

Easter gifts of gratitude

Beginning this year, the Easter Special Collection throughout the Jefferson City diocese benefits retired priests of the diocese and the national Retirement Fund for Religious.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

March 31, 2023 • Vol. 66 No. 20

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Cathedral crucifix to highlight Jesus's supreme sacrifice



A new cross fashioned of Douglas fir rests atop a wood beam containing part of a major structural element of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City March 28 as the renovation and renewal of the Cathedral nears completion. An image of Jesus, sculpted in Germany, will be added to the cross before the May 5 Rededication Mass and May 7 public Open House. — Photo by Jay Nies

By Jay Nies

Ian Byrne will reenact the crucifixion.

Specifically, he'll fasten an image of Jesus to the new sanctuary cross for the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

"It's a part of the project that has to be done," said Mr. Byrne, proprietor and master woodworker of Byrne Custom Woodworking.

"I'll do it with a lot more kindness than those original Romans did," he said. "And I'll make sure the thorns have been sanded well and try to make it as painless as possible."

In so doing, he will join the 88-by-59-inch cross he fashioned of Douglas fir in his Lenexa, Kansas, workshop, with a 51-inch-tall image of Jesus carved in Oberammergau, Germany, from linden wood harvested from the Black Forest.

"I think the cross and the corpus are going to complement each other beautifully," said Mr. Byrne, whose company is also creating the bishop's chair (*cathedra*), presider's chair, deacon's bench, ambo and sanctuary Coat of Arms.

In remembrance

Seven time zones away, Johannes Albl spoke of the image of Jesus that his family's company, Albl Oberammergau Woodcarving Studio for Sacred Art, created for the Cathedral crucifix.

"My grandfather always told me that when he was alone in his workshop and working on the corpus for a crucifix, he never felt alone," Mr. Albl recalled. "He always had the feeling that the Lord was with him in that moment, carving that corpus."

"I think that describes how we all approach our work here," he said. "For

See CRUCIFIX, page 17

Sr. Kathleen Wegman SSND to serve as interim director of Catholic Charities

Board launches national search for successor to Dan Lester, who announced in February he is stepping down April 7

By Jay Nies

The staff of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri broke into applause upon hearing the news.

Sr. Kathleen Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) would be their servant leader, if only for a while.

"It's reassuring to know a solid bridge is in place," said Dan Lester, who is stepping down as executive director of the local Catholic Charities affiliate on April 7.

"Sr. Kathleen brings a bounty of insight and experience into the role and will lead with great distinction," he stated. "I have nothing but confidence that Catholic Charities is in the best of hands."

Sr. Kathleen, a Jefferson City native who has been Cath-

olic Charities' senior director of mission integration since January 2022, will serve as the agency's interim executive director while its board of directors carries out a national search for a new executive director.

"We are delighted and truly blessed to announce that Sr. Kathleen has accepted the role," Mike Maag, president of the Catholic Charities Board of Directors, stated in a letter to board and staff members last week.

"As a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sr. Kathleen has dedicated her life to working for social justice and advocating for those in need," Mr. Maag stated. "Her passion for this work has led her to serve in a variety of leadership positions throughout her career."

"With her extensive background and a deep commitment to serving those in need, we are fortunate to have her guidance

SR. KATHLEEN, page 15

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03/31/23

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.

Parish Office Administrator



St. Mary Parish in Glasgow, Mo. is seeking a Parish Office Administrator to provide bookkeeping and related financial and administrative services support to the parish at the direction of the pastor. This is a full-time, 32-hours per week position and is eligible for benefits.

Key responsibilities include:

- assisting the pastor with parish emails, letters, phone calls, etc.;
- managing the weekly bulletin, announcements, parish website information and parish sacramental records;
- maintaining accurate records of parish & school funds, verifying parish collections and other receipts, general ledger and preparing financial reports and statements;
- maintaining personnel files for all parish and school employees; and
- preparing bank deposits and reconciling bank statements monthly.

Qualifications:

- good knowledge of the Catholic faith and supports the Church's mission;
- intermediate experience with Word, Excel and PowerPoint; and
- experience with QuickBooks preferred (Desktop Pro 2023).

Benefits include life insurance, long-term disability insurance, medical, dental, vision, and matching 403b retirement.

Applicants can apply on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or send resume, cover, letter and references to Fr. Joshua Duncan, Pastor at jduncan@diojeffcity.org.

Women's retreat in Wardsville

DATE: April 23
TIME: noon - 4:30 pm

Arise Ministry will present "The Way: A Women's Spiritual Retreat," on Sunday, April 23, in Wardsville.

It will be from noon to 4:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of St. Stanislaus School, 6418 State Highway W.

This afternoon gathering of women will focus on sharing messages of God's love through Bible teachings, creative meditations, faith witnesses, music and laughter.

Featured Speakers will include Millie Aulbur, Jeanne Livers, LeAnn Korsmeyer and Mary Winter, with music provided by Helias Catholic High School students Addi Spratt, Anna Schatte and Claire Huntley.

"For one afternoon, leave the cares of the world behind and share God's love for us through creative meditations, faith witnesses, music and God's greatest gift — laughter," the event's organizers stated.

The \$30-per-person cost includes the retreat, lunch, refreshments and more.

Scholarships are available.

The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served immediately.

To register, visit [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search "The Way" in (location) "Jefferson City."

Sunday Mass in St. Stanislaus Church will be at 10:30 a.m.

The Catholic Missourian

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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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 Colin P. Franklin, return from leave of absence for reasons of health, to resume the office of pastor of

St. George Parish, Linn, and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Frankenstein, effective 3 April 2023.

Reverend Anthony N. Onyeihe, from temporary parochial administrator of St. George Parish, Linn, and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Frankenstein, to associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Jefferson City, effective 3 April 2023.

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

Pray for deceased priests

Apr. 7 — Fr. Robert J. Chenoweth, St. Louis (2003)

Apr. 8 — Fr. Bernard H. Mers, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1984); Fr. Richard Cronin, Immaculate Conception, Loose Creek (2019)

Apr. 10 — Fr. William F. Flanagan, Holy Rosary, Monroe City; and St. Stephen, Indian Creek (2014)

Apr. 15 — Fr. Edwin A. Schmidt, St. Martin, St. Martins (2017)

DRE/Youth Minister

St. Joseph Church in Palmyra, Mo., is accepting applications for a DRE/Youth Minister. Key responsibilities include:



- assisting the pastor in the responsibility for Catholic faith formation for parish youth and adults;
- implementing the Bishop's confirmation preparation policy;
- organizing, scheduling and overseeing religious education in the parish;
- administering a formation program for catechists that leads to certification, and tracking completion;
- in cooperation with the diocesan Director of Religious Education and Youth/Young Adult Ministry, ordering approved textbooks, liturgy materials and other works that complement the religious education efforts of the parish;
- providing resources and programs for adult formation; and
- working with the pastor to assess the needs of parish youth, and organizing volunteers to help meet their needs.

A bachelor's degree in theology or religious education is preferred.

This position is flexible and may be offered at either a part-time or full-time status. Group insurance benefits are available for full-time employees (30 hours a week). The pastor is also open to the possibility of two part-time candidates. If interested, please apply on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or send resume to Fr. Alex Gabriel, St. Joseph Parish, 400 S. Lane St., Palmyra, MO 63461.

Last Supper lively depicted in olive wood sculpture from the Holy Land

By Jay Nies

Something that had been growing for centuries when Jesus walked the earth has been transformed into a focal point for the downstairs Undercroft of the renewed Cathedral of St. Joseph.

While on pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight acquired an elaborate depiction of the Last Supper, carved from the trunk of a 3,000-year-old olive wood tree.

“This gives our Cathedral a clear and noticeable connection to the Holy Land, the birthplace of our Savior and of our faith,” said Bishop McKnight.

The five-foot-wide wood-carving is a gift to the diocese from a benefactor.

It intricately depicts Jesus, the 12 Apostles, their meal and the walls and roof of the cenacle.

Captured are complex contours of the table and food, the folds of each person’s garments, and the complexity of facial expressions and body language.

Several of the Apostles seem utterly exhausted, suggesting that they could easily fall asleep in the garden instead of praying with Jesus.

Bishop McKnight found the sculpture in a shop in Bethlehem, Jesus’s birthplace.

Three generations of wood-carvers — a father, a son and a grandson — had collaborated



This olive wood sculpture depicting the Last Supper will adorn Cana Hall in the Undercroft of the renovated Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. A gift to the diocese from a donor, the sculpture was created in Bethlehem from part of a tree estimated to have been 3,000 years old.

— Photos by Annie Williams

on the piece.

Bishop McKnight determined that the artwork would be ideal for the renovated Undercroft, which has been renamed Cana Hall.

“Whenever we gather for fellowship or a celebration in this renewed space, it will remind us of the centrality of the Eucharist and of Jesus’s command for us to love one another, just as he loves us,” said Bishop McKnight.

Empty Tomb

While in the Holy Land last October, the bishop and his fellow pilgrims visited the Upper Room in Jerusalem, where Jesus celebrated the Passover

with his friends; the garden where he prayed that night and was arrested the following morning; the place where he was scourged and condemned to death; his doleful Way of the Cross from the city to Calvary; and the place of his crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection.

In a most-unexpected turn of events, Bishop McKnight got to offer Mass in the empty tomb — the place where Jesus’s lifeless body was laid on Good Friday, and from which he rose to life on Easter Sunday.

The tomb, which is now inside the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulchre, includes a preparation area, next to a small doorway carved into rock.

“You have to stoop down, and that’s actually above where the body lay,” he said. “That’s where the altar is. There’s room maybe for only two or three people.”

Being there made him reflect on how Jesus could only have risen from the dead after completely giving of himself completely.

“That’s something Mary, his mother, showed him,” the bishop stated. “And it’s the

same thing for us: Christian life is a life of giving back, of emptying yourself, and that is



how we become whole.”

Across the Valley

Moments of contemplation can be rare gifts in places that

draw so many pilgrims.

“It’s a very hustle-and-bustle place,” Bishop McKnight noted. “But all of a sudden, you get into the site, and it’s overwhelming.”

He was particularly moved by visiting the place venerated as the cenacle where the Last Supper took place on Holy Thursday and where the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles on Pentecost.

“It’s ensconced over what was probably the original site,” the bishop said.

See LAST SUPPER, page 19



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

APRIL

Apr 2 Palm Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft, 7 am, Jefferson City; Missouri Bishops Province Dinner Meeting, 5:30 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

Apr 8 Easter Vigil, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft, 8:30 pm, Jefferson City


Apr 10-20 Diocesan Priests’ Retreat, Ars, France

Bishop McKnight’s April prayer intention for our Local Church

For all those celebrating the initiation sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and first holy communion this Easter Season; may their discipleship be strengthened by their participation in the life and mission of the Church.

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

Para todos aquellos que celebran los sacramentos de iniciación del Bautismo, la Confirmación y la Primera Comunión en esta temporada de Pascua; que su discipulado se fortalezca con su participación en la vida y misión de la Iglesia.



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

First post-Roe Mid West March for Life at Missouri State Capitol

DATE: April 26
TIME: 8 am - 2 pm

By Jay Nies

2022 saw the U.S. Supreme Court give authority over abortion back to the states, and Missouri became the first to ban elective abortions.

What comes next?

“We get to live in this time in history that most people thought they’d never get to see,” said best-selling author Shawn Carney.

The co-founding CEO and president of 40 Days for Life will be a keynote speaker at this year’s Mid West March for Life in Jefferson City.

“Shame on us if we don’t make the most of this time in history and get involved like we’ve never been involved before,” he said.

The 14th annual March and rally will take place on Wednesday, April 26, on the South Lawn of the Missouri State Capitol Grounds.

Activities are planned from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parishes and schools throughout the diocese are encouraged to participate.

All are encouraged to wear red.

Lauren Muzyka, president and CEO of Sidewalk Advocates for Life, and Sister Deirdre Byrne, superior of the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart, will also give keynote presentations.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will pray the Opening Prayer and give remarks at the

Mid West March for Life



**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 26, 2023**

*To honor and glorify Jesus Christ
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Over 30 life-affirming exhibitors!

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***KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



Shawn Carney
CEO and President
of 40 Days for Life



Lauren Muzyka
President and CEO of
Sidewalk Advocates for Life



Sr. Deirdre Byrne
Superior of the Little Workers
of the Sacred Hearts

www.midwestmarchforlife.com • 417-344-7118

8:00 am Prayer Walk in Capitol/Divine Mercy
9:00 am & 12:30 pm - Entertainment
Camille Harris • Singer & Songwriter

9:30 am - Rally
Most Reverend Shawn McKnight
Bishop of Jefferson City
Brandy Meeks, President
Vitae Foundation
Bridget Van Means, CEO Vision Leader
ThriVe Nation

Jon Nelson, Lead Pastor of
Soma Community Church, Jefferson City, MO
Susan Klein, Executive Director
Missouri Right to Life
*Keynote Speakers

MARCH WILL BEGIN FOLLOWING RALLY
1:00 pm - Student Session
“What’s Next for the Post-Roe Generation”
Catherine Glenn Foster, Senior Fellow in
Legal Policy, Charlotte Lozier Institute
Reagan Barklage, National Field Director
Students for Life of America
Hope Miller, Teen Activist

1:15 pm - Pro-Life Session
“Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn:
Why They Matter”
Mark Lee Dickson, Founder
Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn
Mike Seibel, Esq., Senior Counsel
for Abortion on Trial

pre-march rally.

“You gotta’ go!” said Mr. Carney. “History will look kindly on the people who engaged themselves in this movement in this time right after *Roe*.”

The day’s activities will start at 8 p.m. with a Prayer Walk in the Capitol and the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet on the Capitol steps.

Singer and songwriter Camille Harris will provide entertainment at 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

A pre-march rally at 9:30 a.m. will include Bishop McKnight; Brandy Meeks, president of the Vitae Foundation; Bridget Van Means, CEO Vision Leader of ThriVe Nation; Jon Nelson, lead pastor

of Soma Community Church in Jefferson City; and Susan Klein, executive director of Missouri Right to Life.

