

Inclusive learning

Paula Wekenborg, director of the Vogelweid Learning Center at St. Peter School in Jefferson City, received a prestigious honor at the National Catholic Education Association's national convention.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

April 28, 2023 • Vol. 66 No. 22

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Priests, bishop follow in saints' footsteps in France



Take part in retreat where patron saint of parish priests ministered; offer Mass at the burial places of St. Bernadette Soubirous, St. Thérèse of Lisieux

By Jay Nies

Father Gregory Meystrik was walking to noon Mass at the Basilica of Ars in France when two children drew near and said something in their native tongue.

At first, he couldn't understand them.

"I finally figured out that they were asking me if I'm a priest," said Fr. Meystrik, pastor of St. Patrick Church in Rolla, Immaculate Conception Parish in St. James and St. Anthony Parish in Rosati.

The three exchanged pleasantries through gestures and facial expressions, and the children and their parents wound up sharing a pew with Fr. Meystrik at Mass.

"They were so kind and engaging in dialogue with a fellow who couldn't communicate much in French," Fr. Meystrik recalled. "Their hospitality and enthusiasm in meeting someone with an alb and a priest's white stole in hand — that must have been a clue for them to inquire about me and Mass."

It was an apt prelude to a holy gathering in a place priests have been turning to for inspiration for over 100 years.

Fr. Meystrik was one of 20 priests from the Jefferson City diocese who joined Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in France for an Easter Season pilgrimage and canonical retreat.

The town of Ars-sur-Formans was where St. John Vianney, known as the Curé of Ars, patron saint of parish priests, carried out his priestly ministry, offering daily Mass and hearing Confessions for up to 16 hours a day.

See PRIESTS, page 17

Twenty priests of the Jefferson City diocese gather for Mass with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight April 15 in the chapel of "La Providence," the place they were staying during their pilgrimage and retreat in Ars-sur-Formans, France. — Photo by Father Stephen Jones

Livestream links to be posted for rededication of the Cathedral; all invited to public events

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight invites people throughout the Jefferson City diocese to join in the public activities surrounding the rededication of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

The livestream links for Solemn Vespers and the Rededication Mass will be posted at diojeffcity.org and sent out over the diocese's social media outlets.

The livestream for Vespers will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 4. The Mass of Rededication livestream will be available at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 5.

•Public events will include an upbeat, up-close and intensely prayerful experience of the communal bond the Cathedral represents throughout the diocese, the evening before the rededication.

The event, known as the CathedralGLOW, will be held on Thursday, May 4.

It will begin with a barbecue at 5:15 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. The music and message will be geared toward young people, but participants of all ages are welcome.

The evening will close with the lights being turned off and the people processing out of the Cathedral by candlelight.

RSVPs for the CathedralGLOW is requested to ensure that enough food is prepared (diojeffcity.org/cathedral_glow). Participants are asked to park at Memorial Park.

•All are invited to tour the newly-renovated Cathedral during an open house on Sunday, May 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. Docents will be present to give tours to all who are interested.

The extensive renovation, expansion and renewal of the 54-year-old Cathedral began in February 2022 to replace the

REDEDICATE, page 24

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CATHMO.COM

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  **@DIOJEFFCITY**

MOVING? If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or complete the online form at diojeffcity.org/update-individual-contact-information. Allow two weeks.

NEW ADDRESS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

04/28/23

Pray for deceased priests

May 6 — **Msgr. Charles H. Patterson**, St. Joseph Home, Jefferson City (2010)

May 11 — **Msgr. Francis E. Hagedorn**, St. Joseph, Pilot Grove (1981)

Coordinator, Stewardship/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 and bachelor's degree is preferred. Event planning and management is desired.

Qualified candidates can apply on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or send resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

DRE/Youth Minister

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



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

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

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

A day like no other!



Carrie Tergin, at the last Board of Aldermen meeting of her term as mayor of Jefferson City, presents to Sister Jean Dietrich of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) a proclamation honoring her for 50 years in education, including 40 years at Helias Catholic High School. Friends and fellow SSNDs attended the presentation of the proclamation, which officially designated April 17, 2023, as Sister Jean Dietrich Day in the city. A retirement celebration for Sr. Jean will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, at Helias Catholic High School, 1305 Swifts Highway.

— Photo by Rebecca Martin



Celebrating with style!

LEFT: Sister Joesetta Eveler of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI) turned 90 on April 26. The Jefferson City native taught for many years at her alma mater, Immaculate Conception School. She lives at The Village at Incarnate Word, 4707 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209.

— Photo from The Village at Incarnate Word Senior Living Community Facebook page

Correction

An article in the April 14 edition of *The Catholic Missourian* included an incorrect time for the CathedralGLOW event on May 4. It will begin with a barbecue at 5:15 p.m. in the pavilion at Memorial Park. *We apologize for the error.*

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.

The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City
Mailing address: 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Phone: 573-635-9127

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

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

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THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN (ISSN 1083-6977 or USPS 556940), April 28, 2023, volume 66, number 22. Published biweekly at 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109. Subscription price \$14 a year through parish plan. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo. and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Catholic Missourian, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City MO 65109-0914.

Synod's 'messy,' 'joyful' North American phase concludes with call to mission, moves to Rome

By Gina Christian
OSV News

The final document for the North American phase of the 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality was released April 12, capturing a process of dialogue and discernment that two participants described as 'messy,' 'joyful' and unifying — like the synod itself.

"It's amazing what comes about when ... you invoke the Holy Spirit in the conversation," Julia McStravog, a theologian and co-coordinator of the North American team for the synod's continental phase,

told OSV News.

"The synodal approach provoked a genuine appreciation and joyfulness on the part of the people of God to be able to engage in conversation, even if they were talking about difficult issues," team co-coordinator Richard Coll told OSV News.

Coll also serves as executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

Led by Catholic bishops from Canada and the United States, McStravog, Coll and

their fellow team members have now synthesized the results of synod listening sessions through-

out the two countries, producing a 36-page final document available for download at usccb.org/synod.

According to the USCCB, the Catholic Church in Mexico is participating in the global synod with the Latin American Episcopal Council, or CELAM, given its long partnership with that conference.

The North American synod team — consisting of eight bishops, three laywomen, two priests, two laymen and two women religious — spent time in prayer, silence and discussion to distill responses for inclusion in the text, which forms a response to the Document for the Continental Stage issued by the Holy See's General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops in October 2022.

The final document for the continental stage from North America, along with the contributions of the six other continental assemblies, will form the basis of the *"Instrumentum Laboris,"* the global synod's working document, to be released by the General Secretariat in June.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, who leads the North American team with Canadian Bishop Raymond Poisson of Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier, Quebec, presented the document at the Vatican April 12.

Seeking deeper engagement

Launched by Pope Francis in October 2021, the multi-year synod of bishops — the theme of which is "communion, participation and mission" — seeks to cultivate an ongoing dynamic of discernment, listening, humility and engagement within the Catholic Church.

The North American report

highlighted three key themes: the implications of baptism, communion with Christ and one another, and missionary discipleship as a living out of the baptismal calling.

"Our baptismal dignity is inseparable from our baptismal responsibility, which sends us forth on mission," the document stated.

"Every human person possesses the dignity that comes from being created in the image of God. Through baptism, Christians share in an exalted dignity and vocation to holiness, with no inequality based on race, nationality, social condition or sex, because we are one in Christ Jesus," the document continues

By virtue of their baptism, participants in the synod's North American phase expressed "a desire for a greater recognition of, and opportunities for, co-responsibility within the Church and her mission," with greater collaboration "among the laity and the clergy, including bishops," said the document.

