

“This is a resurrection!”

Monsignor Michael Flanagan, senior priest in service at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, is deeply grateful for the prayers that helped him recover from a life-threatening illness.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

April 14, 2023 • Vol. 66 No. 21

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

“CathedralGLOW” to offer up-close look at renovation

**Prayerful event to be held May 4,
evening before Cathedral rededication**

See Page 13 for a list of related events

By Jay Nies

People who visit the Cathedral of St. Joseph the night before its rededication are in for an up-close, personal and intensely prayerful experience.

They’ll be able to explore the building and examine such items as the new altar, ambo and tabernacle in ways that would otherwise be inappropriate once the building is officially consigned to sacred purposes.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to wander and pray in the Cathedral, to step into the sanctuary and areas that you typically do not go, and see it all up-close,” said Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of Religious Education, Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

The event, known as the Cathedral-GLOW, will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 4.

People of all ages, especially children, young adults and families, are encouraged to attend.

It will begin with a barbecue at 5:30 p.m. in the pavilion at Memorial Park, across Main Street from the Cathedral. After dinner, participants will proceed to the Cathedral for prayer, exploration and illumination.

“Many times,” said Mrs. Quinn, “we go into holy places with beautiful imagery, but we don’t know why or what we’re supposed to be gaining from all of it. This night will help us find purpose in this whole place.”

The music and message will be geared toward young people, but participants of all ages are welcome.

See CATHEDRAL, page 15



Listening, discerning, strengthening relationships were focus of Bishop’s Chrism Mass message

See a related article on papal awards, Page 3.

By Jay Nies

Jesus gave us the Sacraments to help us be in right relationship with God and with each other.

This is known as communion.

“The Catholic faith is all about communion,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight emphasized in his homily for this year’s Chrism Mass, celebrated on the Tuesday of Holy Week.

“The life and mission of the Church is centered on the Eucharist, the Holy Communion that feeds and nourishes our life of faith,” the bishop noted. “Without the Mass, there is no Church — there is no ‘us.’”

“Conversely,” he stated, “our communion with God is dependent upon our being in communion with Christ’s Church. Thus, being a Catholic means being in right relationship with others.”

This vibrant relational web, set in motion by Jesus and

sustained by the Holy Spirit, forms the basis for the extraordinary rituals carried out at the Chrism Mass each year.

During the Mass, Bishop McKnight blessed the holy oils and consecrated the Sacred Chrism that will be used to administer sacraments throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

He did so with his predecessor, Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, and the priests of the diocese.

The bishops and priests also renewed the promises they made at their priestly ordination.

About 200 clergy, religious and laypeople attended the Mass.

Seminarians served in various liturgical roles.

Kevin Myers, director of music and liturgy at St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, accompanied the music for the Mass.

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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 or send resume, cover, letter and references to Fr. Joshua Duncan, Pastor at jduncan@diojeffcity.org.

Coordinator of Stewardship and Planned Giving



The Chancery office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a Coordinator of Stewardship and Planned Giving.

This person is responsible for assisting the Director of Stewardship and the Director of Development and Missions in implementing the Bishop's vision of spirituality of stewardship throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City, which covers 38 counties in central and northeastern Missouri.

Responsibilities include: preparing presentation materials and strategic briefings for deans and pastors; planning, coordinating and executing events and activities; providing administrative support for the departments; working closely with the directors as a team partner to recognize donors and convey the impact and importance of the spirituality of stewardship.

Practicing Catholic in good standing is preferred. Bachelor's degree is preferred. Event planning and management is desired.

Qualified candidates can apply on Indeed.com or send resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Pray for deceased priests

- Apr. 17 — Fr. Blase J. Scheffer, Annunciation, California (1969)
- Apr. 21 — Fr. Raymond W. Rau, St. Anthony, Rosati (1978)
- Apr. 22 — Fr. William P. Kottenstette, Chaplain, Kirksville Newman Center (2015)
- Apr. 25 — Fr. Jerome F. Bestgen, St. Anthony, Rosati (1986); Fr. John J. Vandenberghe, service outside the diocese (1986)
- Apr. 27 — Fr. Richard C. Hunkins, director of pilgrimages; Columbia Nursing Home Ministry (2000)
- Apr. 28 — Fr. Richard C. Reichling, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1970)

Religious Education Coordinator

St. Ann Parish in Warsaw, Mo., is seeking a Religious Education Coordinator. This part-time position will also support Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Cole Camp and St. Bernadette Parish in Hermitage, with formation, as necessary. Key responsibilities include:

- assisting the pastor in the responsibility for Catholic faith formation for parish youth and adults;
- implementing the diocesan preparation policy for sacramental classes;
- organizing, scheduling and overseeing religious education;
- administering a formation program for catechists that leads to certification, and tracking completion;
- in cooperation with 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 parishes
- providing occasional support to the parish office

High school diploma or GED is required; bachelor's degree preferred. Related education and experience to perform basic religious education responsibilities required. Resumes can be mailed to St. Ann Parish, 30455 W. Dam Access Road, Warsaw, MO 65355 or emailed to stannwarsaw1@gmail.com.

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

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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 or send resume to Fr. Alex Gabriel, St. Joseph Parish, 400 S. Lane St., Palmyra, MO 63461.

Purvis, Schepers, Sr. Walker given papal awards at Chrism Mass

By Jay Nies

Three individuals with long and distinguished ties to the Jefferson City diocese received prestigious honors from Pope Francis at this year's Chrism Mass.

The Mass was celebrated on April 4, the Tuesday of Holy Week, in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit.

On the Pope's behalf, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presented Sister Suzanne Walker of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, N.Y., with the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

("Cross for the Church and Pontiff"); and Connie Schepers and Deacon Ray Purvis, each with a Benemerenti Medal.

"Clear and tireless effort"

The Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice is bestowed in recognition of distinguished service — "particularly for clear and tireless effort and dedication" — to the Church and papacy.

It is a medal carrying a modern image of a square-shaped, gold Greek cross and likenesses of St. Peter and St. Paul. At the base of the cross is the Latin



TOP: Bishop W. Shawn McKnight applauds Deacon Ray Purvis and Connie Schepers, retired longtime diocesan employees, upon presenting both with Benemerenti Medals. **BOTTOM:** Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek, joins Bishop McKnight in congratulating Dominican Sister Suzanne Walker with the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice papal award.

— Photos by Jay Nies

instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832, is conferred to people "who have shown an active fidelity to and love for the Church," for distinguished service to Catholic principles, the Church and society.

"Benemerenti" is Latin for "good merit."

The medal is worn over the chest, suspended by ribbons of the papal colors. It is a gold Greek cross depicting the image of Christ, his hand raised in blessing.

On the left of the transverse arm of the cross is a depiction of the tiara and crossed keys — symbols of the papacy.

This award is bestowed upon "those well deserving in Christian matters."

•Deacon Purvis, a Martinsburg native, moved to Jefferson City with his wife in 1989, was ordained a permanent deacon in 2003 and assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City. He served as master of ceremonies for Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos and Bishop McKnight. He was appointed assistant director of the Diaconate Office in 2003, served as its director for many years, and recently retired as director of Deacon Life and Ministry.

His wife, Donna Purvis, pinned the medal to his lapel.

"Thank you, Deacon Ray, for your exemplary service to the Church," said Bishop McKnight.

•Mrs. Schepers served as secretary and secretary/bookkeeper for Annunciation Parish in California, then for two years in the diocesan Religious

name of the reigning Pope and the papal coat of arms.

Pope Leo XIII established the award on July 17, 1888, to mark the 50th anniversary of his own priestly ordination. Although Pope Leo originally intended it to be his specific mark of honor, his successors continued to bestow the award. It became a permanent distinction in 1898.

The current cross was designed by Pope St. Paul VI, who reigned from 1963-78.

Sr. Suzanne, who grew up in Monroe City and graduated from both the Holy Rosary elementary school and its former high school, joined the faculty of Holy Rosary School in 1975 and served as principal from 1984 until her retirement in July 2022.

Bishop McKnight presented the award "in gratitude for her many years of faithful and devoted service as a consecrated religious to the Church and the education of our children."

Father Gregory Oligschlae-


ger, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek, helped her place the medal on her lapel.

"Thank you, Sr. Suzanne, for your commitment to serving the people of God," the bishop said.

"Good merit"

The Benemerenti Medal,

See AWARDS, page 4



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

APRIL

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

Apr 22 Confirmation Ceremony, St. Peter Parish, Marshall and St. Joseph Parish, Slater, 11 am, St. Peter Church, Marshall

Apr 23 Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Parish, Russellville, St. Mary Parish, Milan, St. Mary Parish, Unionville, St. Aloysius Parish, Argyle, Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Brinktown, Visitation Parish, Vienna, St. Pius X Parish, Moberly, St. Joseph Parish, Edina, St. Bernadette Parish, Hermitage, 3 pm, St. Peter Church, Jefferson City.

Apr 25 Council of Deans Meeting, 11 am; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery; Confirmation Ceremony, St. Peter Parish, 6:30 pm, Jefferson City

Apr 26 Midwest March for Life Opening Prayer, 9:30 am, Jefferson City; Confirmation Mass, St. Francis Xavier Parish, 6:30 pm, Taos

Apr 27 Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, 11 am, Chancery

Apr 28 Jubilee Retirement, Parish Development Corporation and Diocesan Real Estate Corporation Board meetings; 10 am, Chancery; Evening Prayer with Rite of Candidacy for Permanent Deacon Candidates, 7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft

Apr 29 Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery

Apr 30 Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Palmyra and Holy Family Parish, Hannibal, 2 pm, St. Joseph Church, Palmyra

MAY

May 2 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board Meeting, 8 am, Virtual; Priests' Personnel Board Dinner, 6 pm, Bishop's Residence

May 3 Confirmation Mass, St. Lawrence Parish, St. Elizabeth and St. Anthony Parish, St. Anthony, 6:30 pm, St. Lawrence Church, St. Elizabeth

May 4 Cathedral of St. Joseph Rededication Vespers, 5 pm; Cathedral Glow Youth Vigil, 6:30 pm, Jefferson City

May 5 Cathedral of St. Joseph Rededication Mass, 10:30 am, Jefferson City

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.

Catholic school personnel invited to seek Christ in every student

By Jay Nies

Father Tony Ricard insists that everyone who works in a Catholic school is a theology instructor and promoter of the faith.

"If Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, then no matter what my academic discipline is, it's all about God," said Fr. Ricard (twoknights.org), pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in New Orleans and campus minister at St. Augustine, an all-black Catholic high school for boys.

"May you never — ever! — take for granted the privilege you have of being in a Catholic school," the priest told educators and administrators of the Jefferson City diocese. "May you never, ever take for granted the honor it is to be given the chance to teach the children of God."

The priest, who goes by "Fr. Tony," gave a keynote presentation at this year's personal development day for Catholic school personnel.

"We all have equal impor-

tance in the eyes of our children, from as high as the custodian as low as the principal," he said. "Everybody in the building is important. We must never, ever forget that."

The March 10 event was held at Father Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia.

Students of the diocese's 37 Catholic elementary schools and three Catholic high schools had the day off so their teachers could attend.

In addition to Mass with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and keynote presentations by Fr. Tony and musical evangelizer Jenny Williamson, participants got to choose from breakout sessions on a broad range of topics.

They gathered first for Mass and the opening keynote.

"Prepare yourselves for the experience that is Fr. Tony," said Erin Vader, Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools.

She advised her colleagues in Catholic education to visit St. Augustine School and see "one of best examples of people serving Christ in this world,"

"Their students are amazing," Dr. Vader stated.

With haunting strains echoing throughout the gym, Fr. Tony moved seamlessly from a Gregorian chant to a ponderous spiritual that had been sung by his ancestors.

He talked about the generations of people who were enslaved in this country, many who worshiped God in secret out of fear of angering their slave masters.

In the woods, out of earshot, "they would start singing and preaching and dancing," said Fr. Tony. "When they would have church in



Renowned speaker Father Tony Ricard, pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish and campus minister at St. Augustine High School, both in New Orleans, entertains and uplifts the Catholic school teachers and administrators during his keynote at a March 10 teachers' in-service in Columbia.

— Photo by Jay Nies

the woods and the Spirit was in them, it was some of the most authentic church we have, with good music, good preaching, and friends.

"I'm gonna' take you to church!" he told them. "I want you to realize what a joy, what a privilege we have as Catholic school teachers."

Fr. Tony said his earliest seminary formation consisted of teaching elementary school in New Orleans.

"That laid the foundation for who I am as a priest," he stated. "I could have been very happy teaching third grade for the rest of my life, but God had a different plan."

Fr. Tony discovered that plan by working, praying, asking God for guidance and opening himself up to the guidance he received.

In like fashion, he stated, every teacher needs to ask God for help bringing to the table every day the unique gifts they've been given.

"If God sends these children to us, it is our job, it is our role, it is our vocation to make sure we're connected to each one of them," he said.