The keynote speakers will then take the stage, followed by a peaceful march through downtown Jefferson City.

Seizing the momentum

Mr. Carney will share strategies and boundless optimism in his talk.

“I’m going to lay out how we can win, how we can have abortion-free states and abortion-free regions — which means we can have an abortion-free country,” he said.

A father of eight children, Mr. Carney was among the people praying outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in College Park, Texas, when its manager, Abby Johnson, joined the pro-life movement.

Her story became the subject of a book, *Unplanned*, and a motion picture of the same name.

He said proponents of legalized abortion did not expect the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision to be overturned, and were not prepared for this moment.

“They now have to de-

fend abortion, and they’re ill equipped to do so,” he said.

Meanwhile, pro-lifers are becoming more committed than ever, Mr. Carney stated.

Mark Lee Dickson, founder of Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn, said that level of commitment is necessary, “because the fight is not over, it’s just beginning.”

“We need to be more present now than we’ve ever been in the history of the pro-life movement,” Mr. Dickson stated.

Grassroots efforts

More than 30 life-affirming exhibitors will have displays at this year’s Mid West March for Life.

The Fulton Knights of Columbus council will hold a fundraising lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Capitol grounds.

Catherine Glenn Foster, senior fellow in legal policy at the Charlotte Lozier Institute; Reagan Barklage, national field director for Students for Life America; and Hope Miller, teen activist will lead a session for students at 1 p.m.

The topic will be, “What’s Next for the Post-Roe Generation?”

Mr. Dickson and Mike Seibel, Esq., senior counsel for Abortion on Trial, will give a 1:15 p.m. session titled, “Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn: Why They Matter.”

“Yes, Missouri has an abortion ban,” said Mr. Dickson.

“But what would happen if something happens to that ban?”

The Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Initiative has been influential in drafting 65 city ordinances and two county ordinances in communities across Texas, Nebraska, Ohio, Louisiana, Iowa and New Mexico.

The ordinances keep abortion out of those communities.

The organization is helping to draft additional ordinances in other states, including Nevada, Illinois and Virginia.

“There is great value to having an ordinance passed at the local level that reinforces the state’s abortion ban and protects the city at the most local level, just in case anything happens in the future,” said Mr. Dickson.

He noted that these Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn laws can offer added protection to unborn babies and their mothers.

For instance, Odessa, Texas, recently passed a law prohibiting the aiding and abetting of an abortion being performed on a resident of Odessa, even if that happens in another state.

“And there are more things we can do,” said Mr. Dickson. “It just depends on the state and the locality.”

He noted that there are two types of abortion bans in place across the United States: explicit bans and de facto bans.

While the explicit bans outlaw abortion in the text of the ordinance, the de facto bans accomplish the same end result another way — by requiring compliance to federal abortion statutes which trump all state laws and all state constitutions.

The federal abortion statutes mentioned in the ordinances are 18 U.S.C. §1461 and 18 U.S.C. §1462, which prohibit the mailing and receiving of abortion drugs or abortion paraphernalia — “anything that would be used in the procuring of an elective abortion,” said Mr. Dickson.

“By prohibiting the mailing or receiving of those items, no abortion organization would be able to function,” he stated.

See MARCH, page 19



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Easter Collection: Two sisters with deep roots in the community

By Jay Nies

Sister Loretta Keller and Sister Suzanne Walker, members of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, New York, are living in retirement in the Holy Rosary Convent in Monroe City.

Sr. Suzanne grew up in that community, graduated from Holy Rosary School, taught there and then served as its principal for 38 years before retiring last June.

Sr. Loretta has been a Dominican sister for the past 64 years. She grew up in nearby Brush Creek and is proud that as a young child, she went to Mass each Sunday in the old St. Peter Church.

It was the parish into which Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, born into a family of enslaved people, was baptized in 1854. Thirty-two years

later, he became the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

Sr. Loretta has been living in community with Sr. Suzanne for the past three years.

Sr. Loretta describes this phase of her retirement as a ministry of prayer. She's grateful for the opportunity to attend daily Mass and also spend time adoring Christ in Holy Rosary's Adoration Chapel.

Throughout her years in religious life, Sr. Loretta has made every effort to follow St. Dominic's example of being a preacher of God's word.

She and Sr. Suzanne are among the nearly 25,000 religious sisters and brothers past age 70 in this country who



Sisters Suzanne Walker and Loretta Keller of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, New York, are part of the communities of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek.

benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious.

That fund now receives

part of the money contributed through the Diocese of Jefferson City's Easter Special Collection.

Giving thanks

The Easter Collection is one of three special collections that will continue to be taken up each year after parishes in this diocese convert to the stewardship model.

The Easter Collection now benefits retired priests and retired members of religious congregations.

It is an opportunity to give back to those who have dedicated their lives to sharing the good news of the Risen Christ.

A special envelope for this collection is inserted in this, the March 31 edition of *The Catholic Missourian*.

Donors should write a check to their parish and place it in the envelope and deposit it in the collection basket at church or deliver it to the parish office.

The other two special collections will be the Christmas special collection for seminarians and infirm priests, and a collection in July in support of the missions.

Making a difference

Sr. Suzanne stepped down as principal less than a year ago.

"Being 'retired' can be described or explained in many different ways, according to the abilities and/or desires of each individual," she stated.

"As I am transitioning, I am open to looking at the paths on which Our Lord leads me

to follow," she said.

During her time of transition, she's happy to remain in the Holy Rosary community, where she served for the past 48 years.

"I have been part of this community for most of my life," she noted.

After entering religious life, she taught in the Bronx, New York, and in St. Louis before returning to her hometown.

"Through all of these years, I have been continuously inspired by the faithful people with whom I have come in contact," she stated.

She spoke of the strong tradition in the parish and community, of individuals searching to know Jesus and follow His ways.

"The seeds that were planted when I was very young are still being sown today by so many faith-filled individuals of our two parishes of Holy Rosary in Monroe City and St. Stephen in Indian Creek," she said.

Sparkill Dominicans have been associated with Holy Rosary School since it opened in 1901.

Two main Dominican mottos are "To praise, to bless, to preach," and "to contemplate and give to others the fruits of our contemplation."

"All of my life and through my first year of retirement, I've tried to follow these mottos, which are guides to living my vocation of being a Dominican sister," said Sr. Suzanne.

She currently finds herself deeply engaged as a volunteer at Holy Rosary School, serving regularly as a substitute teacher and working with the music classes, especially in preparing for Eucharistic celebrations.

"I strive every day to help others to know and feel the presence of Jesus Christ in their lives," she said. "I continually pray that I can be a Dominican Sister, a woman making a difference."

Sr. Loretta is grateful for the prayers and sacrifices the people of this diocese offer up for retired sisters.

She hopes that these prayers will bring about many blessings that will allow the ministry of the sisters to continue in all of their various ways.

Easter Collection: A priest on mission in northern Missouri

The Easter Special Collection that will be taken up in parishes throughout the diocese will benefit retired priests and retired members of religious congregations.

A special envelope for this collection is inserted in this, the March 31 edition of The Catholic Missourian.

By Jay Nies

Gifted with reasonably good health, Father Patrick Dolan sees retirement as an ongoing integration with the Sacrament of Holy Orders that he received 52 years ago.

"Most sacraments have an element of you actually becoming the sacrament that you receive," he stated.

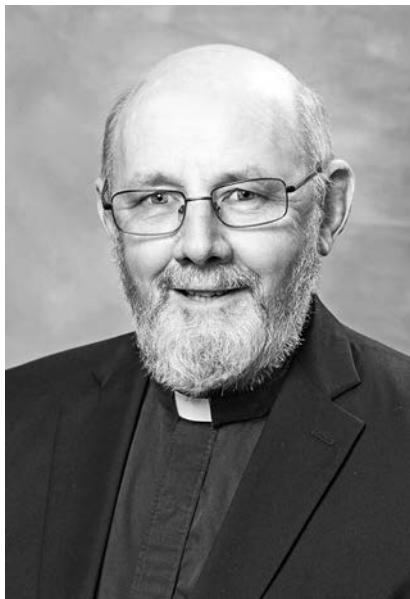
Raised in Ireland, where priests were once plentiful, Fr. Dolan came as a missionary to this diocese, which needed priests.

He spent 10 years in the diocese's missions in Peru, and since returning in 1995 has maintained ties to Spanish-speaking Catholics in whatever part of the diocese he's serving in.

"I was never assigned to a parish here that has a large group of Hispanics," he noted. "I was always moving out to get to them."

Since officially retiring in 2021, Fr. Dolan has been volunteering on weekends as sacramental minister for St. Mary Parish in Milan and the Mission of St. Mary in Unionville; and providing a monthly Mass in Spanish in Macon, Moberly, Palmyra, Hannibal and Ewing.

He lives in the St. Bonaventure Rectory in



Father Patrick Dolan

Marceline.

He often takes to the road during the week, offering Mass in Spanish at various parishes in northeastern Missouri, visiting scattered enclaves of Catholic immigrants, and teaching English as a Second Language once a week to Spanish-speakers in and around Shelbina and Clarence.

He recently clocked 400 road miles in one weekend.

"It's easy driving and really beautiful country up here," he noted. "I enjoy having Mass for those people and getting to know them."

Many of those he encounters work odd hours on dairy or hog farms, in restaurants or in food plants.

"For some of these people, the weekly Liturgy has not been part of their Catholic upbringing," Fr. Dolan noted. "They often come from little areas in their homeland, where a priest may come once or twice a year."

A gift of thanks

For Fr. Dolan, age 77, retirement has meant setting aside the responsibilities of administration "and making more time for priestly things."

"And more time to read, be relaxed, be healthy," he added. "All of this, of course, within the limitations that come with age."

He noted that no two priests approach or experience retirement exactly the same way.

See FR. DOLAN, page 23

Taos students invite fellow parishioners back to Mass for Lent

Send 700 colorful invitations to make sure everyone feels welcome

By Jay Nies

No matter how hectic a week becomes, it's always better when you start by giving an hour of it to God.

That's a message the eighth-graders of St. Francis Xavier School in Taos hope will stick with the adults of their parish.

The students had colorful invitations printed with the weekend Mass times, along with personal appeals for people who have been away from church to come back during Lent.

The sixth- through eighth-graders then signed, addressed and mailed the invitations to 700 registered households in the parish as a Lenten service project.

"You're invited!" the colorful correspondence announces in bold letters, along with short excerpts from essays the students wrote on the subject.

"When you walk out of church, you feel better about yourself, knowing that you have God in you," one of the students wrote. "Even in this busy world, at church, you only have to worry about God."

"You will feel the presence of God back in your hearts," another student assured. "A gracious cycle of someone getting filled with the Holy Spirit with the help of a friend."

"I go to church because it calms me down and helps me connect with God to know him more," another stated.

Principal and junior-high religion teacher Jordan Tobar got the project started. He opened the floor to discussion among the students before they began working on their entries for a Knights of Columbus essay contest.

"Our discussions made us realize that we are called to share our love of God with those around us," the students stated on the invitation.

A good start

The eighth-graders weren't just going through the motions. They want everyone in their parish to get right with God.

"So you can go to heaven!" Josie Wilson stated in a recent



Students at St. Francis Xavier School in Taos gather in the gym after signing, addressing and mailing 700 invitations for people to come back to Mass if they've been away. — Photo by Jordan Tobar

interview.

"It fills you up," said her classmate, Olivia Luebbering.

"With the grace of God," Bricyn Werdehausen added.

"We want them to come back so they can be closer to God," Olivia stated.

Ava Kleffner said she loves watching people spend time visiting on the church steps after Mass.

"It brings everybody so much closer together," she said.

Olivia said the great part of coming to Mass is how it affects the rest of the week.

"It helps you become a better person," she said.

"Ideally," Ava added, "people are taking the grace of God with them back to their home. You hope they're taking what they learn at Mass and teaching it to other people."

Pray and invite

The eighth-graders talked about things that keep people from coming to Sunday Mass — such as work schedules, having young children, being tired, feeling alienated from the community, not thinking it matters, and not feeling welcome.

"Some people feel like they're too broken to come back to church," said Maggie Lock. "They feel really separated from the Church, and

that's why we have to help them, to encourage them and welcome them back."

"We can greet them when they come and ask them how they're doing," Bricyn suggested

"We can say, 'Hey! Sit next to me!'" said Ava.

"Maybe

"He gave his all"

Molly Verslues said that if she had been away from church for a while, an invitation like this would make her seriously consider coming back.

Said Olivia: "I think I would at least go back and



you can invite them to go to Mass with you and then go to dinner with you," said Lauren Kleffner.

Students also brought up the importance of praying for the people they're inviting.

"You can't force your beliefs on people," said Josie. "But you can pray for them and invite them. It's hard to say 'no' when someone does that."

give it a try one weekend. If it was a good experience, I'd keep coming back."

"I think it's a witness," said Bricyn. "I mean, if there are children in the school who want me to come back, I'd feel a lot more welcomed."

Several eighth-graders stated their conviction that coming to Mass is worth the effort.

"He gave his all, so we can give him an hour," said Maggie. "All he's asking is for us to go

to church and live our faith," said Josie.

One parishioner wrote back to ask the students to pray for her grown children to come back to church.

"We can do that," said Lauren. "We can pray for them and invite them. I think it's great that we can help change people's church life and help them get closer to God."

"Just let go"

One of the eighth-graders said she's noticed more people at Mass since the invitations went out.

"It makes me really happy to see people coming back," she said.

Mr. Tobar, who grew up in St. Francis Xavier Parish and is a graduate of St. Francis Xavier School, agreed that a mailed invitation is more effective if it comes from young people.

"It makes all that much more special and powerful," he said. "I think that's why it's gone over so well with our parishioners."

He pointed out that the invitation as also a reminder for people who attend Mass regularly to invite their friends and family members who do not.

He noted that another principal and the directors of religious education at several other parishes had called to ask about the project, hoping to try it at their parish or school.

