. 8:8-11
Jn. 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday, Mar 27

Dn. 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62
Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Jn. 8:1-11

Tuesday, Mar 28

Nm. 21:4-9
Ps. 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21
Jn. 8:21-30

Wednesday, Mar 29

Dn. 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
(Ps.) Dn. 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
Jn. 8:31-42

Thursday, Mar 30

Gn. 17:3-9
Ps. 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Jn. 8:51-59

Friday, Mar 31

Jer. 20:10-13
Ps. 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7
Jn. 10:31-42

Saturday, Apr 1

Ez. 37:21-28
(Ps.) Jer. 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13
Jn. 11:45-56

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for March:

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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"yes" to God and his vocation.

"And I will give thanks for them and keep praying for them," he stated.

He said he's excited to find out what God has in store for him — whether it be teaching or leading retreats or ministering at neighboring parishes or serving in some other capacity at the monastery — and whether he is being called to be ordained a priest or to remain a brother.

He won't lose sight of his

friends and loved ones back home.

"Part of my vocation of prayer is to remember where I've come from," he stated.

"So I ask the people of my home diocese to pray, as I do, for vocations to serve both in the Diocese of Jefferson City and here at Conception and throughout the Church, and that people will find their vocation and have the courage to follow it in today's culture," he said.

Bishop's trip to Uganda subject of diocese's latest podcast

Bishop W. Shawn Mc-Knight made a pastoral visit to the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda, home of four mis-

sionary priests who are serving in this diocese, beginning on Christmas Day, 2022.

Joining him was Father

Boniface Kasiita Nzabonimpa, a priest of the Kampala archdiocese who is serving as pastor of St. Boniface Parish in

Brunswick, St. Joseph Parish in Salisbury and St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Wien.

Jacob Luecke, diocesan director of communications, gathers insights and recollections from the bishop and priest in the latest Diocese of Jefferson City Podcast, posted this week at diojeffcity.org/podcast.

"Kampala is a very old church, a very ancient church, and Uganda is a very beautiful country," says Bishop Mc-Knight, who also comments on the level of engagement of young people in Uganda and the United States, the shared mission of Catholic bishops throughout the world, and other interesting topics.

St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Council #2149

FISH FRY

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center
St. Thomas

Friday, March 24 4:30-7PM

DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT
Gluten free fried fish fillets, hushpuppies (not gluten free), baked potato, French fries, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert
adults \$12 / kids \$6 / 5 & younger free



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ALL YOU CAN EAT \$12

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
4-7 PM

Bag-a-Prize
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St. Elizabeth Community Center



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ST. MICHAEL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

March 17 & 31
4:30-7 pm

St. Michael's Parish Hall

Fried USA catfish, coleslaw, fried and boiled potatoes, baked beans & dessert
Mac & cheese & hot dogs available
Adult carry-outs available

Adults \$13 • Children 7-12 \$6

LENTEN FISH FRYS



Taos K of C Council #6430

FISH FRY

FRIDAYS
MARCH 17 & 31

4:30-7:30 pm
Dine-in or Carry-out

Fried fish or boiled shrimp, baked potato or fries, slaw, hushpuppies, baked beans, ice cream, tea & coffee

Kids burger & fries—\$6

Knights of Columbus Hall
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Business 50 West, St. Martins

When:
Friday, March 24
4:30-7:30 pm

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Adults \$13 / Kids 6-12 \$6 / Kids 5 & under free

\$13 TO-GO orders available in the Church Basement




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March 17, 24 & 31

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All you care to eat
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Fried catfish, baked pollock, fried shrimp, fries, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, dessert & drink

Adults \$12, Kids 6-12 \$6 (under 6 free)

10 jumbo shrimp & sides
Combo plate - 5 jumbo shrimp, fish & sides
(no seconds on shrimp)



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FISH FRY



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