Woe to the teachers who do not recognize the presence of Christ in every student God entrusts to them.

"I live by a very simple mantra," Fr. Tony stated. "I believe it is better that we treat every child of God as if she or he is the Christ come back again, than to risk standing before the judgement seat and find out we treated Jesus as if he or she was nobody!"

Thanks be to God

Bishop McKnight, in his homily at Mass, urged teachers and administrators to foster a culture of Eucharist — derived from the Greek word for thanksgiving.

He encouraged them to do everything they can to instill a sense of deep gratitude in their students.

"We have a great privilege of sharing in the work of the Lord, to help form their hearts to be grateful, to recognize all God has done for them," he said.

From that recognition comes a life of service and of joyfully giving back, "because of our love for God and all he has done for us," the bishop stated.

Sharing wisdom

Topics for the breakout sessions ranged from the effects of artificial intelligence on Catholic education, to parish-school relationships, to inclusion, to vocations, to teaching against the dominant culture, to fostering Catholic identity.

Deacon John Schwartze of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish and the diocesan diaconate office presented on "Learning the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Beatitudes in Light of each other."

"The Beatitudes offer us both a pathway forward on our spiritual journey and a map to help us discern where we are in the journey," he stated.

Diocesan Women's Ministry coordinator Barbara Prasad talked about the positive effects that empowering women can have on families, parishes, com-

munities and individuals.

Paula Wekenborg, director of the Vogelweid Learning Center at St. Peter School in Jefferson City, spoke on inclusion.

She noted that in any typical Catholic school classroom, nearly half of the students have some need that affects their learning.

"To meet these needs in your classroom requires understanding the concept of inclusion, identifying and removing barriers, and implementing educational practices that provide access to learning," she said.

Zachary Rockers, campus minister at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, wove scenes from the hit TV series "The Chosen" into a discussion about how Catholic educators, like Jesus's early followers, have a unique calling to share and teach the faith.

"It is truly a vocation that God has called us to and one that has a 'Kingdom' impact," he said.

Megan Markway, a teacher at Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek, offered ideas for getting students engaged in religious learning and reflection during Lent.

Suggestions included the Catholic Madness program, a "March Madness"-style bracket for saints and other religious concepts, as well as other activities to help students pray, fast and give in the classroom and at home.

Mike Aulbur, principal of St. Pius X School in Moberly, and Heather Schrimpf, principal of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, spoke to teachers who might want to be principals someday.

Spencer Allen, principal of Helias Catholic, alerted teachers to emerging artificial-intelligence technology, including ChatGPT, and its effect on how students do homework.

He offered remedies, such as a return to learning and practicing writing in a workshop culture in the classroom, rather than outside of school hours.

The day's activities closed with an uplifting keynote by Jenny Williamson (arisonrecords.com) on the power of music to touch students' souls when words fall short.

AWARDS

From page 3

Education Office, then as a notary in the diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal Office. Continuing her studies, she served as Defender of the Bond in the Tribunal from 1998 to the present.

She served as diocesan director of child and youth protection and chancellor of the diocese from 2019 until her retirement in July 2022.

Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, who worked with her for many years in the Tribunal, presented her the medal.

"I wish to congratulate you, Connie, for your years of faithful service to the mission of our Church," said Bishop McKnight.



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“This is a resurrection!”: Msgr. Flanagan grateful for prayers

By Jay Nies

“May the Lord take a liking to you ...”

The priest smiled back and gave the rest of the old Irish salutation.

“... but not just yet.”

Monsignor Michael T. Flanagan was ruminating on the prayers and favors that had lifted him up from life-support and back to the community of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia.

“This is a resurrection!” he said.

“Jesus came that we may have life and have it to the full,” he continued. “That’s always my favorite Scripture passage. And I believe I am having it to the full! In union with him.”

Msgr. Flanagan, 84, is senior priest in service at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, where he served as pastor from 1990 until retiring in 2015.

His health hadn’t been quite right since he returned from presiding at his brother’s funeral in Ireland last August.

He caught a cold in January that kept getting worse.

Weak and tired, he soldiered through concelebrating Mass and helping to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick with Father Michael Penn in Lake Ozark on Feb. 12, the World Day of the Sick.

“Fr. Penn could tell something was wrong and told me to call him when I got back home, just to make sure I was okay,” Msgr. Flanagan recalled.

“I made up my mind driving back from the Lake that I was going straight to the Emergency Room,” he said.

Tests at Boone Hospital Center in Columbia showed that he had an intestinal ulcer and needed a blood transfusion.

A few days later, he was getting dressed to go home when a doctor brought test results saying he had an infection and needed further treatment.

“He said, ‘You stay put while we do one more test,’” the priest recalled.

Msgr. Flanagan sat down on the bed and started feeling a chill.

“And then, I got freezing cold!” he said. “I called the nurse, and she brought me hot blankets — three or four of them, right after another! —

and she made me hot tea, trying to warm me up.”

Then, he passed out.

“I was having a stroke,” he said.

Fighting back

Msgr. Flanagan spent the following week fading in and out of consciousness.

He remembers hospital staff counting to three and moving him from one bed to another.

He recognized Father Christopher Cordes, diocesan vicar for priests, who is also his successor as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; Monsignor Gregory Higley, pastor of neighboring Sacred Heart Parish; Danielle Freie, wellness coordinator for the priests of the diocese; and his own nephew, who came from Ireland to be with him.

“I said, ‘Fr. Chris, what’s going on?’” Msgr. Flanagan recalled. “He just said, ‘You’re very sick.’”

That was a prudent understatement.

“The next day, they were trying to stabilize me and deal with the infection, and my kidneys quit!” said Msgr. Flanagan.

The doctors placed him on dialysis to filter his blood.

Fr. Cordes notified parishioners on Feb. 24 that Msgr. Flanagan’s condition had declined and that he had been placed on life-support.

“The hope is that he will pull through, but he needs our prayers,” he said.

“The bishop came and gave me all the absolutions,” Msgr. Flanagan noted. “Later, he told me, ‘I didn’t think I’d ever see you again.’”

Fr. Cordes sent out a prayer request to fellow priests and parishioners.

The children of Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School, many of whom had been baptized by Msgr. Flanagan, prayed for him several times each day.

“All the parishioners and all the kids and everybody!” he stated with awe.

“Huge difference”

Groggy but somewhat cognizant, Msgr. Flanagan recognized people coming and go-



Children of Our Lady of Lourdes School in Columbia welcome Monsignor Michael Flanagan, senior priest in service and former pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, back from the hospital on March 24.

— Screenshot from the Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School Facebook page

ing. He was vaguely aware of how sick he was.

“But I didn’t think about dying,” he said. “I didn’t think about dying at all. It maybe crossed my mind a little bit. But mostly I thought, ‘I’ll get out of this.’”

“It wasn’t time,” he said. “No. It wasn’t.”

He couldn’t concentrate enough to pray.

“But you do think about Jesus,” he said.

He knew other people were praying for him.

“I somehow could feel it,” he said. “I could feel an energy beyond myself.”

Several hours into dialysis, his kidneys started working.

“And that’s the miracle, you know?” he said.

The kidney doctor told him afterwards, “When your kidneys picked up, we knew you had made it. ... It means your body has decided to fight.”

Msgr. Higley, who had been visiting Msgr. Flanagan at the hospital each day, attended the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in Our Lady of Lourdes Church the afternoon of the First Sunday of Lent.

“Keep the prayers up,” he told a friend. “He’s fighting.”

Fr. Cordes wrote to fellow priests the following Tuesday: “We have positive news regarding Msgr. Flanagan. He began making some progress over the weekend, and continues to make steady progress. His breathing is assisted by a ventilator, and other medical intentions are being administered. He is now responsive and aware. Please continue to pray for him and the dedicated

Lourdes School gathered in the parish hall that bears Msgr. Flanagan’s name to welcome him home and thank God for his ongoing recovery.

He joined in with their rousing *a cappella* rendition of “Our God Is An Awesome God.”

“It was very emotional,” the priest stated.

He continued with rigorous therapy, strengthening his legs and trading his walker in for a cane.

“I hope I’m able to walk up to the altar and do Mass!” he said.

He lauded the medical team at Boone Hospital Center that worked together to help him.

“My heart doctor is a regular parishioner here,” he noted. “He’s always very prayerful.”

Another specialist told him, “I tell you one thing: you made me a believer!”

“He said, ‘What happened to you is miraculous. No question about it,’” the priest recalled.

Abundant gratitude

Msgr. Flanagan returned to Boone Hospital on Good Fri-

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Mid West March for Life presents helps women where they are

March, day of life-affirming activities to be held April 26 on Missouri Capitol grounds

By Jay Nies

Lauren Muzyka recently stood outside an Illinois abortion facility near St. Louis.

"I looked out at the parking lot and saw license plates from Missouri and Tennessee and all over the place," said Ms. Muzyka, president and CEO of Sidewalk Advocates for Life (Sidewalkadvocates.org).

"It was chilling," she said. "Women were coming from all over. These border communities are becoming critical crossroads of life and death."

Ms. Muzyka will give a keynote presentation at this year's Mid West March for Life (midwestmarchforlife.com) in Jefferson City, focusing on helping pregnant women in crisis in their time of greatest vulnerability.

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.

Mid West March for Life



**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 26, 2023**

*To honor and glorify Jesus Christ
and defend innocent life.*

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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

All are encouraged to wear red.

Shawn Carney, co-founding CEO and president of 40 Days 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 pre-march rally.

"Women need us more than ever in post-Roe America," said Ms. Muzyka. "We can't sit on our laurels and say, 'it's illegal here, so my work is over.'"

"The hard work is just starting," she said. "We're on the front lines to many battles. We have to be ready to mobilize and network with all the communities we serve."

The April 26 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.

"Where miracles happen"

Ms. Muzyka said having a loving human presence has a powerful effect in helping women in crisis choose life and reject abortion.

"It's the spirit of the Incarnation," she said. "Jesus became one of us so he could save us and show us the way."

"He showed up!" she stated. "And we seek to follow in his footsteps. We seek to be the hands and feet of Christ."

"When God's people go into the gap and speak into women's circumstances, that's where the miracles happen," she stated. "It's beautiful to see how the simplest acts of love are saving lives and leading to conversions."

Ms. Muzyka is an attorney who started out in grassroots pro-life work.

Serving as a prayer volunteer during the nation's first 40 Days for Life in College Station, Texas, she helped pray the manager of one of her state's largest Planned Parenthood affiliates out of the abortion business.

The manager was Abby Johnson, author of the book *Unplanned*, and founder of a

national outreach that helps abortion clinic workers break away from that dark profession.

"I saw firsthand how peace, prayer and love can transform a whole community," said Ms. Muzyka. "That introduction is really what led me to start Sidewalk Advocates for Life."

She enrolled in the Ave Marie School of Law in Vineyards, Florida, planning to become a lobbyist or litigator in the pro-life, pro-family movement.

Upon graduating, she went to work for the 40 Days for Life national team with the organization's co-founders, David Bereit and Shawn Carney.

"I got a front row seat to what was going on in communities all over the country," she said.

She recognized that people didn't have the support and infrastructure they needed to counsel women who were seeking abortions toward the alternatives that were often right around the corner.

"At that point, I had Shawn's and David's blessing to leave 40 Days and form Sidewalk Advocates for Life," she said. "We launched in 2014. We have our ninth anniversary coming up."

Sidewalk Advocates for Life started with 22 locations and has risen to 239 in the United States, as well as Mexico City, Puerto Rico and Colombia.

"We set up in front of abortion or abortion-referral facilities and give the women who go there life affirming information and support," said Ms. Muzyka.

Each Sidewalk Advocate receives extensive training in how

to communicate with women who are abortion vulnerable.

"We give our advocates ready made tools and staff support," said Ms. Muzyka.

"Each group gets assigned a national advisor from our team," she said. "We give them what they need in order to go to the darkest places in their community and offer those life affirming alternatives."

"Our goal is to be the gateway to life affirming resources for the women we help," she stated. "We connect them with the nearest pregnancy resource center. We let them take over while we get back to the sidewalk."

She said that if a woman goes to a pregnancy resource center, sees an ultrasound image of her baby, is given holistic counseling and learns her options, "90 percent of the time, they'll choose life."

"That's a game changer," she said. "Because she can see the precious life in her womb and be presented the truth about fetal development and the truth about abortion."

Proponents of legal abortion say it's necessary in order to given women a choice.

"But a lot of the women who go there feel they have no other choice," said Ms. Muzyka. "We're the ones who are actually giving them a choice — painting a picture of how they could be a parent and still pursue their dreams."

Human rights battle

Ms. Muzyka said members of her organization have seen abortion proponents in abortion restricted states all over the country "working relentlessly to get people across state lines."

"Our advocates who work in border communities are pleading with us to stay the course," she said. "So, many of our advocates who were counseling outside abortion clinics in abortion restricted states are now transitioning to the abortion referral centers in those states."