He marveled at the insights the students shared before writing their essays, including:

- How they always feel better about themselves and their lives after they've been to Mass, even if they're tired or didn't want to go; and

- How going to Mass gives them a chance to slow down, forget their phones and really participate, regardless of how busy they are.

"You just let go of whatever is going on in your life and give it over to God," said Lauren.

Saluting people who built shrine, community in St. Patrick

By Jay Nies

The forms were in place, the concrete mixer was roaring to life and Father Francis O'Duignan's dream was finally taking shape.

The priest who had spent nearly 22 years trying to get the Shrine of St. Patrick built in a town of that same name was going to pour the first load of concrete for the foundation.

He gathered the work crew, prayed the "Our Father," gave the men a blessing and raced toward the ramp with a full wheelbarrow.

"Up and away he goes!" said Mike Whiston, whose father was the shrine's general contractor. "And about halfway up the ramp, over the side Fr. O'Duignan went!"

The construction crew ran down to help him.

"I'm all right, boys," he priest reassured them while cleaning his glasses. "And it's okay to laugh."

That was one of many stories Mr. Whiston heard when he was old enough to join his dad's work crew years later.

He spoke to a receptive crowd during this year's St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 12 at the shrine, located near the Iowa border in north-eastern Missouri.

"What I'm trying to share today are the stories that I heard from the men who built this magnificent shrine," said



LEFT: Howard Kirchner, grandson of John Kirchner, longest-serving postmaster in St. Patrick, responds to his grandfather posthumously receiving Shrine of St. Patrick Parish's 2023 Historic Preservation Award on March 12 at the parish's St. Patrick's Day celebration. **RIGHT:** Children of the parish sing an Irish Lullaby after Mass.

— Photos by Jay Nies



Mr. Whiston. "I want to give them proper honor and credit."

He told of how his father assembled the spiral steel staircase in the shrine's tapered bell tower, planed the front doors to a perfect fit, and improvised a way to lift the large stone cross onto the roof.

"Dad realized that this was something very special, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Mr. Whiston noted.

He said the shrine, completed in 1957, was Fr. O'Duignan's dream, but he needed the entire St. Patrick community to bring that dream to fruition.

"Whenever I look up at that cross," said Mr. Whiston, "I think, 'Yeah, Dad. You pulled it off.'"

Well and good

Past and present parishioners arrived from near and far for Mass, a meal and a mountain of memories.

"We welcome you and are

glad you're all here," said Father Robert Fields, pastor.

Descendants of John N. Kirchner, who was the town's postmaster from 1899 to 1940 and helped Fr. O'Duignan design the famous shamrock cachet that still adorns March mail from the post office, filled pews near the front for Mass.

Fr. Fields and the event's organizing committee honored Mr. Kirchner posthumously with this year's Historic Preservation Award, for his enduring contributions to the life of the community.

Fr. Fields's homily focused on the gospel passage of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well.

"She came to believe in the Son of God, that this gift of faith, the gift of salvation, was coming to her in the person of Jesus," the priest noted.

"So, how is Jesus drawing out YOUR gift of faith this morning, calling you into a more loving and deeper relationship with him and the people you live and work with?" he asked.

"How is God challenging you this morning to open yourself more and more to his love and mercy that we're all called to share with one another, every day of our lives?"

Good old Irish way

For Mass, Fr. Fields used the chalice that Fr. O'Duignan brought back from Ireland for the shrine's dedication 66 years ago.

After Mass, he invited everyone to visit the sanctuary, the bell tower, the choir loft,

the sacristy and the former baptistry, all adorned with priceless stained glass depicting saints in the style of the ancient Book of Kells.

Children gathered at the front of the church before the final blessing to sing an Irish lullaby and a praise anthem.

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

Directing them was Vanessa Gray, the newly-hired director of youth ministry and religious education for Shrine of St. Patrick Parish and neighboring St. Michael Parish in Kahoka.

Framed photos of weddings that were celebrated in the parish, from the 1880s up through last December, were displayed chronologically in the shrine.

"Constant and vital"

The general store and post office John Kirchner built near the church in 1914 remains a gathering place for people in the community.

As postmaster, he worked with Fr. O'Duignan to send mail throughout the country, asking for support to build a shrine suitable of the patron saint of Ireland and this bucolic village.

Mr. Kirchner's grandson, Howard, accepted the award and spoke of his grandfather's legacy.

"Sadly, Grandpa Kirchner

did not live long enough to see the Shrine of St. Patrick come to life," the younger Mr. Kirchner noted. "But through his selfless example of leadership, giving and hard work, the Village of St. Patrick remains and thrives because there is an active Church at its core.

"Even with the changes in population, farming methods and employment patterns, the Shrine of St. Patrick, this Catholic church, is the one thing that remains constant and vital in this community."

Howard Kirchner said young people are moving back to places like St. Patrick, finding them to be good places to raise their families.

"St. Patrick has an ability to become part of who you are," he stated. "St. Patrick is a community to which you belong. And St. Patrick is a place of great value."

"Let everyone know"

Parishioner Roger Watson his sons Aaron and Joel spent the afternoon entertaining visitors with Irish music.

Soon thereafter, during the prayer service marking the event's conclusion, Fr. Fields congratulated all the volunteers for a successful day of worship, remembrance, fellowship and fun.

"Please continue to let everyone know about our beautiful community and our beautiful shrine and the history and these windows and what they teach us about people who were faithful to God and his kingdom," the priest requested.



Father Robert Fields, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Kahoka and Shrine of St. Patrick Parish in St. Patrick; Father C. Callistus Okorojo, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Canton and Queen of Peace Parish in Ewing; and Franciscan Father James Wheeler, of Quincy, Illinois, a St. Patrick native, stop for a photo during the Shrine of St. Patrick Parish's feastday celebration.

QUESTION CORNER

Do we relax our Lenten fasts on Sunday?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: I understand that the 40 days of Lent do not include Sundays, because every Sunday is a “little Easter” when we remember and celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. I hear people say it is “cheating” if one doesn’t abstain on Sundays from whatever one “gives up” during Lent, but I wonder why one would fast on the happy day of Sunday?



A: The time of Lent is not meant so much to provide us with a literal 40 days of penance, but rather to recall Jesus’ 40 days of fasting in the desert.

But, let’s take a look at the math: from Ash Wednesday to the Wednesday of Holy Week we have six full weeks plus one day. This adds up to 43 days; if we count the Paschal Triduum — that is, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday — as part of Lent rather than as its own mini liturgical season (which is a bit more technically accurate), this adds another three days, bringing our total up to 46. But if we subtract the six Sundays of Lent from this total, that leaves us at 40 days even. In that sense, Sundays do not numerically count towards the days of penance preceding Easter.

However, Sundays during Lent are still very much a part of this liturgical season. At Mass on Lenten Sundays, the priest is still vested in penitential purple, and the readings each year are specifically chosen to help draw us into the mystery of Christ’s saving passion and death.

At the same time, Sundays retain their character as a day of joy and rest in the Lord. As you note, Sunday is a day which has always been set aside each week specifically to recall Easter. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “Jesus rose from the dead ‘on the first day of the week.’ Because it is the ‘first day,’ the day of Christ’s Resurrection recalls the first creation. . . . For Christians it has become the first of all days, the first of all feasts, the Lord’s Day.” (CCC 1166)

In our current *Code of Canon Law*, while canon 1247 reiterates the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays, it also pointedly directs the faithful to “abstain from those works and affairs which hinder” the “joy proper to the Lord’s day.” And, notably to those of us who pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the Scripture reading for Sunday Lauds (or Morning Prayer) throughout the Lenten season exhorts us: “Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep; for today is holy to our Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!” (Nehemiah 8:9, 10)

Practically, should we take a break from our Lenten sacrifices on Sundays? The answer — like so many things related to the spiritual life — is that it depends on our own individual situation and spiritual needs. Aside from the relatively few required days of fasting and abstinence from meat, our personal Lenten sacrifices are not strictly required by the Church’s law to begin with.

So, if we prayerfully discern that God is calling us to enter into the joyful spirit of Sunday more fully — or that we will be better able to make our sacrifices with love and devotion if we refresh ourselves with a weekly break — then no, it’s not “cheating” to relax our Lenten penances on Sundays. But it’s also perfectly reasonable for another person to discern that keeping up their Lenten sacrifices throughout the time of Lent will be more spiritually fruitful for them in their own life.

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

Papal Audience
March 29, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now consider some of the great men and women in the history of the Church whose lives exemplify love for Christ and passion for the spread of the Gospel. We begin, naturally, with the Apostle Paul. Paul’s encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus transformed his zeal for the law, which had led him to persecute Christians, into a consuming desire to proclaim the Gospel of God’s loving mercy, revealed in the paschal mystery. Paul’s conversion was truly a profound experience of death and resurrection; reborn in Christ, he became a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17), now filled with zeal to carry the good news of our salvation to all the nations. Paul’s example shows us that at the heart of all missionary zeal is a living encounter with the risen Lord. It also shows us that zeal for the Gospel can never justify violence or persecution in the name of the God of mercy, who invites us freely to accept his gift of new life by believing in the Gospel of Jesus his Son.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially the groups from England, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Indonesia, the Philippines, Canada and the United States of America. I greet in particular the delegation from the NATO Defense College and the many students and teachers present. May our Lenten journey bring us to Easter with hearts purified and renewed by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Upon you and your families I invoke joy and peace in Christ our Redeemer!



Five new bells blessed, installed in Cathedral bell towers

Ringings will help proclaim God’s word to the ends of the earth as renovations reach final stages

“Great Bells as they were; melodious, deep-mouthed, noble Bells; cast in no common metal; made by no common founder ...”

— Charles Dickens,
“The Chimes”

By Jay Nies and Jacob Luecke

Wide-eyed reflections of third-graders peered back from a shiny bell that’s nearly as tall as they are.

It’s the largest of five new bells that will ring out from two new bell towers as part of the soon-to-be completed renovation and renewal of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

“I hope that whenever they drive by or come to church here and then when they’re grown up, they’ll remember that they got to see the blessing of these bells,” said St. Joseph Cathedral School third-grade teacher Molly Prenger.

The small group of schoolchildren joined Bishop W. Shawn McKnight; Father Louis Nelen, rector of the Cathedral and pastor of Cathedral of



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight blesses the newly cast bells for the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City on March 21.

St. Joseph Parish; Father Brad Berhorst, associate pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City and Head Master of Ceremonies; Deacon John Schwartz, who assists the pastor; and sundry Chancery and Cathedral Parish employees and members of the local media on March 21 for the Blessing of the Bells.

“Bells,” said Fr. Nelen, “are an important part of what we do in terms of calling the community together for prayer, and they give voice to the Cathedral, which it hasn’t had until now.”

Bishop McKnight noted that Bishop Joseph M. Mar-

ling C.P.P.S., founding bishop of the diocese, dreamed of having a bell tower to go with the 1968-vintage Cathedral he commissioned.

“Today, we get to fulfill that dream with the blessing of these bells and their installation later today in this renovated Cathedral,” said Bishop McKnight.

He called to mind that the Cathedral soon will be used again for Liturgies, prayer and the devotional life of the local Church.

“It is a reminder of God’s

See BELLS, page 20

‘Annunciation’: Salvation and the words of the air

By Bishop Robert Reed
OSV News



Perhaps you're like me — I just love Christmas and though the liturgical calendar moves on as it must, I'm always sad to see it go. Like the reformed Ebenezer Scrooge, I try to hang on to it for as long as I can — the birth of the humble baby, told to the astonished shepherds by angels — not just ordinary angels, mind you, but herald angels — messengers charged to announce things from on high, with a big, celestial noise.

That's what the word “annunciation” is all about. It's the big announcement, and not about the latest deal on Amazon with free shipping, but about something bigger than our imaginings — information dropped from heaven to earth, for our good. For our delight. For our salvation.

In March, with Christmas now feeling well-behind us, we nevertheless touch it again, for on the 25th of this month we observe the Solemnity of the

‘And brought’st thy sweets along with thee’

By Patricia J. Long

One of my favorite segments of poetry is the fourth stanza of “Easter,” by George Herbert, a 17th-century English writer who put profound ideas into the simplest language.

Both Emily Dickinson and Elizabeth Bishop, Herbert's avid devotees, attributed much of their formation and later writing to his influence.

Faith, spirituality, religion — surely these are the most difficult subjects to write about, that is, to enable readers to share the author's idea, to see the vision.

Perhaps that is one reason icons — stylized, classical forms of Christ — appeal to us so much, for in their rather severe form, they allow us to put our own “face” on Jesus, our own interpretation.

This approach, too, is used by Herbert. In his third-from-last stanza of “Easter,” he says it like this:

*I got me flowers to straw thy way
I got me boughs from many a tree
But thou wast up by break of day
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.*

Here, we have a picture of joyous throngs preparing for Christ's coming into his own in triumph to transform the world — a celebration seen through the eyes of one individual, someone who could be any one of us.

Even the first phrase, though, con-

Annunciation as recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke.

The “announcement” is one made by the archangel Gabriel to a young woman of Nazareth — Mariam, who is full of grace. Motivated by that grace, she generously acquiesced, permitting this announcement of God's will to change her life, and that of the entire human family, for history has been hinged upon her “fiat,” her “yes,” just as our salvation hinges upon our consent to being saved. In that, Mary has modeled for us the means of uttering a trusting “yes” even when it comes with a hint of fear, or a breath of doubt.

“Behold,” she said, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Mary was, no doubt, overwhelmed by all of this. I'm certain that these annunciations — both Gabriel's and her own — had an immediate impact on her faith, her life, her relationship to her family and to Joseph. Despite all that, her holy response, simple and direct, changed the history and trajectory of humankind, and of her whole being. She became the new Eve who saved us from original sin — who helped us be-

centrates on what each human being is obtaining for himself through Christ's soon-to-be sacrifice, “I got me.”

And how much better a word is “straw,” used as a verb, suggesting profusion and abundance, than the more commonplace and usual “strew?”

The next line repeats, “I got me,” showing once again that the pilgrim's least attempt to make a gift to God automatically rebounds and reverts to the would-be giver.