It stressed "there can be no true co-responsibility in the Church without fully honoring the dignity of women."

An "authentic acknowledgment and respect for the gifts and talents of young people is another vital aspect of a co-responsible Church in North

America," said the document.

Amid "polarization and a strong pull towards fragmentation," synod participants in North America emphasized the need to "maintain the centrality of Christ," especially in the Eucharist.

The document candidly acknowledged that a "significant threat to communion within the Church is a lack of trust, especially between bishops and the laity, but also between the clergy in general and the lay faithful."

The clergy sexual abuse crisis in particular has caused "major areas of tension in North America," as have "the historical wrongs found in the residential (and) boarding schools for Indigenous people, which ... included abuse of all kinds," said the document.

A Church that listens

"In their introduction to the document, Bishop Flores and Bishop Poisson admitted the need to "(make) efforts to listen more effectively to those from whom we have not heard, including many who have been relegated to the margins of our communities, society and Church." They noted their "absence" in the synodal process was "not easily interpreted but was palpably felt."

Among those often missing from synodal sessions were priests, with bishops acknowledging their responsibility to address that lack "by example and by conveying the transparency and spiritual/pastoral

See SYNOD OF BISHOPS, page 19



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

APRIL

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 Diaconate Aspirants, 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

May 6 Confirmation Mass, Mary Immaculate Parish, 5:30 pm, Kirksville

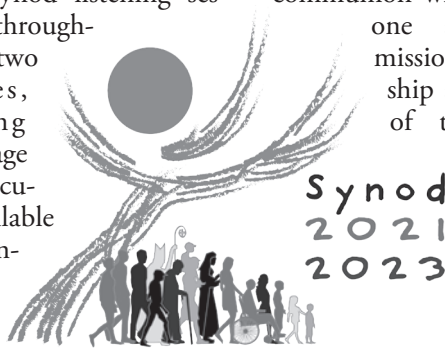
May 7 Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, 2 pm, Columbia

May 9 Priests' Mutual Benefit Society Meeting, 10 am, Chancery; Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, St. Anthony Parish, Rosati, Immaculate Conception Parish, St. James, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, St. Robert, and St. Jude Parish, Richland, 6:30 pm, St. Patrick Church, Rolla

May 12 St. John Apostle of Charity Society Dinner, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence

May 13 Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Mass, 10 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph

May 14 Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Graduation, 2 pm, Columbia



For a synodal Church

Bishop McKnight's May prayer intention for our Local Church

For the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City; may the reopening of our cathedral strengthen our communion with God and one another in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

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

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

Por el clero y los fieles de la Diócesis de Jefferson City; que la reapertura de nuestra catedral fortalezca nuestra comunión con Dios y entre nosotros en la Iglesia que es una, santa, católica y apostólica.



Danielle Freie, diocesan wellness coordinator for priests is answering a calling from God

By Jay Nies

Danielle Freie spent a year letting God convince her to try something new.

She finally ran out of excuses.

"I always tell people to follow what the Lord tells them to do, but I had trouble doing that myself," said Mrs. Freie, who is now the Jefferson City diocese's wellness coordinator for priests.

"I needed to start listening to my own advice," she said.

The St. Clement native and licensed practical nurse (LPN) became the diocese's part-time wellness coordinator for priests last October and went full-time with the position Feb. 27.

"I'm here to serve the Lord," she stated. "I do that by helping his priests. I want to be there for each and every one of them."

"I help them advocate for themselves and get the best care for themselves," she said.

A lifelong member of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, Mrs. Freie previously worked for nine years for the Pike County Health Department.

"I loved the people and the community," she recalled.

But once she read the want ad for the diocesan wellness coordinator, the Lord wouldn't stop nudging her.

"He said, 'Take care of my shepherds who take care of my sheep,'" she recalled.

"I kept telling him 'I'm comfortable where I am,'" she said. "He kept telling me, 'I need you to tend to my shepherds.'"

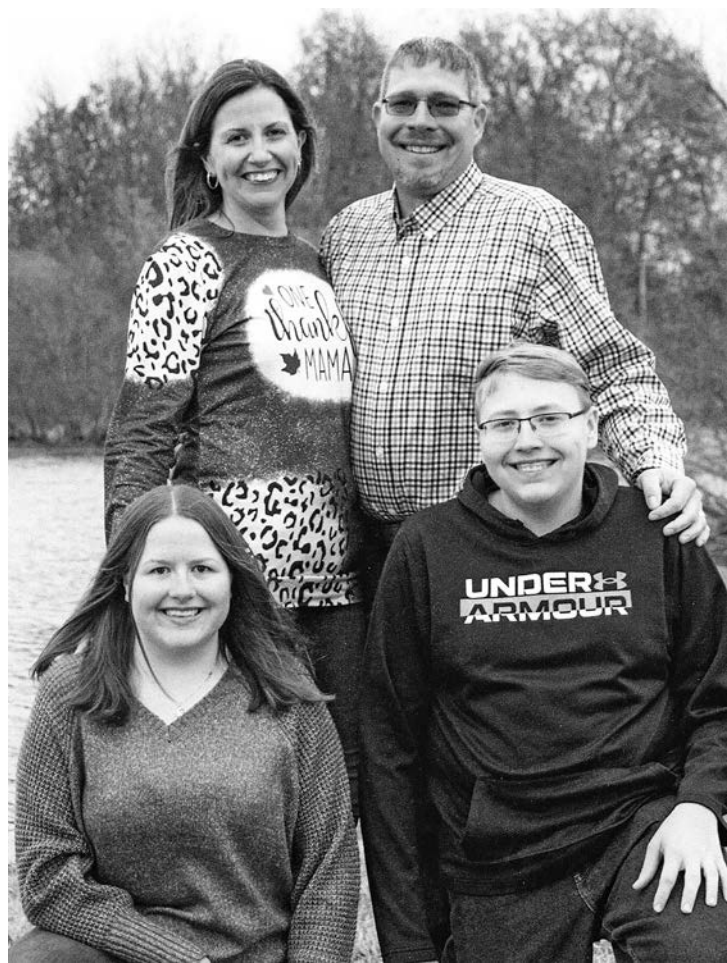
The invitations became louder and clearer.

"Every time I tried to come up with an excuse for why not to do it, I kept on hearing him say, 'Take care of my shepherds,'" she said.

So, after "lots of prayers" and discussions with her husband and their two teenage children, she updated her resume and sent it in.

She got the job, started part-time on Oct. 24, 2022, and went full-time on Feb. 27 of this year.

"It's so rewarding to be able to help God's shepherds so they can tend to the sheep!" she said.



Danielle Freie and her family, Chad, Darcci and Devan Freie.

Driven to serve

Mrs. Freie is the youngest of her parents' six children.

"And the only girl!" she noted.

She and her brothers went to public schools in Bowling Green.

She didn't know what she wanted to be until she graduated from high school.

"I just had a deep conviction to help and serve," she said.

Her grandmother, who's now 93, was an LPN and didn't retire until she was 80.

"I also have cousins who are RNs," Mrs. Freie noted. "So, we have lots of nursing in our family."

She studied nursing at Pike-Lincoln Technical Center in Eolia and began working as an LPN in 2005.

"I became what the Lord called me to be," she stated. "I love helping people."