And in communities that no longer have an abortion referral center, the advocates are finding creative ways to move into the public square.

"They're looking at highly

See MARCH, page 23



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Vitae keynote speaker calls pro-lifers “the real feminists”

Speaks of raising child with Down syndrome — the need for vigilance — proliferation of abortion-causing drugs

By Jay Nies

The World Health Organization classifies Down syndrome as a birth defect.

Rachel Campos-Duffy says that’s nonsense.

“My little Valentina is not a ‘defect,’” the Catholic mother of nine told a cheering audience in Jefferson City. “She’s a human being.”

Mrs. Campos-Duffy, a well-known author, TV personality and host of the “From the Kitchen Table” podcast, headlined the Don and Ruth Ann Schnieders Pro-Life Event on March 21.

The annual event raises money for Vitae Foundation (vitaefoundation.org), a national non-profit that facilitates research to create messaging strategies to help make abortion unthinkable.

“It is such an honor to be here with fellow patriots, warriors and feminists,” Mrs. Campos-Duffy told the crowd of supporters.

“You pro-lifers are the greatest defenders of women and children,” she said. “You are the real feminists.”

She shared how her youngest daughter, age 3, has shaped the rest of the family.

“Through Valentina, we are learning patience, compassion, authentic tolerance and unconditional love,” Mrs. Campos-Duffy stated.

“She teaches us how to be in the moment,” the mother continued. “When we celebrate her achievements and milestones, we apply a better way of measuring success and happiness.”

Valentina is the first child with Down syndrome in the past decade at her public school.

“That’s just not statistically possible unless you have abortion,” said Mrs. Campos-Duffy.

She noted that only about 10 percent of babies survive a prenatal Down syndrome diagnosis in this country.

In Iceland, only about two children with Down syndrome are born each year.

“Through prenatal testing and abortion, they have literally exterminated an entire class of people,” said Mrs. Campos-

Duffy.

She said that’s one of numerous affronts to humanity that Vitae and the pro-life movement stand squarely against.

“You fight terrible injustice like the abortion genocide of the physically and mentally disabled,” she stated.

Mrs. Campos-Duffy began her television career as a cast member on the MTV reality series, “The Real World: San Francisco.”

She and her husband, former U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy, met each on the set of a spin-off program.

“We are the first and longest-lasting reality TV couple in America,” she stated. “Also the most fertile.”

She said decades of liberal feminist ideology have led to millions of lost lives while wreaking “incredible damage to what it means to be a woman or mother.”

“Treating our reproductive gift and responsibility as a curse has not elevated our gender,” she said. “In fact, it’s having quite the opposite effect.”

“Power and profit”

Hundreds of people attended Vitae’s event.

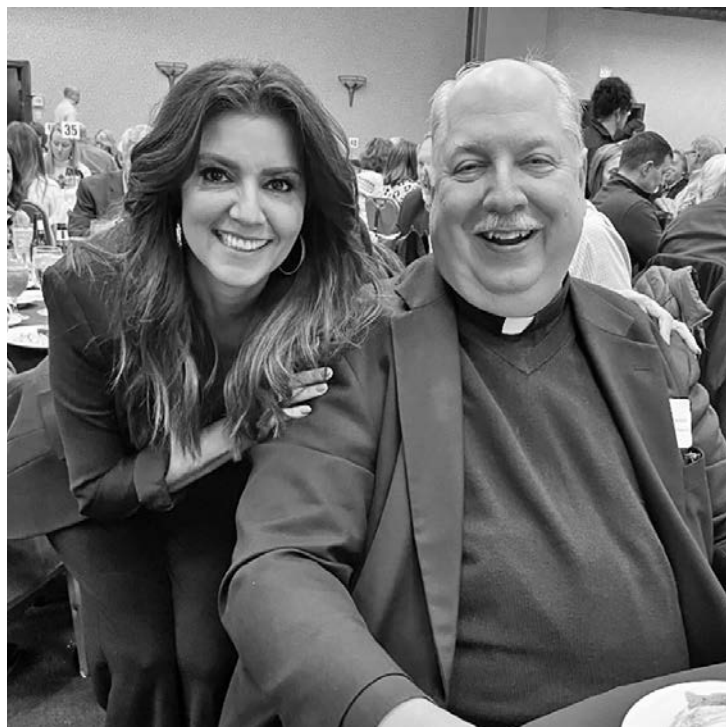
Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Russellville, and chaplain of the Missouri House of Representatives, led the Opening Prayer.

“Grant us the wisdom to know what we should do and the strength to do it your way,” he prayed. “We may move along an unknown path, but we go forward with a firm faith in the reality of goodness, truth and love and with the abiding assurance that you are with us.”

Vitae Senior Marketing Director Stacey Kromer announced that the annual Jefferson City event had been renamed in honor of Don and Ruth Ann Schnieders — Cathedral of St. Joseph parishioners who established the event over 30 years ago as a barbecue in their backyard.

Keynote speaker Mrs. Campos-Duffy said pro-lifers are the real advocates for women.

“There is nothing more empowering for women than deciding to overcome fear and embrace life,” she said.



Rachel Campos-Duffy, keynote presenter at the Don and Ruth Ann Schnieders Pro-Life Event on March 21, stops for a photo with Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese, who led the opening prayer for the event.

She talked about the growing network of pregnancy resource centers around the country, and Vitae’s efforts to help women in crisis find them when they need them.

“Information is power,” she said. “You in this room are empowering women with the truth that abortion will not end a woman’s problems. In fact, it’s the beginning of a whole new set of problems.”

She pointed out that over half of the abortions taking place today are chemical abortions, and that they’re four times more likely to have complications.

“A so-called women’s clinic hands out pills to women and teenagers to carry out this gruesome do-it-yourself project alone in their bathroom,” she said.

She talked about how pro-lifers stand against the abortion industry’s exploitation of poor women and those who are members of minority populations.

Mrs. Campos-Duffy drew parallels between the current relentless efforts to promote abortion, to the campaign to keep slavery legal in the 19th century.

“In both cases, the powerful want to decide who is sufficiently human to have rights,” she said.

“Why? It’s simple: power and profit,” she stated. “Once you determine someone is not human, you can do anything

you want to him or her.”

That’s why she believes this country will never be united until “the evil of abortion is resolved, and the unborn are legally welcomed into the human family.”

“You know this,” she told her audience. “You have decided to dedicate yourselves to providing women with love and a safe passage from the darkness of abortion to the light that comes from giving life.”

“Defenders and liberators”

Mrs. Campos-Duffy noted that this battle for hearts and minds is difficult, but progress is being made.

She pointed to the Supreme Court’s undoing last summer of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that had legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states.

“Twenty-four states are likely to ban or severely restrict elective abortion,” she stated.

However, “overturning *Roe v. Wade* is hardly the end of

our work,” she said. “In fact, it is just the beginning of even harder work that we must do to change the hearts and minds and culture and education.

“People can and absolutely do change their minds when they hear the truth about abortion,” she said, “which is exactly what Vitae is trying to do.”

Vitae Foundation President Brandy Meeks talked about how cities such as Chicago, St. Louis and Seattle had become “pro-life mission fields” — fueled by pro-life people in the nation’s heartland.

“You have truly answered the call to get us prepared for a Post-*Roe* America,” she said.

An emerging front in the battle is the growing use of abortion pills, absent any medical physician’s oversight.

Mrs. Meeks talked at length about a group called “Plan C,” which promotes the internet marketing and mailing of abortion drugs to any home in the United States.

She likened the insidious nature of such packages being delivered to homes without parents’ knowledge, to the culture of abortion gradually subverting society unnoticed.

“When we recognize it for what it truly is, we have the power to change things, and that’s what we’re here to do tonight,” she said.

“Vitae has the tools to change hearts and minds with our research-backed messaging strategies,” she stated. “And with your help, we can build a culture of life to truly make abortion unthinkable and show the entire abortion industry that we’re done with their deception and their intent to steal our children and our way of life — not just here in Mid-Missouri but throughout our great country.”

See VITAE, page 19

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QUESTION CORNER

What are miracles, and why do we need them?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News



Q: A two-point question: It is common to hear, “It’s a miracle,” for a sports comeback victory. Does the Church actually have a definition of a miracle? When it comes to canonization, miracles are required, aren’t they? Does a miracle happen in other domains except health and medicine? (Cape Girardeau, Missouri)

A: A miracle is an extraordinary phenomenon that cannot be explained by any natural cause. In its glossary, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines a miracle as “a sign or wonder such as a healing, or control of nature, which can only be attributed to divine power.”

Calling something like an unlikely sports comeback a “miracle” is using quite a bit of poetic license, since there is a readily discernible natural explanation for the victory (namely, the skill of the athletes, which the athletes acquired through their own human efforts).

There also are situations where God truly may have intervened in answer to a prayer — for instance, a disease goes into an unexpected remission after a course of medical treatment, or a wayward loved one has a surprising conversion of heart — but which cannot be called miracles in a strict technical sense, as there can be a strong natural component to such blessings. In instances such as these, we might understand God as working within the natural order he established, albeit perhaps in an especially active way; this is as opposed to “breaking the rules” of nature, which is what happens in a true miracle.

Medical miracles seem to be the kind of miracle we hear about most often today, but not all miracles are health-related. While Jesus seemed especially fond of performing miraculous healings, the Gospels give us many wonderful examples of other kinds of miracles — consider Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana; the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, and Jesus calming a storm. In more recent times, there was the “miracle of the sun” at Fatima on Oct. 13, 1917, when numerous witnesses saw the sun move and seemingly dance in a way that should have been impossible.

Q: Second point: We supposedly agree that the human ceremony of canonization does not create a saint. That is God’s doing. So, why are miracles so central to canonization? (Cape Girardeau, Missouri)

A: Theologically, a saint is anyone who is actually in heaven with God, but canonized saints are those whom the Church has officially recognized as presently enjoying the beatific vision. This recognition is for the benefit of those of us still here on earth, as canonized saints are heavenly intercessors to whom we can confidently turn, and they serve as role models of Christian holiness in various states and circumstances of life.

As this is a determination the Church really wants to get right, the process of canonization is necessarily a lengthy and involved one. For a non-martyr, the process begins with a very detailed investigation of the potential saint’s life. If this investigation shows that they truly lived a life of heroic virtue, that person is declared “Venerable.” If there can be a proven miracle attributed to the Venerable’s intercession, that person is beatified and given the title “Blessed”; after a second miracle, the person can be canonized and is declared a saint.

Supposed miracles can be and are evaluated by either medical doctors or other impartial experts in their respective fields

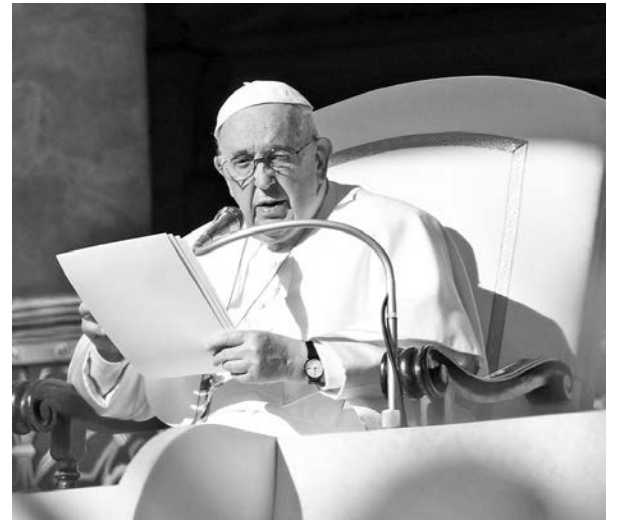
See QUESTION, page 18

Papal Audience April 12, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we have been reflecting on the example of the Apostle Paul. From his earlier experience as a persecutor of the Church, Paul was well aware of the danger of misguided zeal, or a zeal motivated not by love of Christ but by vanity or self-assertion. Authentic zeal for the Gospel is instead, Paul teaches, completely centred on Christ and the power of his resurrection. In his Letters, Paul uses the imagery of putting on the “armour of God” and exhorts his listeners to have their “feet shod” in readiness to proclaim the Gospel of peace (cf. Eph. 6:13). The image is eloquent, since the feet of an evangelist must be solidly planted yet constantly in movement, ever ready to confront new situations in the effort to proclaim the Good News with creativity and conviction. May each of us, in the circumstances of our daily lives, prove zealous in discerning when and how best to proclaim the risen Jesus and his promise of the fullness of life and peace.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially the groups from Sweden, Switzerland, Canada and the United States of America. In the joy of the Risen Christ, I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father. May the Lord bless all of you!



U.S. bishops: Human composting, alkaline hydrolysis not acceptable for burial

By Gina Christian, OSV News

Two new alternatives to burial and cremation fail to comply with the Catholic Church’s teaching on respect for the bodies of the dead, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine said.