We can share the pilgrim's delight at God on earth, as he breaks boughs from the trees to make the path soft and beautiful.

The poet's emphasis abruptly shifts though from the happy preparation for Christ's entry into Jerusalem, to the reality of the glory of God.

“But thou,” and we sense that we can never equal Christ's own preparation, for he is up at sunrise, or “break of day.”

In the last line is the complete, yet quiet, climax “And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.”

These “sweets,” of course, are the crucifixion, Jesus's love for each one of us, culminating on the cross.

These sweets are the meaning of the world.

Patricia J. “Patty Joe” Long is a member of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia.

come the children of light once more. By the working of the Holy Spirit, God enlarged our humanity without diminishing his divinity.

In the Church of the Annunciation, built in Nazareth, over the place where this history-altering encounter occurred, the inscription on the marble altar explains the mystery: “*Verbum caro hic factum est.*” That is, “Right HERE, the Word became Flesh.”

In that instant of annunciation — much quieter than the angel song of Christmas — the waiting was over; the cries and hopes of God's chosen people through centuries were fulfilled. Sacred was that child conceived in Mary's womb, a divine Person, wrapped in our human nature. Similarly sacred is every human person from the moment of conception.

Through these combined annun-

ciations of March and December, God gave us the greatest weapon of all in our ultimate battle against Satan. He gave us his only Son, the Word of God made flesh, and our Blessed Mother, who loves us so much, and the Church that is Christ's body. Let's not forget that Mary has been taken up, body and soul to heaven. She literally has the ear of the One who saves.

And so, this month — today, and every day — I make this solemn announcement to you: Jesus is with us, and will be until the end of the age, as he has promised. He has fulfilled the will of his Father, gathering disciples and friends, offering us the Sacraments — preeminently his living Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, which he commended to us on the night when he

See REED, page 19

REFLECTION

The whole truth

By Mark Saucier

Holy Week begins with an ironic scene.

An itinerant preacher from the countryside is placed on a donkey, lauded with palm branches and hosana-ed by the crowd as their conquering king.

The governor Pontius Pilate would have been arriving in Jerusalem at the same time to ensure the peace during Passover.

No donkey for the mid-level bureaucrat. He would have had soldiers, horses and chariots — all the awesome weight of Rome.

Written in the shadows of imperial domination and the destruction of Jerusalem, the gospels were careful not to poke the bear, but Jesus knew what would happen when his Kingdom clashed with Empire.

He knew who would win.

He knew what would happen to him if he dared to stand up to the structures subjecting people for an imagined peace and rewarding subservience with status and wealth.

He knew going in that he didn't stand a chance of coming out; that's why in the garden, Jesus begged for reassignment.

But in that prayer, he found love ran much deeper than fear.

Somewhere in that agony, he found the ground where he must stand to the point of death and be buried to the point of life.

It wasn't going to change anything, only deepen his conviction, and that would convict others for the ages.

Jesus is taken in the middle of the night by a Sanhedrin SWAT team. Secrecy, stealth and darkness are not the ways of legitimate power.

The high priest Caiaphas believed it was better for one man to die than the people. While that calculus may have been true, it also assured that Caiaphas and company would keep their anointed and well-oiled positions.

In Luke, Jesus is sent to Herod, who was hoping to see some miracle. When accused, Jesus remained silent, knowing that no words could change someone looking for magic.

Dependent on Rome for his kingly trappings, Herod tried to impress his puppet master by returning Jesus to Pilate, draped in mocking royal robes.

And then Pilate. This roguish little pawn of Tiberias knew Jesus was innocent of charges, but still a threat to him and to Rome.

Here was a man preaching a kingdom of care and concern, of God and neighbor, of surrender and service.

Rome and its doled-out power relied on brawn and the force of self-interest, not moral authority.

“What is truth?” Pilate asked.

Jesus didn't answer. He knew that, for the kingdoms of this world, truth is merely what serves you best.

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Reflecting on one year of service at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry



By Lori Stoll
with Ashley Wiskirchen

As I reflect on one year of serving our neighbors in the pantry, I feel immense gratitude.

I feel grateful that Catholic Charities has given me the opportunity to serve in a meaningful way.

I feel grateful that our team has come together in shaping and creating this space and model of distribution.

I am grateful for our volunteers for showing up and embracing this community.

Finally, I am grateful to the community of neighbors we serve for accepting something new and being willing to learn and be patient with this model of service.

When we opened the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Jefferson City we knew, in keeping with Catholic social teaching, we wanted each person we served to feel that were treated with dignity.

In thinking about our physical layout, the software we use at checkout, and the language we use with our neighbors — every decision we made kept this mission in mind.

One year later, we've seen that vision of encountering neighbors, caring for them, and forming relationships while bringing them closer to food security realized.

As I reflect on this progress I am also filled with joy.

Our pantry members continually let us know that they love coming here.

It's common for the staff and volunteers at the Welcome Center counter and in

the pantry to visit with our neighbors and hear, "this is my favorite place to go for food!"

And for us, we know that feedback isn't only because we're helping people put food in their carts and in their pantries.

This feedback is deeper, and I know it is because our team genuinely loves what we do — and shows that in how they treat our visitors.

Our staff and volunteers in the pantry create and nurture an atmosphere of love.

I see it when we hand out numbers to shoppers, when we welcome a new family into a membership, and when we're stocking the shelves.

This atmosphere builds relationships with our visitors, and trust within our community.

Trust that we will encounter and care for the whole person — regardless of faith, culture or situation.

Our neighbors and our community partners know the pantry isn't only a place to have needs met, it is also a safe place to engage and be cared for.

That is so real to me, when neighbors bring their children in to visit and play in the kid's playroom, when they share with us that they have a new job they're excited about,



Catholic Charities Staff Members celebrate the Catholic Charities Food Pantry's one year anniversary with an Open House Celebration welcoming community members and partners to tour the pantry, enjoy refreshments and live music, and learn about the incredible work the pantry has done to bring neighbors one step closer to food security. Pictured from left to right are Lori Stoll, Mark Smith-Vandergriff, Sr. Kathleen Wegman, SSND and Diane Elam.

when they show us pictures of their pets.

We share life with them, and it feeds something deeper than even food can.

The healthy, fresh, nutritional food we've got in stock will always be the most visible and engaging characteristic of our client-choice food pantry.

We are honored to be part of ensuring access to healthy and equitable nutrition — a foundational pillar of our mission in the Health and Nutrition Services program at Catholic Charities.

And we're honored to be a great part of someone's day.

That less tangible piece of this pantry is a gift.

Knowing our visitors well means we know the situations they face and sometimes help shoulder the hardships they've experienced.

It's just a reality that we cannot expect to meet all the needs of the community — but when people realize how easy it is to access our pantry and experience the level of care we provide, I get a sense of surprise and relief.

Pretty often, visitors will bring their friends back because they had no idea this

client-choice model existed, and they appreciated the experience so much.

That network of care is rippling out, and the work of love of encountering and serving our visitors is like reaching out a helping hand.

A hand that invites others to shop the pantry for healthy food, but also referrals to supportive services that can help create sustainable change in their situation — whether that is financial, housing relat-

ed, or in the form of mental health support.

As I think back to the preparation, planning and execution of the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, all I can think about is how it has far exceeded my expectations of the impact we would have on supporting this community.

How every part of the plan, from pouring over schematics to determine the layout of our building, and the research that it took to design a client-choice model, to the hour we open the door for shoppers, is a gift.

Lori Stoll is the Food Programs Coordinator at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

In her role, she oversees all aspects of the Catholic Charities Food Pantry and was integral in researching, developing and executing the vision for a client-choice grocery-model pantry housed in Catholic Charities' central office at 1015 Edmonds Street in Jefferson City, Missouri.



A volunteer helps a neighbor sign up for pantry membership, explaining how to shop at the client-choice pantry, hours of operation, and how the new member's SmartChoice points work to help her access fruits, vegetables, protein, grains and dairy products at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

The Catholic Charities Food Pantry is open four days a week

- Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 7 pm
- Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm.

The full schedule for the pantry (including any special closures) is included online at ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/events.

Setting up a pantry membership is easy — simply visit the pantry during regular office hours. Online ordering and drive-thru pick up is also available for pantry members.

Learn more online at ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/food-pantry.

Seven Jefferson City area churches to host stational pilgrimage on Holy Thursday evening

Seven parishes in and near the Capital City will host an evening of silent pilgrimage and prayer following the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6.

The Most Blessed Sacrament will be reposed for Adoration in all seven churches until midnight.

The churches include:

- St. Andrew Church, 400 St. Andrews Drive in Holts Summit;
- the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City;
- Immaculate Conception Church, 1206 E. McCarty St. in Jefferson City;
- St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway in Jefferson City;
- St. Martin Church, 7148 St. Martins Blvd. in St. Martins;
- St. Francis Xavier Church, 7319 Route M in

Taos; and

- St. Stanislaus Church, 6418 Route W in Wardsville.

All are invited to participate in the centuries-old tradition of visiting at least seven Altars of Repose in local churches.

In Rome, the custom is closely tied to visiting the seven major Roman basilicas. Catholics remember when Jesus asked His disciples to stay and watch with Him while they were in the garden after the Last Supper.

This tradition of mindful watching is a pilgrimage to various altars of repose, in different churches that correspond to each of the seven places, or "stations," that were made by Jesus between the Last Supper in the Upper Room to His crucifixion on the cross.

At each of the seven stops, a brief meditation is made upon the events of the first Holy Thursday fol-

lowing the Last Supper:

- Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46)
- Jesus bound and taken before Annas (John 18:19-22)
- Jesus taken before the High Priest, Caiaphas (Matthew 26:63-65)
- Jesus taken before Pilate (John 18, 35-37)
- Jesus taken before Herod (Luke 23:8-9; 11)
- Jesus taken before Pilate again (Matthew 27:22-26); and
- Jesus crowned with thorns (Matthew 27:27-31).

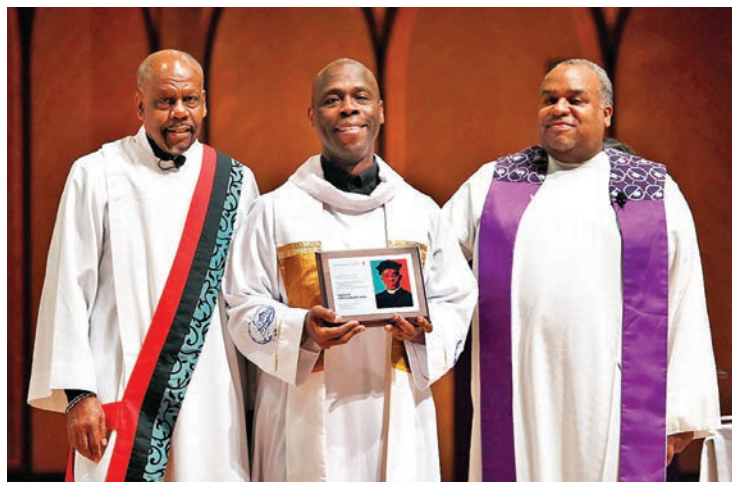
Upon entering each church, pilgrims visit the Altar of Repose, kneel, make the Sign of the Cross, read the appropriate Scripture passage for each station, and engage in private prayer and adoration.

At the seventh station, many will close their pilgrimage by opting to observe a Holy Hour.

Chamois, Morrison Mass times

Effective the weekend of April 15-16, Mass in Most Pure Heart of Mary Church in Chamois will be offered at 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Mass in Assumption Church in Morrison will be at 8 a.m. on Sundays.

Chicago Fr. Tolton Award



Father Carl Gales of the Divine Word Missionaries (middle) accepts the Augustus Tolton Award for Religious during the Chicago Archdiocese's 45th annual African American Heritage Service in the Cathedral of the Holy Name on Feb. 24. Fr. Gales previously served as music director for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City. With him are Deacon LeRoy Gill (left) and Father David Jones, pastor of St. Benedict the African Parish in Chicago. The award is named in honor of Venerable Augustus Tolton, a Missouri native who became the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States. He ministered in Quincy and Chicago.

— Photo by Karen Callaway, courtesy of *Chicago Catholic*

Piano skills workshop in Sedalia for pastoral musicians

DATE: April 15
TIME: 9 am - noon

The Jefferson City chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) is offering pastoral musicians a chance to enhance their piano skills during a workshop with Rick Reed on Saturday, April 15, in Sedalia.

It will be from 9 a.m. to noon in Sacred Heart School 416 W. Third St.

Mr. Reed, a renowned pastoral musician and composer and arranger of choral and instrumental music for major liturgical celebrations, has presented at national conventions and performed in several countries.

Registration is \$40 per

person for NPM members and \$50 for non-members, lunch is included.

Class size is limited to 16. Register by emailing: jeffersoncitymo@npm.org.

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DIOCESE OF Jefferson City

Belle parishioners visit State Capitol on parish feastday

By Anita Frey

The feastday of St. Alexander Parish in Belle proved to be a fine day for members of St. Alexander Parish to visit the Missouri State Capitol.

State Rep. Bruce Sassmann (R-District 61) and his wife, Jan, are members of St. Alexander Parish.

Rep. Sassmann's district takes in all of Osage and Gasconade counties and parts of Miller and Montgomery counties.

Rep. and Mrs. Sassmann are very involved in the parish.

They can often be seen serving as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, gift-bearers and greeters at Mass.

They recently treated several families of the parish to a special tour of the Capitol.

The families went to the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 26, in Belle and then drove to Jefferson City.

Rep. Sassmann took his parish church family on the regular tour of the Capitol and then provided access to special areas of the building.

The delegation toured his



Members of St. Alexander Parish in Belle take in the scope and majesty the Whispering Gallery in the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City.

Arianism was a heresy that denied the Divinity of Christ and seriously threatened the Church.

St. Alexander battled this heresy and convened the Ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325.

The Nicene Creed, still recited by Catholics each Sunday at Mass, was articulated under the guidance of the Holy Spirit during the Council of Nicea.