Mrs. Freie met her husband, Chad Freie, on a blind date on Valentine's Day in 2002.

"The Lord is amazing," said Mrs. Freie. "He brought us together and brought us to church."

Married in St. Clement

Church in St. Clement, they "really came to faith" while Father William Peckman was their pastor there.

They have a son and a daughter, Devan and Darcci.

Mr. Freie was initiated into the Church in 2015. He is now discerning a possible calling to the Diaconate.

"So, the Lord puts you where you're supposed to be when you're supposed to be there," said Mrs. Freie.

"Here to help"

Mrs. Freie and her family live in Middletown, about halfway between Bowling Green and Montgomery City and about 70 miles from Jefferson City.

She succeeds Karla Lang, who followed Kimie Bax, the diocese's first wellness coordinator for priests. Mrs. Bax served from 2019-21.

Mrs. Freie's primary role is

to tend to the physical needs of priests who are ailing, to offer support and guidance for priests who are coping with chronic illness or personal crises, and to assist those who want to work on making healthier lifestyle choices.

"I want to help take care of every single priest," she said. "I want to spend time with all of them. If they're here serving, I want to see them."

She provides all the priests an abundance of practical information about taking care of themselves so they can take care of others.

"It's not all just physical," said Mrs. Freie. "It's also emotional, mental and spiritual."

She visits priests in their parishes, in the hospital, or in short-term or long-term care facilities to assess any health and well-being needs they may have.

She is also available to accompany priests to doctor's visits at their request.

"I want them to be comfortable and know that I am there for them," she said.

No one is required to make use of these services, but she wants the priests to know that

Priest Wellness Program in 2019 to be carried out under the supervision of the diocesan vicar for priests.

While most people retire at or near age 65, most priests of this diocese continue to fully function in their ministries past age 70. Many may continue serving in some capacity after retiring.

Some but not all priests have family living nearby.

The Priest Wellness Program's purpose is to promote, support and advocate for the health and well-being of the priests through a three-dimensional approach: physical wellness, emotional wellness and professional wellness.

Priests of this diocese tend to be very busy and don't always find time to care for themselves.

Some feel guilty for taking time to look after their own health and wellbeing.

"I think some of them think if they take care of themselves, they're taking away from taking care of other people," said Mrs. Freie.

"I can sort of relate to that," she acknowledged. "As a nurse, I'm sometimes tempted

to put myself last. And they're under a lot more stress than I am, because they have a lot more people counting on them."

Her schedule includes calling or emailing each of the priests at least once a month and regularly trying to set up a time to meet in person.

"I sit and listen to them and I let them tell me whatever they want to tell me," she said. "I earn their trust by being there for them, and then I explain to them how important it is to take care of themselves."

Everything they tell her is held in the strictest of confidence

unless she has immediate concern for the priest's safety and wellbeing.



Danielle Freie joins her former pastor, Father Jason Duke, moderator of the curia for the Jefferson City diocese and one of the many priests she maintains regular contact with to help them advocate for their health and wellbeing, outside the Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Jay Nies

"I'm here to help if needed."

Finding time

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight created the diocesan

See WELLNESS, page 15

Vogelweid Learning Center's Wekenborg receives national honor

By Jay Nies

Paula Wekenborg was in eighth grade at St. Peter School in Jefferson City when her aunt volunteered to lead the Girl Scout troop for students of the school's Special Education Program.

The aunt asked Paula to help.

"The kids in special-ed were in a separate building back then, so this was my first real interaction with them," Mrs. Wekenborg recalled. "I really enjoyed getting to know the girls. I think that's what sparked my interest in special-ed and got me into teaching."

She believes the everyday interactions among all students of St. Peter School, including the Vogelweid Learning Center, are having the same effect.

"I'm convinced that for our current students, whatever they go on to do and be, the mentality of empathy and acceptance is going to keep growing as they get older and hopefully send their own kids to St. Peter," said Mrs. Wekenborg, director of the Vogelweid Learning Center at St. Peter.

Mrs. Wekenborg recently received a "Lead. Learn. Proclaim." Award from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

Presented at the April 11-13 NCEA Convention in Dallas, the award highlights the outstanding work of Catholic school educators in communities across the country.

Mrs. Wekenborg is one of only 10 Catholic educators nationwide to receive the award this year.

"Catholic schools excel because excellent people give it their all to love them into being," stated Lincoln Snyder, NCEA president and CEO.

"We are humbled by the Christian witness this year's honorees offer to their Catholic school communities," she said.

Mrs. Wekenborg joined the St. Peter School faculty in 1996 and transferred full-time to the Vogelweid Learning Center a year later.

She has been the center's director since 2006.

"The way I see it, I inherited the program as a caretaker, because the real vision and the real work was accomplished in



Paula Wekenborg

Director of Special Services,
St. Peter Catholic School,
Diocese of Jefferson City

A superhero who serves disabled and diverse learners with joy by cultivating student success and is the calm in the storm of daily life.

1964 by those legacy families who wanted all of their kids to attend school here at St. Peter's," she said.

"They're the ones who had the vision, saw what this should be and figured out how to get it started," she stated.

Everyone learns

The Vogelweid Learning Center began the early 1960s, when several St. Peter Parish families urged longtime pastor Monsignor Joseph Vogelweid to set up a special-education division at St. Peter School.

They were adamant about providing a Catholic education to their children with disabilities.

Money in the parish and school was very tight at that time. Some school board members were concerned about taking on any additional responsibilities. But the iconic Msgr. Vogelweid did convince the board and the rest of the parish that they could and should welcome children with special needs.

He and a fellow priest from St. Louis recruited Sister Adele (formerly Sister Matthew Marie) Hulling, a School Sister of Notre Dame who had studied at two schools of special education, to be the first special-education administrator and teacher.

The St. Peter Special Education Program opened on Sept. 9, 1964, with 15 students.

Since then, the program, renamed the Vogelweid Learning Center in 1984, has grown to become an integral part of every subject and every grade level of St. Peter School.

It now functions as a special-services program for chil-

dren of widely diverse learning needs. The variety and depth of these services — coupled with the level of integration with the rest of the students of St. Peter School and the collaboration among all the teachers — makes the Vogelweid Learning Center genuinely unique.

"The profile of our students has changed through the years," Mrs. Wekenborg noted. "Parents expect more than they did when we were founded. They want their kids in regular-ed classes for academic and social/emotional opportunities."

As a result of this ethic, students throughout the school interact effortlessly with classmates who have special needs, because they've been doing so since kindergarten.

"I don't necessarily have a classroom," said Mrs. Wekenborg. "But all the students in school are my students."

Everyone benefits

The Vogelweid Center helps students across a broad spectrum of needs, including those who come to the center for any or all of their core classes but spend the rest of their learning time in a general-ed classroom; those who spend their whole time in general-ed classrooms with support from an aide or with some form of accommodation or adaptation; and those who receive some kind of accommodation but don't otherwise require any specialized support.

Vogelweid includes three full-time certified special-education teachers, two full-time aides, and Mrs. Wekenborg, the full-time director, who coordinates all of these things.

"Also, some of our kids



Paula Wekenborg, director of the Vogelweid Learning Center at St. Peter School in Jefferson City, and Gayle Trachsel, principal of St. Peter School, display the award Mrs. Wekenborg received at the 2023 National Catholic Educational Association Convention in Dallas.

qualify for various therapies and services through the public school district that are provided on-site," she noted.

"Nurturing a positive relationship with the Jefferson City School District is a big part of our students' success and their staff always works toward the students' best interests."