In a March 23 statement, the committee said it had evaluated human composting and alkaline hydrolysis, and concluded that both “fail to satisfy the Church’s requirements for proper respect for the bodies of the dead.”

The methods, which rapidly accelerate decomposition, have gained support in recent years as “eco-friendly” forms of treating human remains.

In human composting, the body of the departed is placed in a metal bin with plant material to enable microbes and bacteria, along with heat and oxygen, to break down bones and tissues. The resulting mixture is then offered for lawn or garden use.

Alkaline hydrolysis dissolves the body in some 100 gallons of water and alkali under high temperature and pressure. Within hours, the body is dissolved, except for some bone

material which is then dried and pulverized.

Unlike flame-based cremation, which uses intense heat to reduce human remains to ashes, human composting and alkaline hydrolysis do not “show adequate respect for the human body, nor express hope in the resurrection,” said the bishops in the seven-page document that accompanied their statement.

Burial is “the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body,” wrote the bishops, quoting the 2016 instruction “*Ad resurgendum cum Christo*: regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation” by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The congregation is now the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

According to the 2016 instruction, flame-based cremation is permissible, so long as the ashes are gathered and laid to rest in a sacred place, rather than being stored at home, distributed among loved ones, encased in jewelry or scattered broadly.

In contrast, both human composting and alkaline hy-

drolysis leave nothing that could be properly interred, said the U.S. bishops.

Following alkaline hydrolysis, “there are about 100 gallons of liquid into which the greater part of the body has been dissolved, and this liquid has been treated as wastewater,” they wrote. “At the end of the human composting process (there is) ... nothing distinguishably left of the body to be laid to rest in a sacred place.”

Currently, six U.S. states — California, Colorado, New York, Oregon, Vermont and Washington — permit human composting. The Maryland Senate is currently considering similar legislation.

Katrina Spade, founder and CEO of Seattle-based Recompose, the self-described “first human composting company in the world,” said in a 2021 video interview that “you’re not human anymore at the end of this process.”

Alkaline hydrolysis is legal in several states as well, with the Cremation Association of North America having expanded its definition of cremation in 2010 to include the method,

See BURIAL, page 14

A 'normalized' culture needs a 'normalized' Christianity

By Sr. Hosea Rupprecht
OSV News



Do you ever air quote the word “normal” in a conversation? I do, because what is “normal” seems to be something different for everyone. The definition of the word changes with shifts in society. Prevailing attitudes toward gender identity, casual sex, abortion and same-sex marriage are among those things that have become more “normalized” — more culturally acceptable — in recent years.

These attitudes often filter into society through film, television, music and social media. Because they’re “normal,” right? Well, maybe for some, but not for everyone.

Does the entertainment media’s presentation of what is “normal” match your experience? There’s a saying in media literacy education: “Media normalize behavior.” In other words, media stories can influence the way we perceive what is or is not socially acceptable, or what is or is not considered

“normal.”

For example, in many shows or films, when a couple goes out on a date they end up in bed together. If life were like TV, that would be considered “normal” and acceptable. Presenting this kind of behavior constantly in shows could influence how kids and teens, but also adults, think of sexuality in real-life relationships.

For Catholics, though, the Church teaches that the gift of intimacy through sexual relations is exclusive to marriage (between one man and one woman). Do casual attitudes toward sex depicted in film, TV and on social media make it seem more acceptable? Yes. Does that mean it “is” acceptable? Indeed, no.

When a good friend of mine was engaged, both she and her fiancé — as practicing Catholics — were following the teachings of the Church. She shared some frustration she was experiencing, saying, “Why does everyone assume we’re either living together or sleeping together already? We’re not.” Cohabitation and sex before marriage happens a lot in entertainment media but that doesn’t mean everyone’s doing it or that it’s acceptable for followers

of Christ.

There’s a psychological term that has been getting attention recently: “social contagion.” It means that people can pick up on behaviors or emotions from crowds or networks of people around them, sometimes all-unawares. For example, laughing at a movie might be an emotional response, just because the people around you are laughing. An example of behavioral contagion had store shelves devoid of toilet paper at the beginning of the pandemic.

If the influences around us are “socially contagious,” can we become “contaminated” by the ideas and messages we let into our minds through the media we experience? Sadly, yes, and young people are particularly susceptible.

Have no doubt about it: social influences are strong. I know of a Catholic school that experienced a group of

seventh-grade girls who considered transitioning genders together, which resulted in the pastor and principal talking with the girls and their families. A February 2022 article by Anastasia Hanonick in “The University News” out of St. Louis University confirms that 60-80% of American college students have experienced a “hook-up” (sex without emotional connection) in some way. There’s no denying that social influence contributes to these troubling statistics.

Some influences are good. Parents influencing children in learning to live their faith is a good thing, as is the Church, influencing Christians to develop and deepen relationships with God. The question is: how can we counteract influences that are contrary to our faith, especially the influence of media

See SR. HOSEA, page 19

Easter and baseball and Duncan’s ‘The Brothers K’

By Kenneth Craycraft
OSV News



Baseball is the only major team sport in which “sacrifice” is an officially recognized statistic. (For purposes of this column, fast-pitch softball is inclusive of the term “baseball.”) Other sports may have situational occasions in which a player will be called to subordinate his statistical interest in favor of a team goal, but only in baseball is a player sent onto the field of play for the purpose of sacrificing his opportunity — giving himself up — for the greater good. Baseball is already a game of disappointment — batters only get about four chances per game to get a hit, and the best of them fail about 70% of the time. To give up one of those opportunities is no small matter.

I thought of this as I revisited David James Duncan’s remarkable 1992 novel, *The Brothers K* — a story about baseball, God and politics, in no particular order. One must always be careful about baseball metaphors and religious imagery. It is easy to slip into facile comparisons or to endow baseball with a mystical quality that it simply doesn’t have. Baseball is a wonderful sport, and

no American family looks forward to the beginning of April more than mine, but it is a game, and it must always be enjoyed in relief to things that overshadow it. That’s why Duncan’s book is a nearly perfect baseball/religious/political novel. Baseball is indeed the fulcrum on which the narrative is balanced — and the game’s story lines are essential to the tale — but this is only because the novel is actually about sacrifice — about a series of sacrifices that various characters make in order to advance the good of others.

Set in the town of Camas, Washington, between about 1960 and the mid-1970s, *The Brothers K* follows the raucous life of Hugh and Laura Chance and their six children, four boys and twin daughters, as narrated by the youngest son, Kincaid. Hugh is a promising professional baseball player, whose intelligence and athletic ability are inherited by his sons, but who suffers a series of hardships that frustrate his dreams. While Hugh’s unfulfilled athletic career is the least of the calamities that the family suffers, it is the framework for the portrait that Kincaid paints of his parents and siblings.

Laura is a devout — indeed sometimes fanatical — member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Hugh is

See CRAYCRAFT, page 19

REFLECTION

Plausible deniability

By Mark Saucier

A theologian I know is a bit of a provocateur — someone who will say some superficially radical things, just to get people to think more about their own experience.

After one of his talks, a member of the audience came up, perturbed by some of the things Pete had said.

“Do you deny the resurrection?” he asked accusingly.

Pete said he wasn’t surprised by the question, but he was caught by it. It was as good a time as any to confess.

“Yes, of course, I deny the resurrection,” he told the now-shocked questioner.

“Everyone who knows me knows I deny the resurrection.”

“Every time I do not serve my neighbor, every time I walk away from people who are hurting, I deny the resurrection.”

“Every time I participate in an unjust system, I deny the resurrection.”

His point was that, while we may look at that empty tomb and profess a resurrection as a victory over death, it doesn’t mean much if the actions of our lives add to the power of darkness, which also has been known to rise again.

Jesus didn’t endure all that he did, just so we could say, “he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

That is asking a lot just so we could check the box “I believe in the resurrection.”

For Pete, resurrection is not just a historical event that happened early one Sunday morning in spring a couple of millennia ago.

Its power is that it is dynamic, trans-temporal, happening every day in the lives of those who have been touched by it.

Resurrection is not just a noun, but a verb; not just to be believed, but to be lived.

Resurrection is the assurance that the Kingdom has come, here in our midst, not for the asking but for the doing.

We deny the resurrection in all sorts of ways, as Pete admitted. But more importantly, we have plenty of opportunities to affirm it, to further empower it, to allow it to hold and heal the lives of those who need it most.

Mercy, peacemaking, poverty of spirit, and all the Beatitudes describe life among an Easter people.

The last judgment in Matthew — ministering to the hungry, naked and imprisoned — is the first response of the resurrected.

As Paul reminded the Galatians, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”

Encounter

Looking back and looking forward

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Dan Lester, Former Executive Director of Catholic Charities

Seven years ago, as I was glancing at my weekly parish bulletin at St. Thomas More Newman Center, I noticed a small advertisement from Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

The agency was seeking a new executive director.

My first thought was, "I didn't know we had a Catholic Charities in our diocese." My second, "Wow, I bet that would be an interesting job." My own journey of faith had led me through the RCIA process in 2009/2010, and one of the foundations of my love for the Catholic Church is the commitment to serving, "the least of these."

The parable of the sheep and goats, the Good Samaritan, the Beatitudes, and centuries of encyclicals and lived tradition all pointed to the importance of Catholic Charities and the crucial role it plays in the life of the Church.

To say I was intrigued would be an understatement.

A bit of research led me to the Catholic Charities website, where I learned that the agency had been founded in 2011.

They were part of a larger, national network of Catholic Charities agencies and belonged to Catholic Charities USA.

Locally, programs included refugee and immigration services, prison and jail ministry, and counseling.

The mission of Catholic Charities, "Inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes as proclaimed by Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri [CCCNMO] is committed to providing care and creating hope for the lives of the vulnerable through compassionate social services that respect the dignity of each person and engage the local community in our mission," seemed like a perfect fit for a Catholic with a heart for service and a background in social work who was looking to combine their faith

with their profession.

So, I took a chance, and applied.

What a journey the last six-and-one-half years have been, serving as the executive director of this agency, dedicated to providing compassionate social services to those in need, regardless of faith, culture or situation.

As my tenure ends, I am grateful for this opportunity to share one last reflection with the readers of *The Catholic Missourian*.

I would like to share just a few of the many things I am thankful for from my time at Catholic Charities, as well as a few hopes for the future of CCCNMO.

First, I am grateful for the co-workers who have dedicated themselves to serving the vulnerable and marginalized in mid-Missouri.

Their willingness to provide care and create hope during dark times for those seeking aid from Catholic Charities embodies our Gospel call to provide food for the hungry, welcome to the stranger, and care for the sick and imprisoned.

Our staff are an example for all of us and I am proud to have walked alongside them for a time.

I have had the great fortune to work with both Bishop Gaydos and Bishop McKnight during my time at Catholic Charities, two incredible leaders.

Both Bishop Gaydos and Bishop McKnight are staunch supporters of Catholic Charities and our work, and their concern for those struggling with poverty of mind, body and spirit throughout the diocese is evident in their support not just of Catholic Charities, but all good works of charity provided by parishes throughout our 38 counties.

We are all fortunate to have had their leadership.

Finally, thank you to all of the supporters of Catholic Charities.

We have been blessed with

donors, volunteers and board members who have exemplified the stewardship way of life through their willingness to give of their time, talent and treasure to allow us to serve those in need.

Because of your support, we have been able to respond to our communities during times of natural disasters, continue to welcome victims of war and terror from all around the world to their new homes of safety and care in mid-Missouri, provide food to families who otherwise would go without, educate parishioners, Catholic school students, and the community on the beauty and richness of Catholic social teaching, and expand our work

in ways that I could not have dreamed of when I started this job.

Thank you.

Where would I like to see

Catholic Charities in the future? I am hopeful that in the

See ENCOUNTER, page 23



Catholic Charities staff, led by then-Executive Director Dan Lester, tour the Central office amidst construction during the Open Hearts, Open Doors campaign.



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic Charities worked to provide hope and relief with mobile resources available to communities throughout their 38-county service area, predominately stationing their Mobile Resource Unit at Catholic parishes across the diocese.



Now 56 staff members strong, Catholic Charities provides services that range from disaster response and long-term case management, to financial and housing counseling, outreach to Hispanic communities, family immigration services, refugee resettlement and health and nutrition services, including the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Here, staff gather for a group photo after their all staff gathering for the Christmas holiday in 2022.

Rainbow's end



A rainbow appears above the Shrine of St. Patrick in St. Patrick prior to a thunderstorms moving through the area on March 31.

— Photo from the St. Patrick, Missouri Facebook page

“I can lead you ...”



Father Roberto Ike, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit, sports an apron with a message during a Knights of Columbus Lenten fish fry Feb. 24 in the parish's Veit Hall. — Photo by Jay Nies

Johnson to headline Vitae Columbia event

DATE: May 2
TIME: 7 pm

Abby Johnson, who went from managing a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic to becoming one of the most effective pro-life advocates of her generation, will be the keynote presenter at Vitae Foundation's Columbia Pro-Life Dinner.