The Creed affirms the faith and proclaims what Catholic Christians believe.

St. Alexander is an exemplar of defending the faith and

See CAPITOL, page 14

office and then made the climb to the Whispering Gallery and then to the Top of the Capitol.

While in the Whispering Gallery, the group sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The tour ended with an ice cream treat in Rep. Sassmann's office.

Not only was this day a special day at the State Capitol — it was also St. Alexander Par-

ish's feastday.

St. Alexander was the 19th Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria.

He was a defender of the faith. During his reign, the heresy of Arianism was sweeping the region.



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Abby Johnson has always been determined to help women in need. That desire led Abby to a career with Planned Parenthood and caused her to flee the organization and become an outspoken advocate for the Pro-Life Movement. She went on to write the national best-selling book and movie adaptation, *Unplanned*, about her experiences.

Abby is a frequently requested guest on Fox News and a variety of other shows. Today, she continues to advocate for the preborn as the founder of And Then There Were None which helps abortion facility workers escape the abortion industry.

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Martinsburg native visits border parish, seeks prayers for stranded asylum-seekers

By Jay Nies

People asked if Father Edward Becker was afraid during his visit to a church near the U.S.-Mexico border earlier this year.

No. He was just sad.

“Jesus knows from his own personal experience what the Venezuelan refugees at Sacred Heart Church in El Paso, Texas, are and have been experiencing,” Fr. Becker stated.

“I am pretty sure that Jesus wants us to do whatever we reasonably can to love and care for these brothers and sisters of his and ours,” he said.

Fr. Becker, a Martinsburg native, is a priest of the Diocese of Orange, California.

He and his sister, Jean Becker, a Houston resident who also grew up in Martinsburg, traveled to El Paso last December for Fr. Becker to preside at a wedding in Sacred Heart Church.

The church historically has been a first stop for immigrants coming over the U.S.-Mexico border into El Paso.

In his coming and going from the parish, Fr. Becker interacted with Venezuelan asylum-seekers and witnessed firsthand the local Church’s response to a sudden influx of people in need of great help.

The pastor and staff of Sacred Heart Parish in El Paso told Fr. Becker that for weeks, hundreds of Venezuelan asy-



George, 5, a migrant boy from Venezuela traveling with his family, looks through the border wall as family members line up to request asylum in El Paso, Texas, Dec. 27, 2022.

— CNS photo/Jose Luis Gonzalez, Reuters

lum-seekers had been making their way to the church after crossing the border in or near the city.

The migrants had been shut out of city-run shelters in El Paso, and the federal government was unwilling either to process them for possible asylum or send them back to Mexico or their native Venezuela.

Sacred Heart had opened its doors and was providing food and shelter to hundreds of migrants.

In a Jan. 8 blog post, Fr. Becker described Sacred Heart as “ground zero for the current Title 42 immigration crisis centered in El Paso,” and asked for prayers for the people of the parish who were helping the asylum-seekers.

“At night, the parish opened

its parish hall as an overnight shelter for women and children,” the priest noted.

There wasn’t enough room in the hall to shelter the men. Fr. Becker said that although the city was otherwise largely unhelpful, it did provide a couple of municipal buses for the men to sleep in at night.

The parish provided regular meals to the stranded asylum-seekers, with help from a neighboring congregation.

“One evening, the parish faith formation director asked his mother to come and cook for everyone,” Fr. Becker

wrote. “Now that is a super mom!”

Safer than they were

Title 42, a federal public health rule enforced by the Trump administration during the COVID-19 pandemic, permits immigration officials to block migrants at the border from seeking asylum from entry.

Title 42 was set to end last December, but the U.S. Supreme Court in an emergency order Dec. 27 decided to keep it in effect indefinitely.

Fr. Becker said he walked several times among the Venezuelan people gathered on

See BORDER, page 14

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JCRATI could not have served these unhoused individuals without Catholic Charities’ donation of their facility. Thank you.



check us out on Facebook at JEFFERSON CITY ROOM AT THE INN

BORDER

From page 13

the street around Sacred Heart Church, “able to offer a smile and kind word to them but not much else.”

“But I also had confidence

that the Sacred Heart parish community was taking good care of them,” he stated.

Sacred Heart’s pastor and staff shared stories their guests

had told them about the extreme danger and injustice that they experienced in their homeland that caused them to decide to escape and make the long, difficult journey toward the United States.

“A common theme has been that as dangerous and difficult as it has been to migrate to the United States, their current limbo at Sacred Heart Church has been a huge improvement over their lives back in Venezuela,” Fr. Becker wrote.

Human life

The Biden Administration recently announced plans to issue a temporary rule blocking asylum-seekers who cross the border without authorization or who do not first apply for protections in other nations before coming to the United States.

Catholic immigration advocates condemned the proposal.

U.S. immigration policy generally differentiates those fleeing persecution in other countries from other migrants who cross the border unlawfully. The proposal, which the administration has characterized as temporary, would scale back that approach.

The U.S. Catholic bishops voiced concern the rule would

impose punitive restrictions on the right to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border.

In a statement, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, said the USCCB is “deeply troubled by this proposal, which perpetuates the misguided notion that heavy-handed enforcement measures are a viable solution to increased migration and forced displacement.”

“Decades of similar approaches have demonstrated otherwise,” Bishop Seitz stated. The El Paso bishop said the U.S. bishops have recognized “our country’s right to maintain its borders,” but have “consistently rejected policies that weaken asylum access for those most in need of relief and expose them to further danger.”

He added that while the USCCB appreciates the administration’s “desire to expand lawful pathways to the United States, especially through increased refugee processing,” he emphasized those efforts should not take place “at the expense of vulnerable persons urgently seeking protection at our border.”

“Above all, the sanctity of human life remains para-

mount,” said Bishop Seitz.

In God’s hands

Over time, policy changes and increased enforcement at the border reduced the number of migrants staying at Sacred Heart from over 500 to about 50, according to a Feb. 6 article in *El Paso Matters*, a nonprofit local media organization.

Fr. Becker is convinced that God is pleased with the faith in action displayed by El Paso’s Sacred Heart parishioners and wants others to assist them.

At very least, the priest stated, “we can pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ and the sons and daughters of God who are caught up in this current Title 42 humanitarian crisis, including the Venezuelan refugees at Sacred Heart Parish.”

“We also can pray for the Sacred Heart parish staff and parishioners who are caring for them as best they can,” he said. “Let us keep praying, and let us encourage our elected officials to resolve this crisis sooner rather than later.”

Ms. Scanlon is a national reporter covering Washington for OSV News.

Maria-Pia Chin, Spanish editor for OSV News, contributed to this report.

CAPITOL

From page 12

fighting for what is good and true.

Let us pray for our State of Missouri and all the Missouri Legislators as they defend what is good and true.

Ms. Frey is a member of St. Alexander Parish in Belle.



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SR. KATHLEEN

From page 1

during this transitional period," he stated.

Over the waves

"We have a very wonderful, competent, dedicated staff," Sr. Kathleen said. "They're good people. They're good at what they do. They're mission-driven, they're focused, they have a heart for the poor."

She told the staff that she feels confident accepting the invitation to serve as interim executive director because of them and what she knows they can do.

"We can do this together," she stated. "While I don't know the ins-and-outs of everyone's work here, I am gratified to know that each staff member knows their clients well and carries out their work with deep care."

She said Mr. Lester has grown Catholic Charities "beautifully."

"I'm stepping into some big shoes," she said.

She sees her time as interim executive director to be an opportunity for the entire organization to pause, breathe and listen while continuing to carry on the ministry.

"I find something very sacred about an interim, a time of transition like this," she said. "It can provide an opportunity to assess what we are doing, how we are doing it, and what we need to do to tend to each other and be intentional about it."

She likened the situation to everyone being on a ship together, heading toward a dock to pick up a new executive director.

"And all through the trip, there will continue to be big waves of need splashing up against us," she said. "And we will continue to respond to those needs while spending time together and learning from each other."

Catholic Charities (cccnmo.diojeffcity.org) is a non-profit agency founded by the Jefferson City diocese in 2011 to provide compassionate social services to vulnerable people across the 38 counties of the diocese.

Last year, the agency provided services to more than 6,000 individuals across a va-

riety of programs.

This includes services for refugees and immigrants, those with food insecurity, mental health needs, health activities and education, financial and housing counseling, and Hispanic community services.

Sr. Kathleen said it's good "for a ministry that has grown very quickly over a very short time, to take a deep breath and patiently prepare for a new executive director."

Toward strengthening unity

Sr. Kathleen believes her No. 1 role as interim director will be to listen.

"It will be essential to listen to the people involved in our ministries, and reflect back to them the challenges and opportunities that have surfaced in light of our mission, in light of who we are, who we are called to be and the ministries we are called to provide," she said.

"This time of transition can provide an opportunity to strengthen what we have," she stated, "to clarify our vision, to sharpen whatever needs to be sharpened for the services that are to be provided."

"Just to take a long, loving look at where we have come from, where we are now and what we want to make sure is in place when we welcome the next director," she said.

She hopes to help strengthen unity and identity throughout the Catholic Charities organization.

"What I sense now is that we have many departments doing very good work," she stated. "I hope we can grow in our sense of oneness, and welcome the strength that flows from that. Because we are all most united at the level of mission."

Since 2020, Catholic Charities has purchased, renovated and expanded a building to serve as its new headquarters and hub of local services in Jefferson City, established a client-choice food pantry



Sister Kathleen Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who will serve as interim director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, stands in the chapel of the Catholic Charities Center in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Ashley Wiskirchen

that's open four days a week, and resettled hundreds of refugees and displaced persons from Afghanistan, Ukraine and other parts of the world.

Fullness of potential

Sr. Kathleen is a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), an international congregation of religious sisters.

"My vow of obedience means I respond to such requests in a dialogic and discerning manner with members of my congregation and congregational leadership," she said.

After the Catholic Charities board invited her to serve as interim director, she went home to reflect on it.

"On my prayer table at home, I have a list of the names of all our staff, and every day, I pray for a different one of them," she said. "That night, I lifted it up and held it in my hands and said, 'We can do this together.'"

She discussed it with fellow SSNDs, then with her provincial leader and provincial counselors.

"They said, 'Yes, we're affirming this ministry and are in support of you saying yes,'" she said.

"Through every step of this discernment, I felt a personal sense of being called by God to this," she said. "Every place I went with this, it seemed to be of God. It just felt right."

board member.

She later served as the diocese's director of parish and charitable services, and then as senior director of mission integration for Catholic Charities, helping to orient the quickly growing and diversifying staff in the foundational principles of the Gospel and Catholic social teaching.

She noted that the role of interim director is a good fit for the SSND charism — its foundational gift from the Holy Spirit.

"Our mission as educators is to assist others in reaching the fullness of their potential," she

stated. "And that is what this is all about. We want to make sure that we have attained as much of that fullness as we can when the new director arrives."

"Spirit of service"

"Sr. Kathleen is a trusted leader in our diocese and she has my full confidence as she begins her service as interim executive director," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City.

"As we search for the next executive director, I thank her for her willingness to lead during this time and for continuing to demonstrate her strong spirit of service to those in need," he said.

Sr. Kathleen asked for prayers throughout the transition.

"Please pray especially for our clients and all who benefit from this, the charitable arm of the Catholic Church, and for our staff as we negotiate the waves of this transition," she said.

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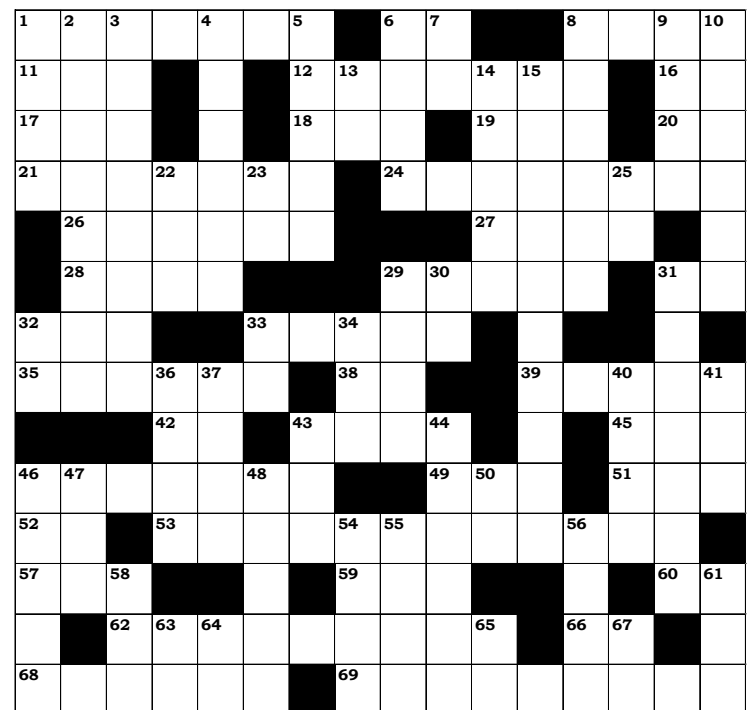
ACROSS