She said she's first and foremost an educator — a Catholic one at that. She's convinced that offering inclusive learning options and helping every student in a Catholic school succeed to the best of his or her ability is part of what makes St. Peter School truly Catholic.

"When you take it from a perspective of Catholic social justice and teaching, this is what we're called to do — to serve justly and inclusively to ensure success for ALL students," she said.

What's more, research shows that all students benefit from including children with

and without cognitive and physical disabilities in the same classroom.

"There are numerous studies, including a program at Notre Dame University called the Program for Inclusive Education — or PIE," said Mrs.

See WEKENBORG, page 15



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Cerneka's Marian hymn published, to be sung at CathedralGLOW

By Jay Nies

Erin Cerneka and her husband were familiar with a simple Gaelic melody known as the "Mingulay Boat Song."

She once noted that it could be refashioned into a church tune.

She later suggested that her husband compose a hymn that his students at St. Peter School in Fulton could sing on Marian feastdays.

"I decided to wed those two suggestions," said 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 Oddwalk (*oddwalkministry.com*).

The result is "Holy Mary, Pray For Us," an uplifting Litany of Mary recently published by GIA Publications Inc. (*gia music.com*)

Mr. Cerneka will sing the song as part of the May 4 CathedralGLOW event the night before the rededication of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

"This is a song that honors Mary for who she is and the 'yes' that she gave to God for all of us," said Mr. Cerneka.

He started by refashioning the melody to "Mingulay Boat Song" into the tune for the refrain:

"Holy Mary, Loving Mother, walk with us and show us Jesus. Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, hear our prayers and pray for us."

Each classroom in St. Peter School is dedicated to the honor of Mary under one of her many titles.

Mr. Cerneka wrote a corre-

sponding tune and wove many of the titles from the school into a litany, including: Our Lady of Guadalupe; Our Lady, Queen of Peace; Our Lady of the Rosary; Our Lady of Victory; Our Lady of Fatima; Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Our Lady of the Pillar; Our Lady of Lourdes; Mary, Mystical Rose; Mary, Star of the Sea; Mary, Queen of the Angels; Mary, Cause of our Joy.

Each title is followed by the request, "Pray for us."

"One thing I set out to do with this was to underscore the role that Mary plays," said Mr. Cerneka. "She walks with us, hears our prayers, prays for us and leads us to Jesus."

He said the "Mingulay Boat Song" wasn't written for church, but the tune's haunting simplicity lends itself to prayer and contemplation.

"There's a reason these old melodies stick around for generations," he said. "People like them and they're easy to learn. When I teach this song at church, it takes no time for people to pick it up."

Learning and praying

Mr. Cerneka had never composed a Marian hymn or a litany before.

Nonetheless, he said, "of all the songs that I've written, this one is probably in the top three that I like and am proud of."

"It has a contemporary feel, but it's something that you could pick up with an organ and a choir and have it work," he stated.

It can be prayed with any group.

"For a congregation to sing



Shannon Cerneka, youth minister, music teacher and campus minister at St. Peter Parish in Fulton, is the composer of a recently published Marian hymn titled, "Holy Mary, Pray for Us."

something for Mass, the melody should be relatively simple and accessible," he said. "And this particular melody does that, I think."

He wrote the song with the St. Peter School community in mind, and wound up dedicating it to the people there.

He wanted it to help them pray and grow in their faith, and for them to be able to learn it quickly and sing it well.

"They don't have to know the whole thing," he noted. "They just have to sing the 'pray for us.'"

And if they learn something about Jesus's Mother in the process, all the better.

"It's a way to hear those titles and to be reminded of the fact that Mary is praying for them and watching over them and journeying with them as students," he said.

In good order

Mr. Cerneka first introduced his students to "Holy Mary, Pray For Us" in 2017.

The late Father Frank Bussmann was serving as pastor of St. Peter Parish in Fulton and St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Mokane when he died suddenly in November of that year.

Remembering Fr. Bussmann's deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, the students at St. Peter School sang Mr. Cerneka's song during their

Christmas concert.

"We did an opening song and then launched into 'Holy Mary, Pray For Us' as a way to pray for Fr. Frank and say thank you to God for him," Mr. Cerneka recalled.

"I thought it would be a good way to honor him," he said.

Mr. Cerneka has been collaborating musically with Orin Johnson of St. Louis, the other member of the Oddwalk duo, since 1998.

They have composed several hymns and praise songs together, many that are performed at gatherings of young people.

Mr. Johnson agreed to arrange "Holy Mary, Pray For Us" so Mr. Cerneka could submit it to a music publisher.

"When I write a song, I work with lyrics and guitar chords," Mr. Cerneka noted, "but I'm not sitting there with a blank sheet of music paper and writing the notes."

"I sort of tinker with my guitar and play with the words until it comes together and sounds right," he said.

As arranger, Mr. Johnson added the piano accompaniment and vocal harmony.

"What he did was invaluable," said Mr. Cerneka. "I could submit the words and a list of guitar chords and a recording of me singing it, but there's no way it could get published if I did that."

He particularly likes how the refrain can now be sung as an echo.

Up to the Holy Spirit

Music publisher World Library Publications accepted the song for publication in 2018.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other factors figured into a lengthy delay.

The company is now a division of GIA Publications Inc., which notified Mr. Cerneka in March that the song was being published.

"What I've come to appreciate about being published is that somebody outside my immediate sphere seems to appreciate this thing that I have written," he stated.

"A little bit of validation comes with that," he said. "I think that's something we all need to some extent, and it's really nice when it happens."

He said his goal as a teacher, composer, accompanist and evangelizer is to draw people closer to Christ and into a deeper connection with the Church.

He commented on how he sometimes hears students humming the tune to the recessional hymn in the school hallway after an all-school Mass.

"There's something about music that connects with people and brings it all to life in a way that other things cannot," he said.

He acknowledged that once a piece of music is published, it's up to the Holy Spirit how it works for people.

"Anything you create that is artistic, once you put it out there, it has the capacity to go anywhere in the world," he noted.

"If it's strong enough and easy enough to pray with, it will honor God and help people grow in their faith in a healthy way — and you'll have nothing to do with it!"

A video of Mr. and Mrs. Cerneka singing "Holy Mary, Pray For Us" can be found by searching "Cerneka" and "Holy Mary, Pray For Us" at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

A basic recording of the song can be found at:

<https://on.soundcloud.com/8ggKDF3RTGJfRg3j8>

Vatican sends King Charles a relic of the true cross

Vatican City

Catholic News Service

As Britain's King Charles III walks into Westminster Abbey for his coronation, he will walk behind a processional cross containing a relic of Christ's cross given to the king by Pope Francis.

"The fragments of the relic of the true cross were donated by the Holy See in early April, through the apostolic nunciature, to His Majesty King Charles III, supreme governor of the Church of England, as an ecumenical gesture on the occasion of the centenary of the Anglican Church in Wales," Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office said April 20.

A Vatican official said the two fragments in the coronation cross came from a relic preserved in the Lipsanoteca Room of the Vatican Museums. The fragments now are under glass in the center of the coronation cross, which is made of recycled silver bullion.

Father Ignazio Medina found guilty in Church trial

Statement from the Diocese of Jefferson City

The Diocese of Jefferson City has concluded a Church trial involving mismanagement of funds by a former pastor.

A panel of three judges constituted within the Tribunal of Jefferson City has found Father Ignazio Medina guilty of “abuse of ecclesiastical power” due to financial misconduct while he was pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville.