It will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, at the Stoney Creek Hotel, 2601 S. Providence Road.

Mrs. Johnson has always been determined to help women in need. That desire led her to a career with Planned Parenthood and then 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, *Unplanned*, about her experiences, which inspired a major motion picture.

She is a frequently requested guest on TV talk shows.

She is the founder of And Then There Were None, which helps abortion facility workers escape the abortion industry.

Tickets are \$100 per person (\$70 tax deductible)

All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation (vitaefoundation.org), a national non-profit that facilitates research to create messaging strategies to help make abortion unthinkable.

FOCUS on evangelizing

Father Paul Clark, diocesan vocation director, director of seminarians, chaplain at Helias Catholic High School, and moderator of youth and young adult ministry; Bishop W. Shawn McKnight; and Maureen Quinn (right), diocesan director of Religious Education, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, meet with Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) team members from the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia and the Rolla Newman Center on April 5. FOCUS is a Catholic collegiate outreach whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the gospel with college and university students, inspiring and equipping them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization, discipleship and friendships in which they lead others to do the same.



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Bishop: Jesus's resurrection heals, transforms all who believe

By Jay Nies

Jesus's passion, death and resurrection bring about a new passing-over from darkness to light, from sinfulness to mercy, from brokenness to communion, from woundedness to healing and restoration.

This resurrection needs to be lived, shared and put into action.

"Our lives are profoundly different because of the mercy we have experienced," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight preached in his homily for the Easter Vigil this year. "Our past sins have been nailed to the cross, so now is the time for us to practice and show forth the mercy we have received from God."

Bishop McKnight celebrated the Easter Vigil at dusk on Holy Saturday, concurrently with priests in parishes throughout the diocese.

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, who led the diocese from 1997 to 2018; Father Louis Nelen, rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph and pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish; and Father Paul Clark, diocesan vocation director, director of seminarians, moderator for youth and adult ministry, and chaplain of Helias Catholic High School, concelebrated.

It was the culmination of the Church's communal observance of Holy Week and the 40-day period of penitential preparation.

Symbols of fire, light, water, oil, bread and wine were highlighted in a Liturgy filled with some of the Church's oldest and richest traditions and



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight preaches the homily during the Easter Vigil in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

— Photo by Jacob Luecke

rituals.

The bishop baptized members of the elect and confirmed and gave First Holy Communion to the candidates for full communion at Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, as did priests in parishes throughout the diocese.

He did so in temporary quarters in the elaborately decorated Cana Hall in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, while extensive renovations and additions to the upstairs worship area were nearing completion.

He blessed the Easter Candle, symbol of the resurrected Christ, which will be used for Liturgies in the Cathedral over the upcoming year.

In his homily, Bishop McKnight spoke of two types of

"passing over" that Christians experience in the resurrection, reflecting those the Israelites experienced in the time of Moses.

The first is a sacrifice that guards against eternal death, the other is a cleansing that turns back the effects of sin.

"The resurrection of Jesus changed everything!" said Bishop McKnight.

For Jesus's first followers, the news was almost too good to believe.

Matthew's gospel tells of how the women who saw the empty tomb and heard the testimony of an angel on Easter Sunday rushed back to tell the Apostles, "fearful, yet overjoyed."

"Have you ever had an experience like that?" the bishop

inquired. "Have you ever experienced something so terrible, so awful, it leaves you shell-shocked and numb such that even when good news comes it is hard to believe?"

"We need the light and hope of

the resurrection of Jesus Christ to see us through!" he said.

The resurrection brought Jesus's separated friends back together and with the power of the Holy Spirit fashioned them into a vibrant, thriving, growing Church.

"As the physical body of Jesus was resurrected to new life, so the body of disciples was reconstituted and reestablished as the community of faith, hope and charity," the bishop noted.

"Even the plagues and persecutions that were afforded the early Church the opportunity to shine like the stars in the night sky, manifesting to many unbelievers tangible signs of God's mercy through the charitable works of all the baptized," he said.

This all took time, but with the gift of the Holy Spirit 50 days after that first Easter, those first followers "passed from fear to fortitude, from discouragement and disappointment to joy, and from desperation and confusion to a bold proclamation of the many wonderful works of God!" said Bishop McKnight.

Like them, all who have been baptized into Christ's death also share in his resurrected life, "which links us together with one another in the Church," he said.

Nevertheless, everyone carries spiritual wounds that are in need of healing.

"While the fullness of resurrected life will only come at the end of time in the general resurrection of the dead," the bishop noted, "even now the light of God's mercy is given to us through the preaching of Christ's Gospel, through the celebration of the sacraments, and through our charitable service and tender mercies to one another."

See EASTER, page 14



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St. Raymond's Society to hold open house in Columbia

DATE: April 23
TIME: 11:30 am - 3 pm

The St. Raymond's Society (SRS) will hold an open house at its newly acquired residence in Columbia on Sunday, April 23.

It will be held from 11:30

a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3501 Lansing Ave. and will include food, music and more.

SRS is a faith-based non-profit agency focused on giving at-risk, pregnant mothers what they need.

The Lansing Avenue facility replaces SRS's former, smaller

Columbia residence for pregnant women who are in need of assistance, and will allow the SRS to vastly expand the services it offers.

The 9-year-old building,

formerly the Columbia Ronald McDonald House, includes 18 bedrooms, along with classrooms, meeting rooms, a recreation room, a library and a large community

kitchen.

The three-acre property includes parking, a playground, a walking path to a nearby park, and plenty of room for orderly expansion.

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REFRESHMENTS

Welcome Home

Join in the celebration as we rededicate and reopen our Cathedral of St. Joseph!
Livestream of evening prayers on May 4 and May 5 Rite of Rededication — details coming soon!

Thursday, May 4
5:15-6:15 pm — CathedralGLOW BBQ in Memorial Park for youth, families and young adults; register at diojeffcity.org/cathedralglow
6:30-8 pm — CathedralGLOW vigil in the Cathedral for youth, families and young adults; register at diojeffcity.org/cathedralglow

Sunday, May 7
1-4 pm — Open House

Sunday, June 18
1 pm — Spanish Mass in the Cathedral

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vitae foundation

Join Us in Saving Lives!

Columbia Pro-Life Dinner
Tuesday, May 2, 2023 | Keynote: Abby Johnson
Registration & Social 6:00 PM
Dinner & Program 7:00 - 9:00 PM
\$100 per person (\$70 Tax Deductible)
Stoney Creek Hotel | 2601 S Providence Rd | Columbia, MO

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.

Ways to Register!

- vitaefoundation.org
- Call 573.634.4316
- Scan QR Code

All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation.

BURIAL

From page 8

which also is known as “water” or “chemical cremation.”

Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.

The full March 23 statement of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB)

Committee on Doctrine regarding human composting and alkaline hydrolysis can be found at:

usccb.org/resources/proper-disposition-bodily-remains

EASTER

From page 12

“Through our celebration of the Easter Vigil this evening, especially with the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, we ‘pass over’ from darkness to light, from our confining slavery to sin to the freedom we have in the gift of the spirit,” the bishop stated.


“This Easter, may you and your families experience the joy of the resurrected life now and in the new life to come,” he said.

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CATHEDRAL

From page 1

The focus will be on the communion that Catholics experience as one body, symbolized by one Cathedral that belongs to everybody.

"It's a place where everyone can find refuge," said Mrs. Quinn.

Dramatic effects from the Cathedral's new lighting system will guide participants to places throughout the building for prayer and teaching.

Kevin Myers, director of worship for the St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, will direct a small choir from Fulton, Sedalia and Marshall, which will lead the singing in English and Spanish.

The choir will also include Shannon Cerneka — youth minister, music teacher and campus minister at St. Peter Parish in Fulton, and half of the popular Catholic evangelization duo known as Odd-Walk.

The people will explore the baptistery and baptismal font, hear the story of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, and reflect on the Sacrament of Baptism.

The participants will pray together there and renew their baptismal promises.

At the new shrine devoted to the Sacred Heart, the group will pray a decade of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and hear a testimony of God's endless love.

From there, they will move to the Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine, to hear Emma Crippen, a FOCUS missionary on the campus of the University of Missouri, share her testimony on evangelization, followed by the choir singing a hymn in Spanish in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The group will hear and think about Psalm 84, which includes the phrases, "How lovely your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!" and "Better one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere."

The choir will chant the

psalm and lead the singing of a praise and related worship song called "Better As One Day."

"It will be really beautiful to emphasize that the Church is a prefiguring of the heavenly banquet, and that it is constantly moving all of us toward heaven, where we're called to spend eternity," said Mrs. Quinn.

Near the sanctuary, the participants will hear a reading from the Book of Acts, including how the people of the early Church "devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (2:42).

That verse is rendered on large letters the tensile ring that surrounds the inside of the Cathedral.

The group will then seek the prayerful intercession of the saints whose relics will be placed in the new altar during the Rededication Mass.

Father Paul Clark — diocesan vocation director; director of seminarians; chaplain at

the people processing out of the Cathedral by candlelight.

"It's going to be very powerful," said Mrs. Quinn. "It's going to be a very prayerful time."

Other ways to participate

The people of the diocese are invited to tune in to a livestream of the Vespers Service in the Cathedral the evening of May 4, and the Rite of Rededication the morning of Friday, May 5.

The livestream links will be posted

at diojeffcity.org and on the diocesan social media outlets.

Also, everyone is invited to come experience the newly renovated Cathedral during an open house planned for Sunday, May 7 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Helias Catholic High School; and moderator of youth and young adult ministry — will then explain the significance of the altar, ambo, tabernacle and other essential items in the sanctuary.

The group then will be invited to come forward and "wander, contemplate and experience this prayerful space," contemplating on the parts of the Cathedral that help them feel closest to God.

Prayer leaders will be available in each location to pray for or with each person.

The evening will close with the lights being turned off and

CathedralGLOW

A vigil for families, youth and young adults

Join us for a joyous evening as we journey through our newly renovated Cathedral of St. Joseph with prayer and music

May 4, 2023

BBQ at Memorial Park Pavilion

5:15-6:15 p.m.

Youth Vigil in the Cathedral

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Please park at Memorial Park

Free registration required:
diojeffcity.org/cathedralglow



Closer to the banquet

Advance registration for the CathedralGLOW, although requested to ensure that enough food is prepared, is not required. Participants are asked to park in the Memorial Park parking lot.

Mrs. Quinn emphasized the unprecedented opportunities this event will bring to explore what's destined to become a pilgrimage destination for generations to come.

"This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience," she stated. "It will not happen again."

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Open House
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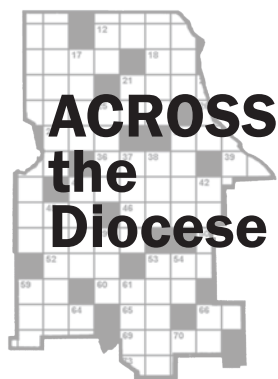
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By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. This puzzle features accomplished women through the years who ____ Mo. as their home by birth or by adopting Mo. as their home.
5. Special sets of drums.
11. Letters for St. Louis Univ.; Jesuit univ.; oldest univ. west of the Mississippi, founded in 1818.
12. Josephine Baker was an African-Am. ____ and actress; often considered the first black superstar; famous in NYC, then Paris, France; worked in French Resistance during WW II; fought for civil rights in U.S. in 1950s-60s. Born in St. Louis, Mo. in 1906, d. in 1975.
14. Prefix for move or tire.
15. "The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, and so ____ it," —Genesis 3:13 (2 wds.).
17. Eagle's nest.
19. In text, short for mm-hmmm which usually indicates mild agreement or interest.
20. "Every astronaut can fix a busted ____ — we have to do it all the time in space," —*An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*, Col. Chris Hadfield.
23. Town in Cole Co. named for a famous town in New Mexico where some of its citizens had fought in the Mexican-American War.
24. Summers in France.
25. A very long time.
27. "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in ____." (Luke 2:34).
29. The Mo. Dept. of ____ serves the largest "industry" in our State.
30. Zoe Akins was a popular & successful playwright; educated in St. Louis (Sara Teasdale was a classmate); her first major dramatic ____ was in 1914 followed by several others & in the 1930s she was active in the new film industry. In 1935, her Pulitzer Prize for drama was adapted for a film starring Bette Davis. Born in Humansville, Mo. in Polk Co. in 1886, d. in 1958.
33. A sculptor or painter hopes to produce a work of ____.
35. "____! The book exactly worded, wherein all hath been recorded; thence shall judgement be awarded," —from the old Latin funeral dirge *Dies Irae* (i.e., Day of Wrath).
37. "There ____ group of people that curses its father, and blesses not its mother," —Proverbs 30:11 (2 wds.).
38. Abbr. for miscellaneous.
40. "General Meade thought that the North should prosecute the war like the afflicted parent who is compelled to chastise his ____ child," —*The Military Leadership of North and South*, T. Harry Williams.
44. "It is nice to ____ a while, put down the needles, write a while, and then take up the sock again," —Dorothy Day.
46. Ginger Rogers was an Am. actress and ____ in the Golden Age of Hollywood; starred in musical films in the 1930s with Fred Astaire. Won an Oscar for the drama "Kitty Foyle" in 1941; she was highest paid and most sought actress in those days; her career on stage, radio, and TV continued through much of the 20th cen. Born in Independence, Mo. in 1911; d. 1995.
48. ____ *Baba & the 40 Thieves*.
50. Bee follower? Or, only an average grade.
51. "We live simply. We want for nothing that's needful, and hanker after nothing beyond our ____," —Sr. Ursula in *The Confession of Brother Haluin*, Ellis Peters.
53. Alien.
54. Home State of the Clinton Presidential Library (abbr.).
55. "Inner silence is for our ____ a difficult achievement. There is a chattering part of the mind which continues to chatter on even in the holiest of places," —*Perelandra*, C.S. Lewis.
57. "Satan has one virtue that enables him to exist ____ all; it is the virtue of taking Christ seriously," —*The Cure D'Arts Today*, George W. Rutler.
58. 7th note.
59. Betty Grable; Am. actress, ____, famous pin-up girl in WW II; 42 (!) films in the 1930s to early 60s grossing over \$100 million. Reigning top box office star for over 10 years. Born St. Louis, Mo. in 1916; d. in 1973.
60. Sun bather's goal.
62. As he slid across home ____, the ump. cried SAFE!
63. Built in 1887, Simmons ____ in Mexico, Mo. has the oldest known building in the U.S. that was continuously devoted to boarding and training champion Am. Saddlebred horses.