1. James W. Wells is not a common household name, but it should be more known than it is. Of humble origin, he settled in young and still frontier Mo. and played a good role in building the bones of our State's government and ____.
6. ____ Ho crackers.
8. First man.
11. Ostrich cousin.
12. In 1860, Wells was among a group of pro-Union men who planned to resist the newly-____ rabidly pro-Confederate Governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson.
16. According to the Dept. of Commerce, the National Income (____) is the net consumption of fixed capital earned in production.
17. Letters for Electronic Medical Records, your doctor's paper records digitized.
18. "The fellow came forward with a somewhat sullen, defiant ____, and put down his hands to assist," —*A Study in Scarlet*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
19. Letters for Harmonics to Noise Ratio; the measure that quantifies the amount of additive noise in a voice signal.
20. The Cardinals belong to this division.
21. "...____, and she will safeguard you..." —Proverbs 4:6 (2 wds.).
24. The fire that destroyed the State Capitol in 1837 also destroyed Wells' valuable papers and books, including the ____ State seal.
26. In 1821, while the State's deputy Attorney General, Wells took upon himself to ____ a State seal for Missouri which was adopted by the General Assembly a few weeks later.
27. "You cannot disrespect the caterpillar and ____ about the butterfly," —Mark Jackson.
28. "In the kingdom of the blind, the one-____ man is king," —Dutch Catholic theologian Desiderius Erasmus, a leading thinker and statesman in the midst of the Protestant Reformation.
29. In 1836, James Wells was appointed U.S. district _____. In that capacity he expedited the Dred Scott case from Mo. to the U.S. Supreme Court.
31. "Death, whether it came now ____ some thirty years later on earth, rose up and claimed his attention. There were preparations a man likes to make," —*Out of the Silent Planet*, C.S. Lewis.
32. Since 1941, the ____ has been our nation's leading org. serving the men and women of the U.S. military and their families.
33. "May we ____ for joy at your victory..." (Psalms 20:6).
35. I feel like I'm walking on easy ____; also, Perry Mason's secretary Della.
38. Hwy. or Ln.
39. "You'll have to leave my ____ on a tray outside the door because I'll be working late on the secret of making myself invisible," —S.J. Perelman.
42. Six points in football.
43. "If she must ____, Create her child of spleen; that it may live, And be a thwart disnatured torment to her!" —"King Lear," Act 1, Scene 4; Shakespeare.
45. "Like Jesus, allow others to help you carry a cross. Jesus was not too proud to allow Simon of Cyrene to help. If your friends offer to help, ____ them," —*Jesus, A Pilgrimage*, James Martin, S.J.
46. I love NASCAR. I love the horses. I always get so excited ____ track! (3 wds.)
49. Prince Valiant's son.
51. "...but only ____ the word and my soul shall be healed," —from the Mass.
52. Letters for Common Era, often used in scientific fields instead of A.D.
53. Though Wells owned slaves, he was elected president of the first (1862) and second (1863) ____ conventions which were held even as the Civil War raged

- in Mo.
57. As Abraham looked about, he spied a ____ caught by its horns in the thicket," (Genesis 22:13).
59. You probably have one of these on your smart phone.
60. Letters for Staten Island, borough of NYC.
62. Supporting local & State infrastructure, Wells supported the extension of the Pacific RR. Wells & family were onboard on the RR's inaugural run from St. Louis to Jeff. City when the Gasconade River bridge _____. 43 people died and hundreds were injured. Wells & family survived.
66. Moon of Jupiter.
68. Humans, like most mammals, have five.
69. "____ scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing," —Luke 4:21 (2 wds.).

DOWN

1. Part of a shoe; or a command to Fido.
2. "I have never pretended to be a great writer. But I am totally ____ about being a great reporter and a good news writer. That's my skill," —Walter Cronkite.
3. At age 21, James W. Wells served as a federal deputy ____ in north central Missouri.
4. "An ____ is notorious for being a difficult flower to take care of but for many plant lovers, its striking beauty and elegance makes it worth the hassle," —Sarah Regan.
5. Long for.
6. "A ____ is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom," —Bob Dylan.
7. Letters for parishes in Owensville and Brookfield.
8. There is something so relaxing about ____ in the country (2 wds.).
9. "There was also a prophetess, ____, the daughter of Phanuel..." (Luke 2:36).
10. In 1845, Rep. Wells, now representing the counties of Cole, Morgan and ____ (Co. seat is Tuscumbia) served as president of Mo.'s 1845 State Convention to formulate a new Mo. constitution. He took it upon himself to write an explanation for wide distribution.



13. 51 for Nero.
14. In 1826, Wells became Mo.'s ____ Attorney General. As such, one of his responsibilities was to investigate the persecution of Mormons in Mo. and their militias.
15. Did you hear? They announced their ____ and set a wedding date!
22. Dir. from Brunswick to Hermann.
23. Abbr. meaning for example.
25. The Cornhusker State (abbr.).
29. St. ____ Thaddeus, one of the 12.
30. The Beehive State; the beehive was a Mormon symbol of busyness, unity and prosperity (abbr.).
31. New ____, Mardi Gras city.
32. "What love God had and has for ____! We shall not really understand it until one day in Paradise," —*The Cure D'Arts Today*, Fr. George Wm. Rutler.
33. Abbr. before a person with a halo.
34. Mine output.
36. To Be in French 101.
37. Dutch cheese.
40. "What you see and hear depends a great deal on where you are standing; it ____ depends on what sort of person you are," —*The Silver Chair*, C.S. Lewis.
41. Pig place.
43. "Don't snap at the people who work with you. When you see red, count to ____," —*An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*, Col. Chris Hadfield.
44. He's looked at the route and has it all ____ out.
46. In his spare time, Wells enjoyed managing 1,300 ____ of fruit trees; in the 1830s he constructed a notable two-story home in Jeff. City built in the steamboat Gothic-style with gingerbread trim & an exterior spiral staircase.
47. Earl Grey or Lipton.
48. Here deep ____ to deep in the roar of your torrents," (Psalms 42:8).
50. Letters for Rheumatoid Arthritis.
54. Abbr. for captain.
55. ____ *facto*; Latin phrase meaning it is reasonable to believe something based on facts already known.
56. That looks dangerous. ____ safe? (2 wds.)
58. Letters for multi-channel network; i.e., what a company uses that assists streaming video platforms like U-Tube.
61. First three letters of Jesus in Greek, the language of the early Church. It's an abbr. sometimes seen today on vestments and altar coverings.
63. Bone.
64. ____ Musee Louvre; the Louvre Museum in Paris, the world's most visited museum; ranked # 1 globally; includes the Mona Lisa, the world's most famous painting.
65. In social work, letters for Domestic Abuse.
67. The Buckeye State; 8 Presidents came from this State (abbr.).

ANSWERS on page 19

CRUCIFIX

From page 1

me personally, I never want to lose the awe in my heart when I see something new and beautiful that we've created for a church."

Mr. Albl's company also created the new statues of St. Isadore, patron saint of farmers, and his wife, Blessed Maria; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, who served as a missionary and educator in what is now Missouri; and Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, a Missouri native who went from slavery to becoming the nation's first recognizably Black priest of the Roman Catholic Church.

The statues were created in a spacious studio next to the outdoor venue where the village of Oberammergau has been staging its live reenactment of Jesus's passion and death for centuries.

The Albls, now in their 14th generation, are likely the oldest woodcarving family in Europe.

"We can trace our ancestors back until 1556," said Johannes, the company's business manager.

Handiwork of generations of the studio's artisans adorn churches all over the world.

"While I was studying in Chicago for six months, I visited a church in Wheaton where my father had carved a 7-foot-10-inch corpus for a crucifix," said Mr. Albl.

"It's unbelievable to go to a place that's filled with 1,500 people on Sunday and see the work of your dad reminding everybody of what it's all about," he stated. "The importance of this work can never be underestimated."

Behold the wood

Mr. Byrne grew up in Co. Wicklow, Ireland, about 40 miles from Dublin.

"We call it the Garden of Ireland," he stated. "It's such a beautiful place."

He started helping his father build furniture for their family home when he was a child.

"I remember being 3 and 4 years old and sanding panels with my dad," he said. "I decided right then that this was what I wanted to do."

He undertook a five-year woodworking apprenticeship and additional studies in design.

He and his wife moved to Kansas City a couple of years

after getting married in Ireland.

Mr. Byrne opened his business in 1990 and now employs 20 artisans in a 16,000-square-foot woodshop.

Mr. Byrne recently helped complete the restoration of the 1883-vintage St. Peter Church in Jefferson City, fashioning trim for the sanctuary and elaborate woodwork for the new confessionals.

In comparison, "St. Joseph (Cathedral) is more contemporary — modern, I suppose you'd say," he stated. "But a classical kind of modern."

For the sanctuary cross, he selected pieces of Douglas fir with simple, straight, vertical grain.

"I didn't want a lot of busyness in the grain to take anything away from the image of Jesus," he said. "I just wanted nice, clean lines, and I believe we succeeded."

He noted that the four end pieces of the cross match the flourishes on the bishop's chair ("*cathedra*"), from which a cathedral gets its name.

"It turned out really nice how it unifies them both," he said.

The sanctuary furnishings are rendered in quarter-sawed white oak, with vibrant wood-grain. The paneling is of similar, rift-cut white oak.

Taming some of the wood has required ingenuity and tenacity.

"For instance, we have to integrate the ambo with the stairs leading up to the sanctuary," said Mr. Byrne. "The stairs are radial. You've got to get the angle exactly right. It's been quite a task."

Out of the forest

The crucifix is part of a soon-to-be-completed renovation, expansion and renewal of the Cathedral, to replace the building's failing systems while enhancing its beauty, functionality, capacity for hospitality and conduciveness to uniquely Catholic worship.

The Albl studio's work on the corpus and other statues began with interviews and discussions, followed by pencil sketches that became more fully developed with input from Bishop McKnight; Bill Heyer, the project's architectural con-

sultant; and the Cathedral renovation steering committee.

"Eventually, it comes down to an approved sketch that we can take into production," Mr. Albl stated.

He said linden wood is good for statues because its grain does not call attention to itself.

"We take slats and fasten them together with wood glue and compress it with a clamp," he stated. "After the gluing process, we cut out the rough shape of that statue."

The carver then uses carving knives to render each detail and refine the image to completion.

The artisan then applies an old beeswax formula to the surface to give it a shiny finish and protect it from the elements.

Each statue is then packed in custom-built, air-freight-certified crates and sent to the work site.

"There were approximately two years and two months between our first contact with the project architect and when the statues left Germany," Mr. Albl noted.

Bond of strength

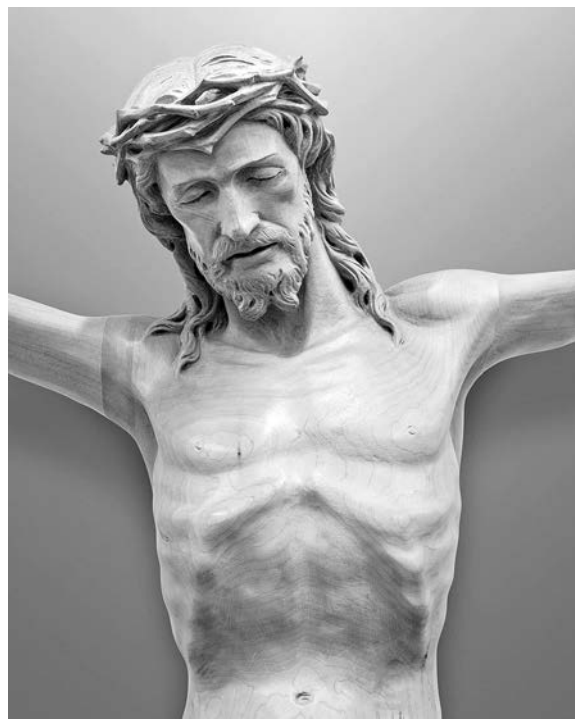
Mr. Heyer pointed out that the Cathedral's original architect wanted to create a recessed area at the back of the sanctuary. But that would have been difficult, as the entire circular shape of the building is supported by a steel tensile ring that would pass behind the sanctuary wall.

Mr. Heyer revisited the idea while working up initial plans for the renovation in 2020, only to have structural engineers tell him that keeping the tensile ring intact is essential for holding the building together.

He decided to remove the wall but leave the structural ring intact.

The exposed steel beam has been encased in wood, onto which the sanctuary crucifix will be mounted.

"The symbolism of that struck me immediately," said



A close-up of the hand-carved corpus for the crucifix in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

— Photo from the ALBL Oberammergau Facebook page

Mr. Heyer. "Christ is supporting his Church. He's basically saying, 'Without me, this all falls apart.'"

Hope and sacrifice

Mr. Albl and Mr. Byrne discussed the significance of having a crucifix over the altar, rather than an empty cross.

"It's so we can be reminded of the huge sacrifice that Jesus made for us," said Mr. Byrne. "It's like, 'There he is, right where you can see him!' And we have to do our part, too, which is minimal risk in comparison."

"Christ on the cross is the deciding moment and the ultimate symbol of hope," said Mr. Albl. "So, why shouldn't we display a symbol of hope in its original form?"

Mr. Albl addressed the objection some non-Catholics express about the Catholic tradition of embellishing churches with images of Jesus and the saints.

"It's not an idol that we're creating," he said. "It's something that strengthens the faith and gives beauty and inspiration and also teaches and ultimately points people toward Christ."

"That's the whole point of what we're doing, not creating an idol or a golden calf," he stated. "Because no golden calf can rescue you!"

Both men said they're pleased with the trend of the past decade or so toward more-traditional forms of church design and décor.

"I grew up going to Mass in one of the most beautiful baroque churches of Bavaria and was an altar boy there," said Mr. Albl.

"If you see that kind of beauty all around you in the church, in combination with a beautiful Liturgy, in combination with a beautiful homily, in combination with beautiful music, it will touch you much more deeply than something less beautiful,"

he said.

Almost home

As the pieces come together and the finished Cathedral takes shape — "all of this comes to life," said Mr. Byrne. "It takes on so much feeling and emotion."

"I know that the attention to detail throughout this project has been superb," he stated. "All the tradesmen and craftspeople on site have been absolutely phenomenal, and I can see the enthusiasm on their faces as they witness how it's all coming together."

"I think it's taken everyone's heart, and they're putting everything they have into it," he said. "To look at all these craftspeople around you doing their work with such pride and passion — there's nothing like it."

Mr. Albl spoke of the effect he hopes the crucifix and renovated Cathedral will have on people today and on generations to come.

"The ideal case would be that it strengthens their faith, that they get inspiration about what heaven looks like," said Mr. Albl.

"I hope that when people see this image of our Lord, they will realize what he went through for all of us, and they will incorporate that into their lives and be as good of people as possible," he said.