The verdict concludes a Church trial initiated by the Diocese of Jefferson City after an investigation into allegations that Fr. Medina had transferred approximately \$300,000 of church money into personal accounts.

Following the investigation, and as dictated by canon law, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight initiated the Church trial in 2022. Judges for the trial were three priests from the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, all experts in canon law.

In addition to Fr. Medina’s unauthorized transfer of roughly \$300,000 in parish funds into personal accounts, the judges found approximately \$20,000 in unexplained cash withdrawals were made from parish funds under Fr. Medina’s leadership.

On April 6, the judges submitted the guilty verdict via definitive sentence to Bishop McKnight and Fr. Medina.

The judges acknowledged that Fr. Medina, who no longer holds any office in the diocese, has made full restitution of the missing funds. As a further punishment, they issued a penalty of approximately \$26,000, reimbursing the diocese for audit and legal expenses incurred during the investigation and trial.

Fr. Medina has not chosen to appeal this ruling and it is now final.

“As a community of faith, we are stewards of the gifts God has given us,” Bishop McKnight said at the conclusion of the trial. “Living out this commitment means we must be willing to hold one another accountable for actions that hurt our community. The financial misconduct discovered in our investigation of Father Medina and presented during the trial will not be tolerated in our Church — just as it would

never be tolerated by a private business or any organization in our society.

“The actions of Fr. Medina have caused pain in our community,” Bishop McKnight stated. “He will never again have access to parish funds. As we move forward together, let us pray for healing. Let us especially keep the parishioners of St. Stanislaus Parish in our prayers, as we seek to move forward together with the grace of God.”

Thoroughly investigated

Fr. Medina was appointed pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in 2012. The issue of financial mismanagement first surfaced in December 2018. The diocesan chief financial officer assisted the parish’s finance council with resolving financial reporting discrepancies.

A bank account established by Fr. Medina in the parish name, unbeknownst to the parish finance council, was discovered during this investigation.

In July 2021, Fr. Medina was appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark and Msgr. David Cox was appointed pastor of St. Stanislaus.

After Fr. Medina’s transfer, the St. Stanislaus Parish finance council reported to Msgr. Cox that the previously undisclosed bank account had been emptied and closed in June 2021, resulting in an approximately \$300,000 discrepancy. The parish brought this information to the Chancery, and Chancery staff worked with the parish finance council to resolve this matter.

Fr. Medina stated in an interview with Chancery officials he closed the bank account prior to moving from St. Stanislaus to Our Lady of the Lake. He granted the Chancery access to the bank records.

A review of the records disclosed that Fr. Medina had written a check to himself for \$200,000 and a check to an out-of-state sibling for \$100,000. Because of the details of the situation, the diocese notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

During this time, Bishop McKnight put in place temporary financial safeguards at Our Lady of the Lake. An indepen-

dent auditing firm was also engaged to do an in-depth analysis of accounts for both parishes.

No indications of any discrepancies were uncovered in the accounts of Our Lady of the Lake. However, approximately \$20,000 in additional cash withdrawals could not be accounted for at St. Stanislaus.

Determining there was sufficient evidence of a possible violation of canon law, Bishop McKnight initiated a penal process in the Tribunal of Jefferson City. The trial was temporarily postponed to prevent interference with civil investigation. Church proceedings began after law enforcement gave no objection to the commencement of a Church trial.

The diocese has no information on whether any civil investigations are ongoing.

Moving forward together

For the Church trial, which is a process similar to criminal trials in continental Europe, the panel of judges gathered evidence from the diocesan investigation and Fr. Medina.

He, with the assistance of his counsel, was given full op-

portunity to provide for his defense and explain his position. Following the judges’ verdict, the trial concluded when Fr. Medina chose not to appeal.

In a statement provided to the diocese, Fr. Medina asked parishioners to support Bishop

McKnight, who has the responsibility of ensuring justice is protected in our diocese.”

His statement concludes, “I ask you to remember me in your prayers, as you are remembered in mine.”

Bishop McKnight offered his gratitude for all who assisted in resolving the situation, including Msgr. Cox, St. Stanislaus Parish’s finance council

and other lay leaders, the FBI and Chancery staff.

“As a community that strives to shine the light of God in our world, we must hold ourselves to high standards — and continue to practice transparency and accountability at all levels of our Church,” said Bishop McKnight.

“I hope that the resolution of this unfortunate matter will give our community greater confidence in how closely we safeguard resources in our diocese,” the bishop stated. “Let us now move forward together. May our diocesan patroness, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, intercede for us, and may God strengthen our communion as a Church at this time.”

“As a community that strives to shine the light of God in our world, we must hold ourselves to high standards — and continue to practice transparency and accountability at all levels of our Church.”

— Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

McKnight and Msgr. Cox.

“They are good men, they are true servants of our Lord. I have no anger or animosity toward either of them,” Fr. Medina wrote. “I ask that you support them and keep them in your prayers. Please give them the love that you so generously gave to me.”

Fr. Medina also addressed his trial in his statement: “I wish to assure you that the law of the Church is being followed. The diocese is ensuring that the matter is resolved in accordance with the law and teaching of the Church. This includes my having canonical representation in this matter. This process is designed to ensure that justice for all is protected. This is at the

Spend time with Jesus every evening to reflect on the day, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Jesus knows how to turn every difficulty or fall into a step forward, Pope Francis said.

With Christ’s love “even that which seems wearisome and unsuccessful can appear under another light,” he said April 23.

Before reciting the midday “*Regina Coeli*” prayer with about 30,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis spoke about the day’s Gospel reading, Luke 24:13-35, which describes the Risen Jesus’ encounter with the disciples heading to Emmaus.

Jesus appears beside the two disciples and prompts them to tell him what has happened and made them sad. And, while they are walking, Jesus “helps them reinterpret the facts in a different way, in the light of the prophecies, of the Word of God,” the pope said.

“Today’s Gospel invites us to tell Jesus everything, sincerely, without being afraid of disturbing him — he listens — without fear of saying

the wrong thing, without shame at our struggle to understand,” he said.

“The Lord is happy whenever we open ourselves to him,” he said. “Only in this way can he take us by the hand, accompany us and make our hearts burn again.”

The pope said a good way to do this is to dedicate some time every evening to a brief examination of conscience and to reread the day with Jesus, by “opening your heart to him, bringing to him people, choices, fears, falls and hopes — all the things that happened — to learn gradually to look at things with different eyes, with his eyes and not just our own.”

“We can thus relive the experience of those two disciples,” he said. “A difficult cross to embrace, the decision to forgive an offense, a missed opportunity for redress, the toil of work, the sincerity that comes at a price and the trials of family life can appear to us in a new light, the light of the crucified and Risen One, who knows how to turn every fall into a step forward.”

QUESTION CORNER

How can I contribute to every charity that asks?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q School — I receive solicitations from many religious organizations with pictures of saints etc. I cannot not afford to give donations to all, so I trash them. I hope it's not a sin to throw away those pictures of saints? My priority is my contribution to our parish and other areas that the Church gives donations. (Location withheld)



A School — One of the five “precepts of the Church” — i.e., big-picture rules Catholics are obliged to follow — is to provide for the material needs of the Church. This is reflected in canon 222 of the Code of Canon Law, which states School — “Christ’s faithful have the obligation to provide for the needs of the Church, so that the Church has available to it those things which are necessary for divine worship, for apostolic and charitable work and for the worthy support of its ministers.” You are fulfilling this obligation by contributing financially to the support of your parish. However, in discussing this obligation, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* clarifies that members of the faithful are to provide material support for the Church “each according to his own ability.” (ccc 2043) That is, rather than demanding a specific percentage of our income, the Church leaves the dollar amount of our charitable giving up to our own good-faith discernment of what we can realistically afford.