DOWN

1. "____"; forensic TV series.
2. Pack animals of the Andes.
3. Laura Ingalls Wilder; she wrote for the *Missouri Ruralist* but is most famous as the ____ of the *Little House on The Prairie* books describing her early frontier life. Written in Mansfield, Mo., her books have impacted thousands of readers, even spawning the well known TV series. Her home & museum on Rocky Ridge Farm is just outside of Mansfield. Born in 1867; died in 1957 in Mansfield, Mo.
4. Possible letters before a woman's name.
5. Davy Crockett was a legislator in this State before heading for Texas and the Alamo (abbr.).
6. King of Bashon (Psalms 136:20).
7. McDonald's Happy ____ have spoiled our kids. Now they want a toy every time we eat!
8. "I think that I will never see, a poem as lovely as a ____." —poem by Joyce Kilmer, 1913.
9. Medical scan.
10. ____ is believing, they say.
13. Part of CIA.
16. Letters for European Maritime Safety Agency; it oversees maritime safety around the European Union including ocean pollution; it also sometimes coordinates European support for the U.S. Navy in places like Libya & Somalia.
18. Get your kicks on ____ 66 (abbr.).
21. Letters for overtime.
22. Latin abbr. meaning in other words.
23. The ____ of the book should be on the cover or maybe the spine.
26. He "sowed his wild ____" when young and irresponsible.
28. Abbr. for epistle.
31. "Since ancient times, interpreters have calculated Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27) ____ placing the coming of the Messiah sometime during the first century A.D." —*The Case for Jesus*, Brant Pitre.
32. Talk, talk, talk.
33. French friend.
34. "Lovely ____, meter maid," —1967 Beatles song.
36. Law and ____.
39. Sara Teasdale was a lyric poet. Her first poem was published in a local St. Louis newspaper in 1907, followed by a collection of poems in the same year followed by another collection in 1911, all well received by _____. A third in 1915 became a best seller. In NYC in 1918, she won a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Born in St. Louis in 1884; buried in St. Louis in 1933.
41. A short form for the name Rachel, which means "little lamb" in Hebrew.
42. "Sanity consists ____ seeing the big things big and the small things small," —*Daily News*, 1908, G.K. Chesterton.
43. The Wright Brothers National Memorial is in this State. Motto on its license plate: First in Flight (abbr.).
45. We have ____ on that person in our files, chief. It's like they never existed (2 wds.).
47. Rods and ____; fishing equipment.
49. "We are called to ____ some parts of our life die, so that other parts may live. Dying to self means living for God." —*Jesus, A Pilgrimage*, James Martin, S.J.
50. This fish is said by many to be not only a delicious and healthy fish to eat but can also put up a fight equal to that of any similar sized game fish, according to the Mo. Dept. of Conservation.
52. I don't know the answer but I'll take a ____ at it.
55. "Don't watch that stuff all day, sweetie. It'll ____ your brain," —Bruce Willis to his TV watching cross-eyed cat, from the 1997 movie, "The Fifth Element."
56. Gator or lemon suffix.
59. Cape Cod is part of this State (abbr.).
61. Letters for Netherlands.

ANSWERS on page 19

CHRISM MASS

From page 1

A year of favor

The Chrism Mass is a visible bond between the Sacraments, the people who receive them, and those who administer them throughout the year.

“Today we celebrate in a special way the one Priesthood of Jesus Christ, who was anointed with the Spirit to repair our broken relationship with God and to heal our fractured humanity,” said Bishop McKnight.

The bishop called to mind this year’s priestly jubilarians: Father Donald Antweiler, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination; and Father Daniel Merz and Father David Veit, who are observing their 25th priestly anniversaries this year.

“We’re very grateful for your ministry to us,” Bishop McKnight told the jubilarians. “Thank you for serving us as priests.”

He also presented papal honors to three longtime servants of the diocese: Connie Schepers, who retired last year after serving in many roles, most recently as chancellor; Deacon Ray Purvis, who retired after playing a large role in the preparation and ongoing formation of deacons; and Sister Suzanne Walker, who served as a teacher and principal in Monroe City for 48 years.

“To bring glad tidings”

The Chrism Mass is usually celebrated in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City but was offered this year in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit while the Cathedral is being extensively repaired and renovated.

In his homily, Bishop McKnight spoke of the ongoing discernment process through which Pope Francis is leading the Church, with the goal of becoming a more “synodal Church — a Church that journeys together through Communion, Participation, and Mission.”

“These three themes of *communio*, *participatio*, and *missio*



LEFT: Priests of the Diocese of Jefferson City pray the Eucharistic Prayer with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight during the Chrism Mass April 4 in St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit. **RIGHT:** The priests join Bishop McKnight in blessing the oils that will be used for sacramental ministry throughout the diocese this year.



— Photos by Jay Nies

echo the three goals of co-responsibility (communion), the spirituality of stewardship (participation), and parishes as recognized centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy (mission) in our diocesan pastoral plan,” Bishop McKnight noted.

He emphasized that the

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.

ongoing synodal process is not about changing doctrine or any other specific outcome, except one — “to change how we are Church, the methods of how the Church makes decisions and responds to the pastoral needs of our time; to discern with the Holy Spirit instead of deciding things on our own.”

He spoke of Catholic stewardship as “trusting enough in God’s providence to give more of ourselves in our time, talent and treasure.”

He talked about how the power and authority of the Holy Spirit must be exercised in a co-responsible fashion, “by which clergy and the laity have a mutual respect for the diverse charisms we have and share.”

“A culture of co-responsibility allows for a more effec-

tive, harmonious, and integrated missionary effort,” he stated.

Finally, with more people engaged in carrying out the mission of the Church and doing so in cooperation with one another, “we can fulfill our dream for parishes being recognized as centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy in their local communities,” the bishop said.

Jesus recognized his own mission and that of the Church in the prophecy of Isaiah: to bring glad tidings to the poor, to the lonely, to the sorrowing, to the depressed and anxious.

“By our anointing and consecration with the Holy Spirit, we have the ability, we have the capacity to share in Christ’s work of redemption which transforms the way people see and live their lives,” said Bishop McKnight.

Bearing gifts

Four deacons presented the oils for blessing and consecration.

Deacon Larry Hildebrand, who assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Loose Creek and St. Louis of France Parish in Bonnots Mill, presented the Oil for the Catechumens.

Deacon Mike Berendzen, coordinator for Columbia Catholic Hospital Ministry, who also assists the pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos, presented the Oil for the Sick.

Deacon Robert Schoweng-

erdt, who assists the pastors of St. George Parish in Linn, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Frankenstein, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish in Chamois and Assumption Parish in Morrison, presented the fragrant balsam for the Oil for Chrism.

Deacon Matthew McLaughlin, director of the Rolla Newman Center, who also assists the pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla and Immaculate Conception Parish in St. James, presented the Oil for Chrism.

Bishop McKnight said the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Chrism oil “resonate, each in their own way, with the threefold ministry of Christ — Prophet, Priest and King.”

The Oil of Catechumens is used for infants during the baptismal ceremony, and for the anointing of the elect during the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as they prepare to be baptized.

It designates all members of the Church as learners and gives them a protecting strength against evil.

The Oil of the Sick is used for healing in the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Sacred Chrism, named for Christ, is used in Baptism, as well as Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops and the dedication of churches and altars.

“Oh how we look forward to the use of the Chrism Oil, freshly consecrated at this Mass, in the rededication of

our Cathedral on May 5!” said Bishop McKnight.

Priestly people

The bishop told the assembly that the blessing of the three sacred oils should remind everyone of his or her own anointing by the Holy Spirit and to share in Christ’s mission to heal wounded relationships and draw all people to himself.

As the Church is centered on the Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ, it is also dependent on the presence of those who share in the sacramental Priesthood.

“We priests shoulder together the special mission we have received from Jesus Christ to preserve the apostolic communion of his flock,” Bishop McKnight stated.

He urged all the priests to work toward greater unity among themselves, the local Church and the Church Universal.

After the bishops and priests renewed their promises, Bishop McKnight asked the laypeople to “pray for your priests, that the Lord may pour out His gifts abundantly upon them and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest, so that they may lead you to Him, Who is the source of salvation.”

He also asked the people to pray for him to be faithful to the office of bishop and to be conformed more fully into the image of Christ, “the Priest, the Good Shepherd, the Teacher and Servant of all.”

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

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

May 2

Columbia, Vitae Foundation Pro-Life Dinner, featuring keynote speaker Abby Johnson, 7-9 pm, Stoney Creek Hotel, to register visit vitaefoundation.org

May 3

Jefferson City, Reception celebrating Sr. Jean Dietrich's retirement, 5-7 pm, Helias Catholic High School main lobby

May 6

Jefferson City, El Puente's Trivia Night, 6 pm, St. Peter Parish's Selinger Centre, for info or to register visit elpuentemo.org

May 7

Jefferson City, Cathedral of

St. Joseph Open House, 1-4 pm; St. Anthony, St. Anthony of Padua Parish Spring supper, 11:30 am-4 pm

May 14

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

Meetings/ Workshops

Apr. 20

VIRTUAL, "Joyful & Alive" conversations about religious life with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, for single women ages 18-45, 7 pm, for info or to register visit ssnd.org/events/4-20-23/

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 a jpuertoplata@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

mayo 6

Marshall, Retiro para Preparación de Quinceañera, 10 am-4 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte el equipo de quinceañera de su parroquia; Sedalia, Formación de Predicación, 9 am-5 pm, San Patricio, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

mayo 12

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

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

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

May 9

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

Youth & Young Adults

Apr. 16

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

Apr. 20

VIRTUAL, "Joyful & Alive" conversations about religious life with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, for single women ages 18-45, 7 pm, for info or to register visit ssnd.org/events

Apr. 25

VIRTUAL, Young adult Evening Prayer with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, for ages 18+, 7-8 pm, for info or to register visit ssnd.org/events

May 3

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

May 4

Jefferson City, Cathedral GLOW event for families, youth and young adults, BBQ at Memorial Park from 5:15-6:15 pm, followed by a vigil at the newly-renovated Cathedral of St. Joseph with music and prayer from 6:30-8 pm, free registration required at diojeffcity.org/cathedralglow

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

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. 11-17

Ellington, Mo., SSND Summer Service Week at Whole Kids Outreach, for women ages 18-45, for info or to register by May 15 visit ssnd.org/events/summer23

Jun. 15-17

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

Jun. 18

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

Jun. 19-24

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

Jun. 25-30

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

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

Laurie, Blood drive, noon-5 pm, St. Patrick Parish's St. Leo's Hall; Rich Fountain, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Sacred Heart School cafeteria

Cemetery Clean-Up

Monday, April 24, will be the SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN-UP at Resurrection and St. Peter Cemeteries in Jefferson City. **It is suggested that all patrons have their floral and/or decorations removed prior to 8 a.m. All items may be replaced after 5 p.m.** NOTE: Saddles or flowers in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed.

Email — info@rccjc.org

QUESTION

From page 8

to rule out any merely natural explanation (thereby proving a supernatural one). As such, miracles are central to the canonization process because, to put it in very practical terms, they are the best we have in terms of finding objective signs from God that a person is in heaven.