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

Fundraisers & Social Events

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; **Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School Speech & Debate Team's "Hogsmeade Carnival and Trivia Night," carnival 1-3 pm, trivia night 4-6 pm, for info visit tinyurl.com/4vb2xc6z



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Charles Prather • Rick Prather
Tom Kummer

Apr. 2

Argyle, St. Aloysius & St. Boniface fried chicken & baked ham dinner, drive-thru only, 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 Graduation 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

Apr. 12

Jefferson City, Harlem Wizards Basketball Show presented by Central Missouri Community Action, 7-9 pm, Helias Catholic High School gym

Apr. 15

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School Alumni backyard BBQ contest, 7 am-5 pm, American Legion Sports Complex

Apr. 16

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels Parish Spring chicken dinner, 11 am-5 pm

Apr. 22

Jefferson City, Pregnancy Help Center's "Bubbles and Bounces 5K Walk/Run, 8:30 am, Memorial Park, for info or to register visit friendsofphc.org

Apr. 26

Jefferson City, Midwest March for Life and Rally, 8 am-2 pm,

Missouri State Capitol

Meetings/ Workshops

Apr. 2

Camdenton, Diocesan-wide Cursillo post-weekend Ultreya, 2-4 pm, St. Anthony Parish basement

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

Apr. 24

Boonville, Pro-life legislative update with Susan Klein, Executive Director of Missouri Right to Life, 1-2:30 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Hall

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

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 ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

abril 15

Marshall, Retiro Parroquial: Buena Administración, 9 am-3 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

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

ajpuertoplata@yahoo.com

abril 22

Jefferson City, Retiro Parroquial: Buena Administración, 9 am-3 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

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

Apr. 2

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

Apr. 3

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

Apr. 23

Wardsville, "The Way: A Women's Spiritual Retreat," 11:30 am-5 pm, St. Stanislaus Parish gym, for info or to register visit eventbrite.com and search "The Way" in location "Jefferson City"

Liturgical

Mar. 31

St. Martins, Stations of the Cross and Lenten Music Program, 7 pm, St. Martin Church

Apr. 4

Jefferson City, Chrism Mass, 10 am-noon, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Apr. 11

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday

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

Youth & Young Adults

Apr. 5

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

Apr. 16

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

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-macabee

Jun. 25-30

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

Nov. 16-19

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

Health & Wellness

Apr. 17

Rich Fountain, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Sacred Heart School cafeteria

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

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

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

Anniversaries

Marshall, St. Peter — Leo & Sherri Grothaus, 50 years

Birthdays

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — Marie Ries, her 95th on Apr. 1; Barbara Brady, her 93rd on Apr. 4

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — Martha Strope, her 98th on Mar. 27

MARCH

From page 4

Good neighbors

Inspiration for the Sanctuary Cites for the Unborn movement comes from Amos 5:15: “Hate evil and love good, and let justice prevail at the gate; Then it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will have pity on the remnant of Joseph.”

“For so long, we said that if you want to take care of abortion, you do that at the Statehouse and the national’s Capitol,” said Mr. Dickson.

“But the battle is also local,” he noted. “The women who are contemplating abortion are coming from our communities.”

He said he hopes participants in this year’s march come away with a broader perspective of their pro-life responsibilities.

“We have to do our part to maintain what we currently have while working to end abortion in every state in America,” he stated.

He noted that one of the greatest commandments is to “love your neighbor.”

“That means we should care about this battle not just in our own state but in our neighboring states,” he said.

“Finish the job”

Mr. Carney, who lives in Texas, has visited Missouri several times and devoted a chapter in his book, *The Beginning of the End of Abortion*, to local

The GLORY of these 40 days!

Deaths

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — Rose Fitzgerald

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — Laurissa Reynolds

Tipton, St. Andrew — Virginia Scholl

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — Opal Witt

Elections

Argyle, St. Aloysius — Scott Reichel and Dawn Wieberg, to the parish pastoral council

pro-life advocate Kathy Forck for the success of the Columbia 40 Days for Life.

He asked for prayers for the Holy Spirit to speak boldly and clearly throughout the Mid West March for Life, “and that people realize that the battle is not over and that we need to finish the job.”

Mr. Dickson encouraged women and men alike to attend the march.

“This is a humanity issue, and we’re all in this together,” he stated. “We are all human beings, made in the image of God. We have that common origin.”

“We are all former fetuses; we all were in our mother’s womb,” he said. “And our value, our worth, our existence should not be determined by another human being.”

He said people who regret having had one or more abortions or having encouraged someone else to do so are most welcome at the March.

“I have known many who have found hope and forgiveness in Jesus Christ and they are looking forward to the day that they are reunited with that child,” he said.

Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — Zoey Louise Backues, daughter of Connor & Trisha Backues

Hermann, St. George — Brody Nicholas Kuebler, son of Kenneth & Amy Kuebler; Miles Michael Mundwiller, son of Tim & Rachel Salazar; Levi Rahn Schmidt, son of Tobe & Samantha Schmidt

Pilot Grove, St. Joseph — Calla Rose Twenter, daughter of Brett & Shelby Twenter

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — Otto Michael Grotewiel, son of Evan & Natalie Grotewiel

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — Campbell Pearl Shikles, daughter of Aaron & Callie Shikles

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — Aspen Olivia Fischer, daughter of Kurt & Jobi Fischer

REED

From page 9

made his own “fiat” in Gethsemane. He freely suffered and died a cruel death and is risen — a reality we will celebrate soon and very soon.

O Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us

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

LAST SUPPER

From page 3

In another unexpected moment, Bishop McKnight and his fellow pilgrims celebrated Mass in the Dominus Flevit Chapel on the Mount of Olives.

“*Dominus Flevit*” is Latin for “The Lord wept.”

A curtain of glass behind the altar affords a view across the valley to where the Temple in Jerusalem once stood.

“Taking in that entire view was just incredible,” said Bishop McKnight.

The group also participated in Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Church of All Nations in Gethsemane, the garden where Jesus prayed the night before he died.

“When we got there, lo and behold, I was the only bishop there!” he recalled.

“They had me preside,” he said. “Before I imparted the Benediction blessing, everyone present processed out and through the Garden of Gethsemane. What a beautiful, prayerful experience it was!”

Hearts still burning

Before leaving the Holy Land, the pilgrims stopped at one of the two churches venerated as the site of Jesus’s incognito encounter with two disci-

ples on the Road to Emmaus on Easter Sunday.

There, he opened their minds and hearts to the Scriptures that referred to him and the need for him to die and rise.

There also, they recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

“There is a French community of religious monks and sisters that have custody of that site,” Bishop McKnight noted. “We participated in the first part of their sung Vespers in the twilight. It was quite beautiful.”

He carries these experiences with him now each time he celebrates Mass.

“Your imagination is always at work when you listen to the Scriptures being read,” he said. “But once you’ve been to the Holy Land you’ve actually seen the places and you now have a historical frame of reference.”

“And I see more clearly now how our celebration of the Eucharist is the connection we have with those who have gone before us,” he said.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

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Diocese of Jefferson City

BELLS

From page 8

presence to us here and now,” the bishop stated. “And with these bells, we get to extend that manifestation of God’s presence, not only in sight but also with sound.”

Love notes

The largest of the new bells is 45 inches in diameter and weighs 1,800 pounds. This bell, which will chime an F note, is named St. Joseph in honor of the patron of the Cathedral. It includes the inscription “Holy to the Lord,” from the Bible verse Zechariah 14:20.

The other four bells have diameters of 30 inches, 23 inches, 20 inches and 19 inches. They are named in honor of the writers of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They are tuned to C, F, G and A.

Each of these bells is also marked with an inscription:

•St. Matthew: “Their sound goes forth through all the earth.” (Psalm 19:5A)

•St. Mark: “Praise him with resounding cymbals.” (Psalm 150:5B)

•St. Luke: “Music from your heart.” (Ephesians 5:19C)

•St. John: “Let us ring out our joy.” (Psalm 95:1A)

The bells were produced by McShane Bell Company, a Missouri-based company that has been in operation since 1856. They were cast in Europe in the traditional method, using sweeps and molds from the McShane Bell Company.

Following the blessing by Bishop McKnight, the bells were installed in two belfries that are attached to a newly expanded narthex, which was constructed during the ongoing renovation of the Cathedral.

“This is an important milestone for our diocese and our parish,” said Fr. Nelen. “As we approach the completion of construction, these bells will help us welcome everyone back home for Mass at our Cathedral of St. Joseph.”

“It will be a historic moment for our current parishioners to be the first to hear this



— Photo by Jay Nies

call to prayer, knowing that these bells will be calling out to our faithful for generations to come,” he said.

“In joy and sorrow”

The sweet smell of incense mixed with the aroma of freshly sawed wood from the beams of the new portico and the dampness of gentle rain.

“Dear brothers and sisters, today is a joyous and happy day for all of us, as the new bells are installed in our Cathedral, and we have the opportunity in this celebration to praise God’s name,” said Bishop McKnight.

Following the Order for the Blessing of Bells, he prayed: “By this blessing, accept these bells into your service. May their voice direct our hearts toward you and prompt us to come gladly to this Cathedral, there to experience the pres-

ence of Christ, listen to your word, offer you our prayers, and both in joy and sorrow be friends to one another.”

Fr. Nelen announced the names of the bells and proclaimed the Scripture verse on each.

The bishop sprinkled holy water onto the bells, then burned incense over them.

In imparting a blessing to all present, he prayed, “In his mercy, may God grant that when he calls you to this Cathedral through the clear voice of these bells, you will listen attentively to his word.”

A nice ring

“When we’re finished today, they’re going to lift them up into these towers,” Mrs. Prenger told her students. “You can look up and see where they’re going to lift the bells.”

Cathedral Parish employee Colette Tellman recalled that when she was a student at the school, the bell would ring at noon at the nearby Carmelite Monastery, and the children at recess would stop and pray the “Angelus” together.

“Church bells are an ancient part of our Catholic tradition,” Bishop McKnight noted, “and here at our Cathedral of St. Joseph, the ringing of bells will be an exciting new tradition. Let the pure sound of these

bells signify a time of rebirth, renewal and rededication to our Church and faith.”

More photos have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian’s* online edition, cathmo.com. Select “Photo Galleries” from the “Multimedia” tab on the menu bar.

Father Stephen Jones, diocesan director of stewardship, said there’s something “medieval — ancient, really” about the building or renovation of a Cathedral.

“The cadres of craftspeople working with stone and marble, the artists who design and make mosaics, statuary and painting,” he said. “All of this is happening to create a build-

ing which is intended to lift the human soul to the highest heavens and inspire those same souls to live lives of charity and mercy toward their neighbors here on earth.”

Seen and heard

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

The addition of the bells is part of a major renovation and expansion of the Cathedral that addresses numerous mechanical and accessibility issues within the structure while greatly enhancing the Cathedral’s hospitality and spiritual functionality.

“I pray that these new bells will provide a daily reminder of our need as Catholics to proudly proclaim God’s word and live out his mercy as we go about our lives,” said Bishop McKnight.

Work on the Cathedral renovation is reaching its final stages and Bishop McKnight has scheduled a Mass of Rededication for May 5. Due to limited space, attendance at the rededication is by invitation only and will be livestreamed online.

Everyone is welcome to view the renovations during an open house on Sunday, May 7. The bells will ring to welcome everyone to the Cathedral from 1-4 p.m. that afternoon.

Pope sends medicine to earthquake victims in Turkey

By Carol Glatz

Vatican City

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis sent pharmaceuticals to earthquake victims in Turkey, where two deadly earthquakes in February killed at least 50,000 people and left more than 200,000 buildings severely damaged or razed to the ground.

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, and Turkey’s Embassy to the Holy See coordinated the latest round of aid from the pope, said the Dicastery for the Service of Charity in a communique March 28.

Some 10,000 units of unspecified medicines were to arrive by air in Turkey by March 28, it said.

Immediately after the earthquake, which

displaced nearly 2 million people in Turkey, the Dicastery for the Service of Charity sent canned food, diapers and other supplies that were urgently needed, it said.

It also sent about 10,000 thermal shirts in mid-February to be distributed between Turkey and Syria, which was also affected

by the quakes. Three pallets of medicines were shipped at the end of February, it added.

Two 7.8 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes devastated the region Feb. 6, killing more than 55,000 people.

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?”

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where [I] am going you know the way.” — John 14:1-4

Bible Accent

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not the only Jews to disobey an order from King Nebuchadnezzar.

In Daniel 1, we read that the prophet Daniel was among the Jewish captives chosen to receive three years of training so that they could serve in the king's palace. The king allotted these men a daily portion of food and wine from the royal table.

But Daniel did not want to defile himself with the king's food or wine. He begged the chief chamberlain, who was in charge of the training, to spare him.

The chamberlain refused because he was afraid to disobey the king.

Daniel then went to the guardian whom the chamberlain had put in charge of him and of his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

He asked the guardian to give them vegetables and water for 10 days instead of the king's food and to monitor how they looked compared to the other men.

The guardian agreed, and after 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier and better fed than the young men who ate from the royal table. At the end of their training, Daniel and his friends had no equals, and the king accepted them into his service.

St. Benedict the Moor

St. Benedict the Moor was born the son of African slaves near Messina, Italy, in 1526. His childhood nickname was "the holy Moor" because he was pious and did good works.

After being given his freedom, he became a hermit. He eventually became a Franciscan lay brother and served as a cook. He had a reputation for holiness and miracles. Despite being illiterate, he was chosen as Franciscan superior and also as novice master before being allowed to return to the refuge of his kitchen.

St. Benedict the Moor is the patron saint of Black Catholics in America.

He died in 1589, and we remember him on April 4.



Three Jews refuse to worship Babylon's false god

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

King Nebuchadnezzar, the pagan king of Babylon, had a huge, golden statue made, and he ordered all the officials of his kingdom to come to the statue's dedication.

"Nations and peoples of every language," a herald cried out during the dedication, "when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute and all the other musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the golden statue which King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be instantly cast into a white-hot furnace."

Many Jews were living in Babylon at the time because King Nebuchadnezzar had defeated them and brought them to his kingdom as captives.

One day, some Chaldeans came to the king with a complaint. They said three Jews — Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego — refused to worship the statue.

King Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and sent for the three men. They were friends of the prophet Daniel, who also had been captured and brought to Babylon.

"Is it true... that you will not serve my god, or worship the golden statue that I set up?" the king asked the men.

"There is no need for us to defend ourselves before you in

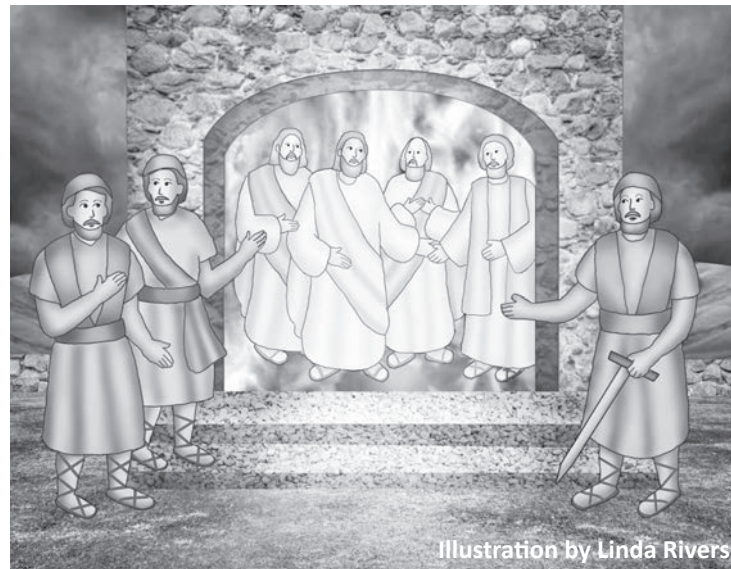


Illustration by Linda Rivers

this matter," they replied. "If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if he will not, know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue that you set up."

King Nebuchadnezzar became so angry that he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times more than usual and had the three men bound and cast into it.

Then the king looked at the furnace in surprise.


"I see four men unfettered and unharmed, walking in the

fire, and the fourth looks like a son of God," he said in disbelief.

"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent his angel to deliver the servants who trusted in him; they disobeyed the royal command and yielded their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."

Read more about it... Daniel 3

1. Who was the king of Babylon?
2. How did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego disobey the king?



What did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego do while they were in the furnace? (Hint: Daniel 3:51)

Answer: They sang and glorified God.

Puzzle

Unscramble the letters in each word and arrange them to form a quotation from the children's story.

dog ton ew verse liwl oyur

Sentence: _____

Answers: god, not, we, serve, will, your; We will not serve your god.



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With 'The Journey' Bocelli gives us a Holy Week treat

In theaters April 2 through Easter Sunday, April 9

By Andrew Petiprin

In recent years, the Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli has enjoyed international success while frequently offering traditional Christian songs to a mass audience.

Blind since the age of 12 and experiencing significant success as a singer while only in his 30s, Bocelli has known hardship in his life, but his art and faith are nonetheless rooted in gratitude.

His spiritual life has been heavily influenced by the Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy, and in the 1990s, Bocelli embraced the Catholic faith of his youth.

Following in the long tradition of the people of God offering beautiful music in expressions of joy and sorrow, gratitude and distress, Bocelli's music is appreciated by many as a gifted and graceful source of hope.

In celebration of his faith, family, friends, and homeland, Bocelli recently embarked on a 200-mile pilgrimage — on

horseback — along the Via Francigena, from Rome to his provincial Italian estate.

The result is the new film "The Journey: A Musical Special from Andrea Bocelli," di-

To be shown at Regal Columbia & RPX, 2800 Goodwin Point in Columbia; and Marcus Eagles' Landing Cinema, 1300 Barred Owl Lane in Lake Ozark

rected by Gaetano Morbioli and Paolo Sodi for the Trinity Broadcasting Network, and coming exclusively to theaters from Fathom Events April 2-4 and again on April 6.

For established fans of Bocelli and the artists with whom he travels and performs, the film will be a welcome treat for Holy Week.

"The Journey" begins with a delightful, but all-too-brief cameo from Pope Francis, who blesses Bocelli and his fellow travelers as they set out in dramatic fashion on horseback from St. Peter's Basilica. Chief among Bocelli's riding com-

panions is his wife, Veronica, who also is one of the film's executive producers.

One scene features the couple's young daughter, Virginia, whom Bocelli serenades in an empty church with a version of "Ave Maria" that he had written for her a few years earlier. In another scene, Bocelli performs Schubert's familiar version of the same sacred text in a picturesque landscape.

The film alternates between stunning drone shots of the Italian countryside, conversations on horseback between Bocelli and his friends, and dramatically staged performances in a variety of outdoor and indoor settings along the route.

Given the number of contemporary Christian artists who appear with Bocelli in this project, some Catholic viewers may find themselves encountering artists such as Tori Kelly, Michael W. Smith, Tauren Wells and Hillsong United's Taya Gaukrodgers for the very first time.

Classical music fans may enjoy seeing and hearing from the world-famous Welsh crossover singer Katherine Jenkins, Bach specialist Ramin Bahrami, conductor Beatrice Venezi, and the Croatian cellist duo, 2CELLOS, who have become a YouTube sensation.

Along the way, Bocelli reflects on his disability, his career and most of all his family. Toward the end of the film,

Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

In Viaggio: The Travels of Pope Francis (not rated)
Jesus Revolution (PG-13)



Adults

65 (PG-13)
Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania (PG-13)
Champions (PG-13)
Creed III (PG-13)
Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre (R)
Shazam! Fury of the Gods (PG-13)



Morally Offensive

Cocaine Bear (R)
John Wick: Chapter 4 (R)
Scream VI (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

he meets up with his adult son, Matteo, who reads his father a letter of appreciation while Bocelli strums a Spanish guitar. The film concludes with an outdoor celebration at Bocelli's home, with spontaneous music, wine and conversation — the epitome of the art of living Italians are famous for.

From a strictly faith-filled perspective, "The Journey" might have been more spiritually enriching had Bocelli and his companions spoken more about the holy sites along the route. Bocelli barely mentions his own devoutness, although it may be clear enough from his encounter with the pope and his choice of Catholic devotional anthems.

And while many of the

songs from the evangelical performers might not resonate with all Catholics, we can all appreciate the ecumenical spirit of the whole group's performance of "Amazing Grace" at the end of the film.

Catholics may hope that "The Journey" (*thejourney.movie*) may stir the hearts of all viewers for Christ, his Church, and the Kingdom of Heaven — the last of which feels at times to be very near in the beauty of Bocelli's native soil.

Tickers for "The Journey" are available at:

fathomevents.com

Andrew Petiprin writes about Catholicism and popular culture for various publications, and he lives with his family in Plano, Texas.

"In Viaggio: The Travels of Pope Francis"

By John Mulderig
OSV News

New York

"Do not be afraid to dream."

That's one of the characteristic statements viewers encounter in the uplifting documentary "In Viaggio: The Travels of Pope Francis" (Magnolia).

Despite its depiction of some of the world's most pressing problems, filmmaker Gianfranco Rosi's polished retrospective maintains a tranquil tone as it looks back over the 37 journeys to 53 different countries undertaken by the pontiff during the first nine

years of his pontificate. The result is thoughtful fare suitable for grown-ups and teens.

As Francis globe-trots from the halls of Congress to the Philippines and on to the streets of Havana, he speaks his mind about refugees, migrants, poverty, war and the need to imagine a better future. He also grapples with the scandalous abuse crisis in the Church and the all-too-understandable sensitivities it has created, especially among victims.

Rosi adopts a hands-off,

See IN VIAGGIO, page 23

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FR. DOLAN

From page 5

Some retired priests spend weekends filling-in for pastors who are sick or traveling. Others attach themselves to a community and help out however they can.

Several retired priests of this diocese are dealing with serious health issues, while others are in need of constant assistance.

"That's just another stage in retirement, isn't it?" said Fr. Dolan. "You have to humbly let people minister to you. That can be hard, especially if you're used to be in the driver's seat, so to speak."

In any case, he stated, "We're well taken care of as priests in retirement."

"That's something I want to make known," he said. "I'm grateful that I am able to retire and still have my needs met. And one of the ways I say thank you is to be of service as I am able to people in the diocese that is supporting me."

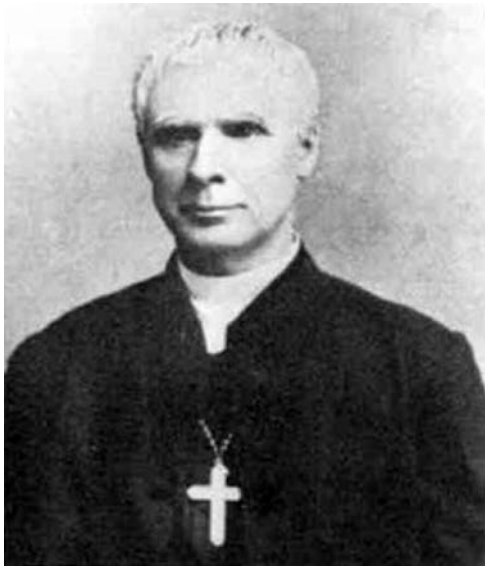
Prayerful adventure

Fr. Dolan follows literally and figuratively in the footsteps of another missionary from Ireland, Father (later Bishop) John J. Hogan, who founded parishes and missions across northern Missouri in the years before and after the U.S. Civil War.

Fr. Hogan called northern Missouri "my beloved mission home," while traveling a mission circuit roughly size-and-

a-half of Ireland, seeking and ministering to scattered immigrant communities.

Like Fr. Hogan before him,



Fr. (later Bishop) John J. Hogan (1829-1913)

Fr. Dolan is on mission in northern Missouri.

"Part of my vocation has always been to be a missionary priest, in a place where the Church is needing some kind of an outreach," he stated.

He said going on mission is an adventure, "and I advise making it a prayerful one."

Knowing the flock

Time and experience have given Fr. Dolan parallel insights into the ministerial Priesthood.

One is of being a priest of the Lord, the other is of being a priest of the people.

"We have a very high and beautiful theology of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordina-

tion," he noted.

"But I always felt that theology becomes more beautiful when we become a priest for the people, as well as a priest for them before God," he said.

Fr. Dolan has found that he preaches better if he listens first.

"It's hard to become a shepherd without allowing the people to come and speak to you, and getting to know them so you're not just speaking to their minds but to their lives," he said.

Shared mission

Having collaborated with religious sisters through much of his Priesthood, Fr. Dolan

said it's good to remember retired priests and retired sisters at the same time.

"One has to recognize the beautiful work that the sisters have done on the front lines of bringing the Church together and helping it get organized in so many communities throughout the diocese," he said.

He called to mind how religious sisters through the decades have helped draw immigrants together into communities for worship and catechesis.

"Let us remember them with a prayer of thanksgiving for everything they've come and done here for us," said Fr. Dolan.

IN VIAGGIO

From page 22

cinema verite approach to his work, eschewing vocal narration and incorporating stretches of contemplative silence. Always meditative, his profile also is sometimes moving, as when it captures Francis' one-on-one exchanges with the inmates of a Mexican prison.

A sequence showing the pope walking through a deserted St. Peter's Square at the height of the COVID pandemic is a striking reminder of the isolation to which that disease reduced so many around the world. In a voiceover, Francis ponders the possibility that the tragedy was the outcome of modern people's unwillingness to slow themselves down and listen to God's voice.

Along with the discussion of topics that make it inappropriate for youngsters, Rosi's picture also includes footage that might upset them. Thus we're shown real-life scenes of shipwreck,

violent conflict and death.

While not pulling his punches, however, Rosi successfully captures the peaceable atmosphere that generally surrounds Pope Francis. Accordingly, his portrait of a pontiff on the move — energetically yet calmly bringing his message of hope to a rich variety of destinations — can be thought of as an appealing 80-minute opportunity for spiritual reflection.

The film contains mature themes, including the sexual abuse of children, potentially disturbing images and situations of peril.

The OSV News classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News. Follow him on Twitter @JohnMulderig1.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Apr 2

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
Mt. 21:1-11
Ps. 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Is. 50:4-7
Phil. 2:6-11
Mt. 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

Gn. 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Ex. 14:15-15:1
Is. 54:5-14
Is. 55:1-11
Bar. 3:9-15, 32-4:4
Ez. 36:16-17a, 18-28
Rom. 6:3-11
Mt. 28:1-10

Monday, Apr 3

Is. 42:1-7
Ps. 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14
Jn. 12:1-11

Sunday, Apr 9

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Ps. 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Col. 3:1-4 or 1 Cor. 5:6b-8
Jn. 20:1-9 or Mt. 28:1-10 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Lk. 24:13-35

Tuesday, Apr 4

Chrism Mass:
Is. 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
Ps. 89:21-22, 25 and 27
Rv. 1:5-8
Lk. 4:16-21

Monday, Apr 10

Acts 2:14, 22-33
Ps. 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
Mt. 28:8-15

Is. 49:1-6

Ps. 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17
Jn. 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday, Apr 5

Is. 50:4-9a
Ps. 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34
Mt. 26:14-25

Tuesday, Apr 11

Acts 2:36-41
Ps. 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
Jn. 20:11-18

Thursday, Apr 6

Holy Thursday
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:
Ex. 12:1-8, 11-14
Ps. 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18
1 Cor. 11:23-26
Jn. 13:1-15

Wednesday, Apr 12

Acts 3:1-10
Ps. 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9
Lk. 24:13-35

Friday, Apr 7

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
Is. 52:13-53:12
Ps. 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Jn. 18:1-19:42

Thursday, Apr 13

Acts 3:11-26
Ps. 8:2ab, 5, 6-7, 8-9
Lk. 24:35-48

Friday, Apr 14

Acts 4:1-12
Ps. 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27a
Jn. 21:1-14

Saturday, Apr 8

Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil:
Gn. 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a
Ps. 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35 or 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20, 22

Saturday, Apr 15

Acts 4:13-21
Ps. 118:1, 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21
Mk. 16:9-15

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for April:

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

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