Similarly, can. 222 §2 tells us that besides supporting the administrative needs of the institutional Church, the faithful — being “mindful of the Lord’s precept” — are to also “help the poor from their own resources.” But here too, the Church’s law would only expect us to give insofar as we are truly able.

An overarching principle in the Church’s law is that nobody can be bound to do what is impossible, and for most Catholics it would be impossible to give to every charity that sends us a mailing. Additionally, it is often a matter of justice towards the wider community to use our resources to prudently ensure that our own material needs are met — because if we don’t attend to our needs, somebody else will have to. In some cases, we might justly decline to give to a charity soliciting a donation because we are on a strict budget, a fixed income, or even because we need to save that money for emergencies or retirement.

Finally, our charitable giving is a matter of prudence and discretion on our part. Not all charities are created equal. For example, some charities are better than others at keeping their administrative overhead costs low (meaning that different charities will use different percentages of the donations they collect in directly helping the population they serve). So even if you were a billionaire and could give to everyone who asks for donations, it would still be perfectly reasonable to be selective in which charities you choose to support.

In any case, even if you don’t give to a charity, it’s fine to keep and use whatever free gift they send you.

If you don’t want to keep all the saint images (and holy cards, rosaries, medals, etc.) that come in the mail, generally we say that devotional items should be disposed of in a reverent way, such as burning or burying. But perhaps the best thing to do with the unwanted pious knick-knacks that come in the mail would be to pass them along to someone who can use them. Many parishes have something like a “free table” where people can leave, share and swap these kinds of small religious articles.

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at

Papal Audience
April 26, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now turn to the example of the saints of every age, beginning with those who embraced the monastic life. Their witness of following Christ in poverty, chastity and obedience was combined with unceasing intercessory prayer for the spread of the Gospel and the growth of the Church. Today we consider St. Gregory of Narek, a medieval Armenian monk and Doctor of the Church, whose writings embody the profound Christian tradition of the Armenian people, the first to embrace the Gospel. In the hiddenness of his monastery, Gregory sensed a profound solidarity with the whole Church and her mission of preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations and peoples. Identifying with sinful humanity, he devoted his entire existence to interceding for sinners, the poor and those in need of the Lord’s healing and forgiveness. The example of St. Gregory of Narek reminds us of our responsibility to cooperate, by our own intercessory prayer, in the Church’s mission of proclaiming the Gospel message of reconciliation, redemption and peace for the entire human family.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially the groups from England, Denmark, Malta, Kenya, Kuwait, Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines 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 you all!

Catholic school personnel
honored for years of service

The following educators and administrators in the Jefferson City diocese were honored for their years of service to Catholic education during this year’s personal development day for Catholic school personnel on March 10 in Columbia:

40 years

Boonville, Ss. Peter and Paul School — Melissa Nagel, Rita Rapp

35 years

Glasgow, St. Mary School — Kent Monnig
Jefferson City, St. Joseph Cathedral School — Patti Fischer

Sedalia, Sacred Heart School — Mark Register

30 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter School — Brenda Raymer
Taos, St. Francis Xavier School — Patti Wieberg

25 years

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School — Darlene Muessig
Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception School — Stacey Eisterhold
Jefferson City, St. Peter School — Kathy Porting
Monroe City, Holy Rosary School — Julie Hays
Sedalia, Sacred Heart School — Steve Goodwin

20 years

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School — Aimee Spicci
Hannibal, Holy Family School — Shelly Lowe
Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception School — Erin King
Jefferson City, St. Peter School — Gayle Trachsel

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle School — Kristin Morris

15 years

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School — Donna Gilmore, Janeene Schelich
Freeburg, Holy Family School — Jennifer Baumhower, Dani Perrey
Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School — Matthew Plank Joe Rothweiler
Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception School — Elizabeth Atkinson, Molly Bexten, Connie Bruns, Phyllis Emmel, Lynn Gerstner, Jeanne Schnurr
Jefferson City, St. Peter School — Debbie Kliethermes, Heather Luebbert, Debbie Schrimpf, Rachel Seibert, Jeanne Zumwalt
Pilot Grove, St. Joseph School — Nichole Watring
Tipton, St. Andrew School — Jessica Guymon
Westphalia, St. Joseph School — Nancy Hequembourg

10 years

Columbia, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School — Pat Kelly
Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School — Elaine Hassemmer
Cuba, Holy Cross School — Melinda Osentoski
Freeburg, Holy Family School — Angela Woodruff
Hermann, St. George School — Alyson Garner
Jefferson City, St. Joseph Cathedral School — Kathleen Haeffner
Jefferson City, St. Peter School — Katie Roling, Liz Vanderfelt

Welcoming new Catholics with 12 pieces of advice

By Jaymie Stuart Wolfe
OSV News



Becoming a Roman Catholic was one of the best decisions I ever made, and certainly the most life-changing. But in truth I had only a vague notion of the deep waters I was wading into. What would have been helpful over the past 40 years? Here are a dozen things I wish I had heard and internalized sooner, and some concrete items that established Catholics ought to consider.

1) Formation never ends, but you'll be (mostly) doing it yourself from here on out. As St. John Paul II said, "All formation ... is ultimately a self-formation. No one can replace us in the responsible freedom that we have as individual persons" (*Pastores dabo vobis*, No. 69). The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a guided process of intense catechesis and prayer aimed toward baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. After that, the training wheels come off and you are ready to

ride. But remember: the best way to keep your own faith growing is to contribute to the formation of others.

2) There are some people who seem ready to canonize new Catholics while the chrism is still wet on their foreheads, and others who are equally ready to view them with doubt. Worse than either, though, are those who will push new Catholics into leadership roles too quickly. Don't ask. And don't say yes. New Catholics need to allow themselves some time and space to acclimate.

3) Those who enter the Church through RCIA probably know more about the Catholic faith than at least 75% of their co-religionists. If you're a cradle Catholic, don't let that discourage you. If you're a convert, don't let it make you feel proud — or frustrated. It's a sad reality that the formation catechumens and candidates receive is almost always superior to what is provided to everyone else.

4) The Church is even bigger than you thought, and it's easy to get lost. Newbies would do well to find a few tour guides who can show them around what they know and love, but without pushing it as the best-or-only

path for everyone. Each of us should discover our leading grace. That means trying on different types of Catholic spiritualities — and there are dozens — until we find one that fits. All of us should be careful not to impose a veneer of monastic spirituality over our secular lives. Our task, as St. Francis de Sales puts it in his *Introduction to the Devout Life*, is to "be who you are and be that well."

5) When the Church hurts and/or disappoints you — and she will — love her anyway. Popes, bishops, priests, deacons, religious and fellow parishioners will all fall short. Some will admit their errors and do what they can to correct them. Others will ignore bad behavior and continue to justify it or cover it up. Loving the Church doesn't mean excusing anything that is contrary to the Gospel. It does mean avoiding anger and the desire for revenge. Speaking or acting prophetically can be costly. Integrity, however, is always

worth the price.