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.

Find us online @ **CATHMO.COM**

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

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

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

Anniversaries

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul
Greg & Alicia Haslag, 25 years

Camdenton, St. Anthony
Tyler & Cathy Becker, 30 years
Tom & Linda Panek, 25 years
Kris & Rhonda Franken, 20 years

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians
Roy & Barb Beel, 45 years

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception
Bernard & Jadine Eiken, 70 years

Kirksville, Mary Immaculate
Kevin & Jessica Marberry, 10 years

Linn, St. George
Stanley & Pat Riegel, 40 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph
Dcn. Luke & Christie Mahsman, 20 years

Taos, St. Francis Xavier
Norman & Brenda Forck, 50 years

Wesphalia, St. Joseph
Larry & Martha Kliethermes, 55 years

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels
Robert & Karla Nanneman, 50 years
Charles & Therese Morrison, 40 years
Melvin & Tamara Sartain, 40 years

CRAYCRAFT

From page 9

a skeptic, and the children fall along a spectrum between their parents: Everett rejects religion altogether; Irwin shares the positive aspects of his mother's piety; Peter is as consumed by religion as his mother, but drawn to Eastern expressions, which he pursues as a Harvard graduate student in India. Kincaid reveals little of his own religious convictions, but his account of the journeys of his siblings demonstrates an acute sensibility to the deepest aspects of Christian virtue.

The Brothers K is critically acclaimed yet not widely read, and I hope here to induce you to read it. You will become engrossed in a series of devastating hardships that afflict the Chance family. Some are self-inflicted. Others come through a series of, well, chances that none of the family could have avoided. Given the novel's timeframe, the war in southeast Asia, and the contentious politics around it, cause some of these contingencies. Two of the sons are directly affected by the war, and their experiences provide the occasion for the entire Chance family to rise to the challenge of overcoming heartbreaking adversity.

Deaths

Carolyn P. Talbott, 81 — who served for 39 years as secretary of St. William Parish in Perry and St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Paris — on March 26. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 1 in St. William Church, with Father John Henderson and Father Louis Dorn concelebrating. Burial was in St. Paul Cemetery in rural Center.

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Genevieve Juergensmeyer**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Brenda Matthews; Jennifer Sullivan**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Donald Hagner; Robert Loethen**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Mary Ann Schenewerk**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Aaron Fennewald**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Virginia Scholl**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Robert Wilbers; Albert Wolken**

Pointedly, their experiences set the stage for a series of sacrifices that the brothers and other family members make in a series of mutual expressions of unqualified love and deep mutual affection.

April 2023 is the convergence of the Easter and baseball seasons. *The Brothers K* is a story about both. It's a tale of failure and triumph, sin and salvation, sorrow and joy. It probes the depths of religious conviction and human psychology, taking us places that we would rather not go, but for the purpose of showing us how we might emerge. Through the eyes of Kincaid Chance, we discover both the tragedy of human frailty and the comedy of human redemption. Along the way, we laugh, cry and root for the good guys to win. I can't think of better Easter (and baseball) reading than this fine, underappreciated novel. *The Brothers K* shows us how sacrifice is at the heart of both baseball and Christian faith.

Kenneth Craycraft is an associate professor of moral theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary and School of Theology in Cincinnati.

Baptisms

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Madison Stealey**, daughter of Brenden & Marissa Stealey

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Perputa Vere Mullins**, daughter of Benjamin & Abigail Mullins

SR. HOSEA

From page 9

stories? Here are a few tips:

- Learn, share, and live your faith. Know what the Church teaches, share it and model it in your life. Influence society for the good by living an authentic relationship with God.

- Talk about media stories with children and teens. Ask them what they think of characters and their behavior. If characters exhibit problematic behavior, ask what a better way would be. If virtuous behavior is on display, ask how that could translate into real life.

- Be courageous. It's not easy to embrace values and beliefs that are counter-cultural. Pray and ask God for the strength to witness to your faith, even when it's not popular.

Yes, we need to acknowledge the "normalizing" effects of media messages and the influences of social contagion but without fear. Just remember that, as Christians, we are called to "normalize" Gospel behavior in all our personal, faith, social and media interactions.

Sr. Hosea is the associate director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies.

VITAE

From page 7

"Chorus of gratitude"

Mrs. Kromer, Vitae's senior marketing director, talked about the organization's unique trove of research into the mindset of women of all ages and demographic sets at the moment they are most likely to seek abortion.

Using that research, Vitae can help those women find the help they need, quickly and close to home.

Mrs. Kromer noted that it costs about \$1,000 to empower 64 women to schedule an appointment at a life-affirming Pregnancy Center.

"A thousand dollars in the wrong hands can buy about five packs of abortion pills for anyone of any age in any state from an unregulated 'pharmacy,'" she said.

"That's what we're up against," she stated.

Mrs. Campos-Duffy is convinced that helping pregnant women make the right choices has a profound effect — in this life and the next.

"I am certain that when each of you enters the pearly gates of heaven to meet

FLANAGAN

From page 5

day so he could heal from an infection under close observation from his medical team. He was back home by the Monday of Easter Week.

He humbly asks for further intercessory prayer — the kind that through God's goodness has given him hope to continue ministering to the people he loves.

"I thank the priests and all the parishioners and people all over the place, all the people who are praying," he said.

He's at peace with the fact that death eventually comes to everyone.

"I'm not afraid of it," he said. "You know, nature's taking its course, and that's okay. 'The Lord is kind and merciful! Slow to anger and rich in compassion and love.' Whenever that time comes, I will say to the Lord, 'I did my best. I know I made mistakes. I know I fell short, but you are the Compassionate One.'"

But for now, as he lives on to continue his priestly ministry, his heart overflows with gratitude.

He prayed: "Lord, Jesus, we thank you for the gifts you've given your people through the power of prayer, through your calling us to ask and we will receive. Give us the strength always and the faith always to ask and to be open to your gifts, whatever they may be. And keep us healthy and strong, and help us to celebrate in this wonderful time of year, this time of your death and resurrection. We pray in Christ Jesus. Amen."

your Maker, you will be recognized as defenders and liberators of millions of innocent and beautiful children, who will burst into a heavenly chorus of gratitude for all that you have done for them," she said.

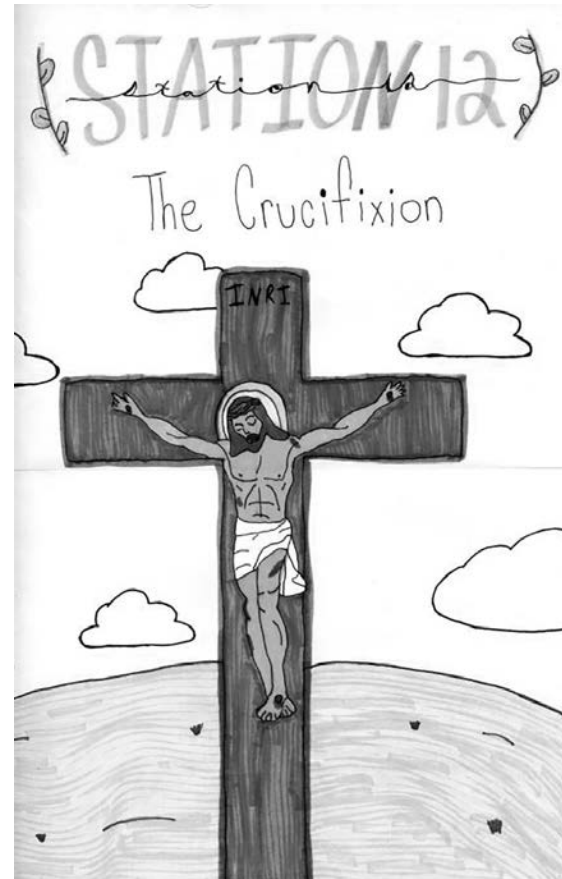
Crossword puzzle answers

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

No greater love than this



The eighth-graders at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia present the Living Stations of the Cross on March 24 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. — Photo by Lexi Borisenko



Students of Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School created artwork for the program for the Living Stations of the Cross.

Out of the darkness



Students of Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain present the Shadow Stations of the Cross in their school on March 30. — Photo from the Sacred Heart School Facebook page

Thanks for the police



The seventh-graders at St. Peter School in Jefferson City make more than 150 "Shift Snacks" to give to the Jefferson City Police Department on Feb. 3. They even had dog treats for the Canine Unit. — Photo from the St. Peter Catholic School Facebook page

Pennies from heaven

Students from St. Joseph School in Salisbury donate \$4,297.83, the proceeds from an all-school penny war, to the Larry's Warrior Foundation, a local non-profit organization that helps Chariton County residents cover travel expenses during their cancer treatments. The money was raised through an activity in which pennies presented to each class have positive value, and silver coins and dollar bills presented to other classes have a negative value.



Bible Accent

Mary of Magdala was not the only person to whom the resurrected Jesus appeared.

For example, we read in John 20:19 that on the same day Jesus appeared to Mary, he also appeared to the apostles, who had gathered in a locked room.

“Peace be with you,” Jesus said.

He showed his friends his hands, which bore the marks of being nailed to the cross. He also showed them the wound in his side, where he had been pierced with a lance after he died.

The apostles rejoiced.

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you,” Jesus said.

Then he breathed on his friends.

“Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

One of the apostles, Thomas, was not there when Jesus appeared. So Thomas did not believe his friends when they said they had seen Jesus.

“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe,” he said.

A week later, Jesus again appeared to his friends. This time, Thomas was there.

“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed after he saw Jesus and felt his wounds.

St. Simeon of Jerusalem

Simeon, who is mentioned in the Gospels of Luke and John, was the son of Clopas and a cousin of Jesus.

He became bishop of Jerusalem about the year 62 after the martyrdom of St. James.

During the reign of the Roman Emperor Trajan, Simeon was arrested and was tortured “for being a descendant of David and a Christian.” The historian St. Hegesippus witnessed Simeon’s crucifixion and death around the year 107.

Since Simeon was 120 years old when he died, the early Christian writer Eusebius said Simeon probably “saw and heard the Lord.”

We remember Simeon on April 27.



Three of Jesus’ friends find his empty tomb

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

After Jesus was arrested, he was tried before Pilate and sent to be crucified at Golgotha.

Three women stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus was dying — Mary, his mother; Mary’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas; and Mary of Magdala, one of his followers.

After Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea, who secretly was a follower of Jesus, was permitted to remove Jesus’ body from the cross. He was assisted by Nicodemus, a Pharisee who once had secretly visited Jesus.

Joseph and Nicodemus placed a mixture of myrrh and aloes on Jesus’ body and wrapped it in burial cloths. Since it was Friday, the day when Jews prepared for the Sabbath, the men quickly placed Jesus’ body in a new tomb in a nearby garden.

On Sunday, Mary of Magdala visited the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark.

When she saw that the stone in front of the tomb’s entrance had been rolled away, she left to tell Simon Peter and the apostle whom Jesus loved that Jesus’ body was gone.

The two men ran to the tomb to see for themselves.

Simon Peter went inside the tomb and saw the burial cloths. He noticed the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head had been rolled up and was in a separate area of the tomb.

The apostle whom Jesus loved also entered the tomb.

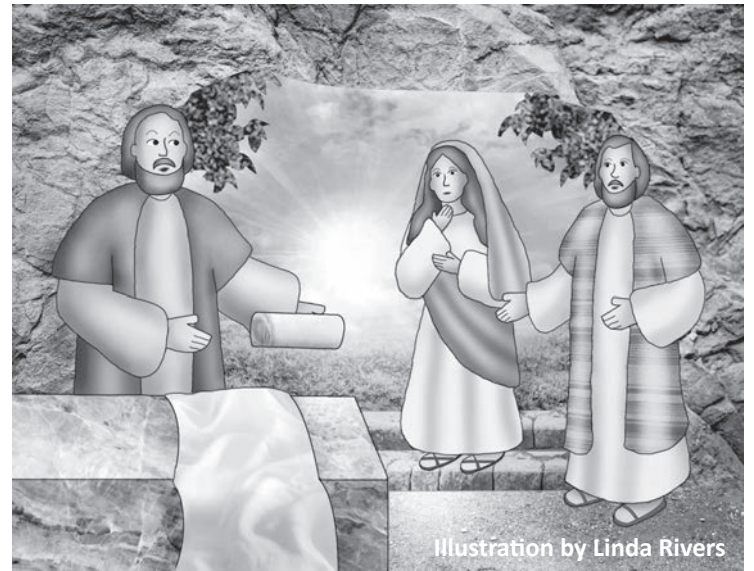


Illustration by Linda Rivers

He and Simon Peter both believed what Mary had told them.

Yet they did not yet understand that Scripture said Jesus had to rise from the dead.

The apostles returned home, but Mary stayed behind at the tomb and wept.