6) There are all kinds of self-described Catholics. Resist the temptation to hyphenate yourself and go narrow. Instead, enjoy the fact that there's room for all valid forms of authentic Christian discipleship in the Church. That's what makes us catholic!

7) Find a spiritual director and a posse of go-to saints. Make holiness your goal. Be patient with yourself but persevere. Recognize that the things most likely to keep you from becoming a saint are deficits in human formation, and we all have them.

8) Root yourself in a parish and decide to live with the things you don't like. In the great scheme of things, personal preferences, tastes and opinions don't matter.

9) Keep praying. When it seems like no one is listening, pray more.

10) Don't expect Catholic life to be

See STUART WOLFE, page 19

'Communion': For the life of the world, 'come-unity'

By Michael R. Heinlein
OSV News



Thinking about Christ's Last Supper evokes many images. The institution of the Eucharist stands at the fore. But, of course, John's Gospel casts a different light on the event. He doesn't explicitly mention the institution of the Eucharist at all, in fact. His focus, instead, is on Jesus' washing of his apostles' feet. This act of humility and charity ties his impending sacrifice to service.

The washing of the feet and the institution of the Eucharist go together, then, forming a whole of what Christ bequeathed to the Church the night before he died. The Eucharist is the means by which we receive Christ's love, and his foot washing gives us the model for sharing his love.

But there's yet another aspect of John's narrative of the Last Supper that I think completes and bonds the ties between instituting the Eucharist and the washing of the Apostles' feet. Here, I'm thinking of Christ's lengthy prayer to His Father — his prayer for unity.

Fully aware of our fallen nature, Jesus anticipated the struggles and strife,

divisions and discord that would plague his followers down the road. In the context of the first Eucharist, Jesus offers a prayer in which he pleads for unity among his followers. He indicates that the very credibility of his message hinges upon that unity. The very mission of the Church depends upon it.

"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me" (John 17:20-23).

Jesus prayed that his disciples would be united. But are we?

Very little is new in Church history, but there are some features to ecclesial life today that haven't been experienced for some time. Church teaching is openly questioned. Bishops publicly argue with bishops. Catholics enter into uncharitable disputes (to put it mildly) on social media. We can't even agree on eucharistic practice. Most days, the Church can look more like a debating

See HEINLEIN, page 19

REFLECTION

"Call unto me and I will answer"

By Mark Saucier

I had an appointment with my oncologist. I like him, but after five years, I'm ready to just run into him socially.

This was supposed to be when he released me, when he took me to the door and said, "Fly little bird, you are free."

But that's not what happened. After encouraging words about my blood panel, he hesitated about my CT scan.

The images showed something on my spleen. Instead of "Fly little bird," what I got was, "You better stick around for a while."

While gratitude was not my first reaction, I was thankful they had taken my blood pressure before this.

I called our son, who's a radiologist. He explained that the spleen and the contrast of a scan have a challenging relationship, often resulting in imperfect images.

He told me that he didn't think there was any reason for alarm. I hoped those words were coming from clinical experience and not filial affection.

My wife assured me everything would be fine. It was heartwarming, but, what else would you expect from someone who brims both trust and optimism?

I had a meeting later that day. The director and I were visiting afterwards when, out of the blue, she asked me about my health.

I told her about my oncology appointment. She said that she was sorry and then she asked if she could pray over me.

We come from very different traditions. She's more Jeremiah, up in God's grill, unabashedly asking for what's on her heart.

I'm more "Thy will be done," knowing full well that it will be done, whether I pray for it or not.

She placed her hands on my shoulders, closed her eyes, took a deep breath and then unloaded her soul.

She invoked God, the prophets and angels. She prayed for my spleen, then my whole body, begging it be purged of all disease and infirmity.

I felt hypocritical, as what she was asking was beyond my belief. But as I listened to her prayer, a wave of warmth washed over my body.

When she finished, I thanked her and told her I had no idea what physical effects it might have, but I felt healed and whole, regardless of what lies ahead.

Later, I prayed, too. Mine was more apology than request. I was sorry it took the threat of recurring cancer to remind me that I am graced with people who will love me all the way through anything.

Encounter

The ripple effect of care

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Paige Orscheln

Each morning I take a moment and pray for Christ to work through me, that I may be an instrument for others to encounter Jesus that day.

As a housing counselor, my job description includes working with people on budgeting, learning about and managing credit and organizing their finances — all with the goal of securing or saving their homes.

On the surface level, these goals are pretty straightforward, but equally important to me is the what of housing counseling is the how of this work.

And for me, that includes continually incorporating the Catholic social teachings that Catholic Charities is founded on into my everyday work.

While we never proselytize at Catholic Charities, I know that every interaction I have with a client is another chance to be the “hands and feet” of Christ to them.

So, it’s a practice of mine to take a moment at the end of the day to think about the people I’ve encountered in my work and think about how I may have shown care and compassion to them as Christ would.

I pray for that to create a ripple effect in their life.

I pray that, in their grow-

ing security or progress toward their goals, they can then show Christ to someone else, and someone else and someone else.

That was precisely how I had planned on Christ “showing up” in my work at Catholic Charities.

What I never expected was how the people I serve happen to show me the true heart of Christ, time and time again.

Housing counseling can be a very vulnerable process, so I make sure to take the first step in honoring my clients by getting to know them as unique individuals with gifts and talents, created in God’s own image and likeness.

I really enjoy getting to know them on a personal level, building trust and conveying the “judgement-free zone” atmosphere of our work together.

That’s helped us keep our time as open, honest and safe as possible.

And it’s in these moments of honesty — and vulnerability — that my clients share their hearts and reflect Christ back to me.

We oftentimes go about our days quick to judge — but I enter into my work by recognizing that each of us cannot be reduced to the situations we find ourselves in.



HUD-Certified Housing Counselor, Paige Orscheln, shares resources on securing housing, renting, home-buying and more with visitors of the Second Annual Community Resource Fair in March of 2023. Catholic Charities is one of only two agencies with HUD-Certified Counseling Services across the 38-counties in the Diocese of Jefferson City.

The life and dignity of the human person is a teaching that helps me see beyond the financial struggle someone may be experiencing into who they are as an individual, a child, a parent, a grandparent.

From that place, I’ve seen that many people I work with are not in a financially vulnerable situation because they were irresponsible or greedy, but because they are often supporting others from a place of generosity, forgoing their own security to help family members or friends who may also be struggling.

Like the grandmother who faces the very real possibility of losing her home because she’s spent the little income she has on helping with groceries for her children and grandchildren.

Like the parents who forgo not only luxuries, but necessities, making hard choices to keep food on the table and gas in the car to get back and forth to work.

These situations always prompt me to stop and think: what would I do in their shoes? How much would I be willing to sacrifice my comfort for

someone else’s? What about my needs?

Most of the time clients do not share their financial hardship with the loved ones they are helping because they do not want to burden them.

Instead, they simply give in quiet and have fully made the decision that they are willing to sacrifice their entire livelihood for someone else.

It is in those moments that I feel like I am sitting across the table with Christ.

These encounters have completely reshaped my perspective.

Most Americans are one crisis or disaster away from financial instability — instability that can quickly escalate from choosing which bill to pay to losing their home.

I think about that, how easily I could be in my clients’ shoes, and how difficult it would be to navigate that on my own.

Could I be as generous as they are? Would I be as humble and kind as they are?

I see Christ working through my coworkers at Catholic Charities, having encounters just like these every day with

clients, visitors, supporters and community partners.

I’ve felt a deepening awareness of Christ’s presence in this work.