Suddenly, she saw two angels in the tomb. They asked her why she was weeping.

“They have taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they laid him,” she cried.

As she spoke, she turned and saw Jesus, whom she mistook for a gardener. She begged

to know where Jesus’ body had been taken.

“Mary!” Jesus exclaimed, which made Mary recognize him.

Jesus told Mary to go to the apostles and tell them that he was going to ascend to his Father in heaven.

Mary hurried to the apostles and told them everything she saw and heard.

Read more about it...

John 19 & 20

1. What did Mary notice at the tomb?

2. What did Jesus want Mary to do?

Essay

Gospel Reading for
April 9, 2023:
John 20:1-9

Have you ever needed
to see something
before you believed it?

Puzzle

Using the hints provided from John 21, circle the correct words to complete these sentences about the resurrected Jesus appearing to his followers.

1. Jesus appeared to his friends at the Sea of **Galilee/Tiberias**. (verse 1)
2. Jesus told his friends to cast their net over the **right/left** side of the boat. (verse 6)
3. Jesus invited his friends to **pray/eat breakfast**. (verse 12)
4. Jesus told Peter to feed his **lambs/goats**. (verse 15)

Answers: 1. Tiberias; 2. right; 3. breakfast; 4. lambs.

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'Divine Worship: Daily Office': a fresh approach to the Liturgy of the Hours

Divine Worship: Daily Office (Commonwealth edition), Catholic Truth Society, 2021, 2030 pages, black leatherette; £60.00 (approximately \$74 USD)

Reviewed by Peter Jesserer Smith

The enormous popularity of The Bible in a Year podcast and Word on Fire Ministries' Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH) series should dispel myths about the modern Catholic laity: truthfully, they want to read the Bible, and they want to pray the divine office. Thanks to Catholic Truth Society's *Divine Worship: Daily Office* (Commonwealth edition), Catholics have a new model for how to do both in just one complete book.

The CTS' *Divine Worship: Daily Office* takes its place

alongside official approved variations of the Church's public prayer known as the divine office. Other than the Mass itself, there is no greater prayer of the Church — and any lay person can lead these liturgical prayers in the absence of clergy.

The Second Vatican Council taught, "the divine office is devised so that the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praises of God. ... It is the very prayer which Christ Himself, together with His body, addresses to the Father" ("Sacrosanctum Concilium," No. 84).

The same council envisioned the divine office being prayed by the faithful in parishes and cathedrals, and exhorted the laity to take it up. Pope St. Paul VI called the divine office the "high point" of family prayer ("Marialis Cultus," No. 54).

The post-Vatican II reform of the divine office, however, remained principally geared toward monastics, without much consideration for the needs of the other 99% of the Church.

The *Divine Worship: Daily Office* manages to successfully deliver the council's vision by

making use of legislation calling for Church authorities to revise the liturgical books with "legitimate variations and adaptations to different groups, regions, and peoples."

The Catholic Truth Society's variation was created for Catholics in the Ordinariates of Our Lady of Walsingham (based in the United Kingdom) and Our Lady of the Southern Cross (based in Australia), whose Anglican liturgical patrimony Pope Benedict XVI called a "treasure to be shared" and integrated into the Church in 2009 ("Anglicanorum Coetibus" §5:III).

Unless they are clergy or religious obligated to pray according to a particular form, any Catholic can pray the divine office using this volume.

Scripture-Soaked Offices

Divine Worship: Daily Office has robust forms of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, which may begin with an optional penitential rite and involve praying the psalms, biblical canticles and reading a chapter each of the Old and New Testaments. On average, praying either office takes 18-20 minutes.

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ," St. Jerome once said, and here *Divine Worship: Daily Office* really shines. Prayed daily, this book covers pretty much the Old Testament once, and the New Testament twice, over a year. The included lectionary read-

Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

In Viaggio: The Travels of Pope Francis (not rated)
On a Wing and a Prayer (PG)
The Super Mario Bros. Movie (PG)



Adults

65 (PG-13)
Champions (PG-13)
Creed III (PG-13)
Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (PG-13)
Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre (R)
Shazam! Fury of the Gods (PG-13)



Morally Offensive

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

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

ings use the Revised Standard Version, 2nd Catholic Edition.

Divine Worship: Daily Office also contains a 30-day psalter based on a poetic translation by Miles Coverdale into traditional English. Psalms are divided daily between Morning and Evening Prayer, and correspond to each month's calendar day. For months with 31 days, one repeats the psalms from Day 30. Thus, the psalms are prayed, not in isolation, but in the context of daily progression — like a pilgrimage.

Because users daily read four chapters of Scripture during Morning and Evening Prayer, there is no separate canonical hour for the Office of Readings. The book's rubrics specify that its Morning Prayer is equivalent to Lauds and the Office of Readings in the LOTH; nevertheless it specifies where those readings can be used optionally at Morning and Evening Prayer.

Each of the Daytime Prayer offices take about 7-8 minutes, whereas Compline takes about 10 minutes. Compline concludes with Anthems of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and *Divine Worship: Daily Office* provides both Latin and poetic English versions.

It also includes a beautiful Office of the Dead. The psalms and readings selected really do give voice to the desolation of death we experience with the passing of loved ones, and remind us of our hope in Jesus Christ and the consolation of his resurrection.

An Invitation to Prayer

In my view, *Divine Worship: Daily Office* makes the divine office a more straightforward, streamlined experience of prayer — one that is far easier for beginners to take up than the LOTH — while being a beautiful, spiritually enriching experience.

There is a great deal of spiritual wealth packed into just over 2,030 gold-edged pages.

In addition to the Daily Offices, included are preparation and thanksgiving prayers for Mass, a penitential rite based on the Seven Penitential Psalms, an Itinerary (travel office), and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Altogether, *Divine Worship: Daily Office* is a masterful achievement — a beautiful invitation to prayer that should certainly inspire bishops with a model for how to respond to requests to adapt the divine office for the Church — a possibility the Second Vatican Council envisioned (SC, No. 38) — for the needs of active clergy and laity or to produce office books reflecting beautiful spiritual and cultural patrimonies, such as African-American and Native American Catholics.

To order, visit CTS Books at ctsbooks.org/product/daily-office/

Peter Jesserer Smith is the national news and features editor for OSV News.

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ENCOUNTER

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coming years I will read all about Catholic Charities expansion here in the pages of *The Catholic Missourian*, as I believe there is great need, and great potential to serve, throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City.

The realities of providing social services in a diocese as large as ours is challenging.

The predominately rural nature of the diocese means that services can be few and far between, along with staff to provide those services.

However, strategic use of larger community hubs throughout our service area could allow for more Catholic Charities offices, and expanded use of telehealth that allows providers to meet with clients remotely could be of great benefit.

I have no doubt that Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri will continue to be a shining light throughout the diocese for many years to come.

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of this beautiful ministry.

My life has been changed for the better.

May God bless you and keep you.



The names of Catholic Charities staff members and others involved in the Open Hearts, Open Doors campaign to renovate the Shikles Center into Catholic Charities' Central Office in Jefferson City are etched into custom stained-glass windows with the "Open Hearts, Open Doors" motif by creator Jim Wisch. The open door without locks symbolizes welcoming those in need with safe entry to receive the care they need, regardless of faith, culture or situation.

MARCH

From page 6

visible places where they can spend a few hours handing out information about the local pregnancy resource center, which is often right there in their backyard," she said.

She emphasized that women are being enticed to seek out the nearest facility or order dangerous abortion causing drugs.

"Women from Missouri who want to get an abortion will find someplace to get one," she said. "If we're not at the ready with life affirming resources in our communities, they're going to drive 300 or 600 miles, or order dangerous, unregulated abortion causing drugs, often from India or China."

Ms. Muzyka emphasized that there's a place for everyone in this sector of the pro-life community.

"At some time, we're all going to run into someone who needs help, and we need to know where to send them for that help," she said.

"In post-Roe America, especially in abortion restricted states, we show the world that we are ready to journey with women who are facing unex-

pected pregnancies," she stated.

That's one more reason for people to attend the Mid West March for Life.

"These gatherings are important not only to encourage us in the battle, but to equip us," said Ms. Muzyka. "There's going to be great information at the event that will everyone discover their place in the greatest human rights battle on earth."

Planning ahead

Lunch at the event will be available from the Fulton Knights of Columbus, with all proceeds benefiting the Mid West March for Life. The \$5 child's special includes a quarter-pound grilled hotdog, chips, cookies, ice cream and water, and a family of four or more can eat for \$20.

Mr. Carney will be outside the Selinger Centre next to St. Peter Church, signing copies of his books, *What to Say When* and *The Beginning of the End of Abortion*, which tells the story of how 40 Days for Life local prayer supporters were faithful and God was successful in ending abortion at the Columbia

Planned Parenthood.

The books are \$15 apiece or \$25 for both.

Ms. Muzyka said one way to get more out of her presentation would be to watch Sidewalk Advocates for Life's 14-minute documentary, "Saving Lives in Post-Roe America."

"That would be a great motivator for all of us in abortion restricted states to stay the course," she said.

She also suggested searching online for the nearest Planned Parenthood abortion referral facilities.

"It might be right in your neighborhood," she noted. "Maybe, you're being called to go and pray there and also get trained in sidewalk advocacy in order to reach out to the women there."

For herself and all the other presenters at the Mid West March for Life, she asked for prayers for safe travel and "for us to lead well in this truly unique moment in the battle, and for our people who are out on the sidewalk each day, to withstand the spiritual attacks that come to them."

Daily Readings

Sunday, Apr 16

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY
Acts 2:42-47
Ps. 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Pt. 1:3-9
Jn. 20:19-31

Monday, Apr 17

Acts 4:23-31
Ps. 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9
Jn. 3:1-8

Tuesday, Apr 18

Acts 4:32-37
Ps. 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5
Jn. 3:7b-15

Wednesday, Apr 19

Acts 5:17-26
Ps. 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Jn. 3:16-21

Thursday, Apr 20

Acts 5:27-33
Ps. 34:2, 9, 17-18, 19-20
Jn. 3:31-36

Friday, Apr 21

St. Anselm, bishop and doctor of the Church
Acts 5:34-42
Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14
Jn. 6:1-15

Saturday, Apr 22

Acts 6:1-7
Ps. 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
Jn. 6:16-21

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.

Sunday, Apr 23

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Ps. 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
1 Pt. 1:17-21
Lk. 24:13-35

Monday, Apr 24

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest and martyr
Acts 6:8-15
Ps. 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30
Jn. 6:22-29

Tuesday, Apr 25

St. Mark, evangelist
1 Pt. 5:5b-14
Ps. 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17
Mk. 16:15-20

Wednesday, Apr 26

Acts 8:1b-8
Ps. 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a
Jn. 6:35-40

Thursday, Apr 27

Acts 8:26-40
Ps. 66:8-9, 16-17, 20
Jn. 6:44-51

Friday, Apr 28

St. Peter Chanel, priest and martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, priest
Acts 9:1-20
Ps. 117:1bc, 2
Jn. 6:52-59

Saturday, Apr 29

St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church
Acts 9:31-42
Ps. 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Jn. 6:60-69

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Mass in Brush Creek

DATE: April 23
TIME: 1 pm

The annual Spring Mass in historical St. Peter Church in Brush Creek will be offered at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 23. Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, pastor of the Monroe City and Indian Creek parishes, will preside.

The church stands where Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States, was baptized in 1854.

The church is located at 14690 Gentry Road, off of Sheil Lane, south of Route J in rural Ralls County.

Mid-Missouri Birthright 50th anniversary

DATE: April 23
TIME: 11 am - 2 pm

Birthright of Mid-Missouri will hold a celebration of its 50th anniversary from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, in the McClung Park Pavilion, 930 McClung Park Drive in Jefferson City.

The event will include a presentation on Jean Wankum, who founded the local Birthright chapter in 1973 at the request of Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe, who was the diocese's second bishop.

Light appetizers will be served.

RSVP to Nancy Dubbert Hoelscher by April 18 by phone or text message at 573-301-9555 or email at ndubbert@hotmail.com.

Bishops call for support of 'home missions' appeal

Washington, D.C.

OSV News

An annual collection in support of missionary efforts within the United States, called the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, will be taken up at parishes around the country on April 29-30, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) announced March 31.

The funds support dioceses in the U.S. that have territories where it is difficult to carry out "basic, essential ministries" — such as the celebration of Mass and other sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for clergy and lay people — because of geographic, economic or population-related challenges, the USCCB's March 31 news release said.

"When you give to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, you are making a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri, and chairman of the USCCB's Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions, according to the news release.

"Those young people experienced such joy in their faith that many of them brought their parents back to church," he wrote.

In addition to bringing the sacraments, programs supported by the appeal last year also offered pastoral and social care for refugees, health care and counseling to people in poverty, and education and evangelization efforts for people in need.

Funds also support the formation of priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders, marriage and family ministry, cross-cultural outreach, church communications and pastoral planning.

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