I will add each of our readers this week to my prayers as well, may we each pray to encounter Jesus in others throughout our day, to be an instrument of love, to serve others well and to create those ripples of care that flow out in the world.

Paige Orscheln is a HUD-Certified Housing Counselor for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.


April is National Financial Capability Month, but Catholic Charities provides services and programs year-round to help neighbors find financial stability and freedom through financial wellness.

From HUD-certified housing counseling, to payday loan relief, to replenishing critical grocery dollars back into family budgets with the client-choice model Catholic Charities Food Pantry, Catholic Charities seeks to serve “the whole person” with the help they need to create lasting change in their lives and in their family trees.

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Any known or suspected abuse or neglect of children or adults should be immediately reported to the appropriate legal authorities.

To report concerns or suspected abuse by diocesan personnel, also contact:

Jacqueline Baldwin, Victim Assistance Coordinator

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**DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City**



EDUCATORS

From page 8

Marceline, Fr. McCartan Memorial School — Rhonda McKenzie
 Marshall, St. Peter School — Jennifer Bethel, Mary McCoy, Heather McCracken
 Mexico, St. Brendan School — Kelly Stanford
 Moberly, St. Pius X School — Sarah Duree
 St. Clement, St. Clement School — Carla Chlebanowski
 St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle School — Mary Kay Brand, Leroy Heckemeyer
 Sedalia, Sacred Heart School — Angela Hostetler
 Tipton, St. Andrew School — Shawna Bax

Five years

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School — Crystal Harrison
 Freeburg, Holy Family School — Erin Berhorst, Ericka

Wieberg
 Fulton, St. Peter School — Terri Holmes, Rebekah Neal, Susan Vodnansky
 Glasgow, St. Mary School — Jamie Thies
 Hannibal, Holy Family School — Karen Wetton
 Hermann, St. George School — Jamie Epple
 Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception School — Janice Knollmeyer
 Jefferson City, St. Joseph Cathedral School — Denise Gillam, GERALYN Luebbert
 Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School — Dwayne Clingman, Staci Kampeter, Pamela Watkins
 Jefferson City, St. Peter School — Jaycine Bax, Carrie Dunn, Sara Garner, Carrie Hayes, Denise Mueller Vicky Toebben, Kate Zumwalt
 Loose Creek, Immaculate



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight congratulates Rita Rapp (left) and Melissa Nagel (right), both of Ss. Peter and Paul School in Boonville, for 40 years of service to Catholic education. — Photos by Jay Nies

Conception School — Danielle Plassmeyer
 Macon, Immaculate Conception School — Julie Belt
 Marshall, St. Peter School — Kristy Goetting
 Martinsburg, St. Joseph School — Shirley Harby
 Mary's Home, Our Lady of

the Snows School — Amber Grellner
 Moberly, St. Pius X School — Mike Aulbur
 Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception School — Jennifer Bergmann, Denise

Kemmis Rolla, St. Patrick School — Marion Van Hoose, Didi Fischer
 St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle School — Madison Vanderfeltz

Celebrate Mary's Month

WITH US AT THE

Lake of the Ozarks

May 14	Mother's Day Brunch <i>Join us for a wonderful meal!</i>	9:30 am
May 14	Mother's Day Mass <i>Father John Schmitz, Rector, celebrant Unveiling new names on our Mothers' Wall of Life</i>	3:00 pm
May 27	Outdoor Summer Masses Begin at the Shrine! <i>Masses held each Saturday at 8:00 pm and Sunday at 8:30 am</i>	
May 29	Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church <i>Mass celebrated by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, Diocese of Jefferson City followed by Marian Consecration</i>	10:00 am

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R.I.P. Sr. Irene McGrath ASC, former diocesan director of spiritual renewal of the laity

Also served in Vienna, Sedalia

Sister Irene (formerly Sister Mary Luke) McGrath, 95, of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, died peacefully on April 19 at the Benedictine Living Community at the Shrine in Belleville, Illinois.

Her varied ministries included teaching at Inter-parish School in Vienna, directing the former Jerusalem House of Prayer in Sedalia, and serving as director of Renewal of the Laity for the Diocese of Jefferson City.

She had been a professed sister for 78 years.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 25 at Benedictine Living Community at the Shrine.

Sr. Irene was one of seven children born to the late Thomas and Clara (Begenel) McGrath in Woodson, Illinois; her home parish was St. Bartholomew in Murrayville, Illinois. She made her first profession on July 1, 1944, in Ruma, Illinois, and professed final vows on July 1, 1949.

Sister Irene's ministries were

many and diverse. She served as both an elementary and secondary teacher and organist; as director of parish religious



Sr. Irene McGrath ASC (1928-2023)

education, renewal of the laity and house of prayer; as librarian, religious leader of the Ruma Center; as formation director of young candidates for religious life, on-going spiritual education of the sisters of the former Ruma Province, and also as the Provincial Superior of the province.

She completed bachelor's degree in Religion, with minors in Education and Philosophy, from Saint Louis University in St. Louis, in 1955. She earned her master's in Library Science and Theology from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1965.

She held certificates in Limited Elementary Supervision and Secondary Teaching in the state of Illinois. She became certified in Spiritual Direction through the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois, in 1979.

Her elementary teaching included St. Elizabeth School in East St. Louis, Sacred Heart School in Dupo, St. Albert the Great School in Fairview Heights, St. Joseph School in Olney, all in Illinois, as well as Visitation in Vienna.

She taught at St. Teresa Academy in East St. Louis and at Precious Blood Institute, a high school for girls on the grounds of the Province Center in Ruma, Illinois.

She was the parish religion

coordinator for St. Francis Xavier Parish in Carbondale and St. Andrew in Murphysboro, both in Illinois.

Following her certification in Spiritual Direction, she provided that service in St. Louis.

Sr. Irene was named the Provincial Superior of the former Ruma Province in 1972.

She was known as a woman of prayer, but also in touch with the reality of the times. In the early 70s, she was keenly aware that the "experience of

ourselves and of our world tells us all too clearly that there is a crying need of reconciliation" within each person, between persons, and between the person and God.

She planned a Summer of Reconciliation in 1974 for the Province of Ruma. A variety of types of retreats was scheduled at the King's House of Retreats in Belleville, Illinois; 30-day retreats, individually-directed

See SR. IRENE, page 19

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Heaps of springtime color



A bed of phlox blooms in the flower bed maintained by parishioners Paul and Jeri Fennewald between St. Joseph Church and rectory in Martinsburg in this April 13 panorama.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Catholic Church-Martinsburg, MO Facebook page

A stewardship event



The Parish Stewardship Council for St. Patrick Church in Rolla hosted 40 leaders for a Parish Event for Renewing Leaders (PERL) on March 11.

Rosalie Buegler, General Lay Servant for the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity was the keynote speaker. The morning offered spiritual and prayerful reflection on how followers of Christ are first called to prayer and then to action. Participants reflected on their ministries and whether they are working in their talents or charisms. Ms. Buegler challenged participants to make prayer a priority, to practice it often and to integrate it into their daily lives. She also shared that seeing others through their gifts transforms the way others are seen.

Having discerned how God wants each person to serve him through his parish, all will serve him differently. Focusing on Jesus through service and prayer leads to a life that flows through him, uplifting family, Church and community. When the Church is vibrant, it lifts up the whole community.

Parish Stewardship Council chairman Jim Murphy shared about the event: "Rarely has parish leadership collectively gathered for prayer and fellowship. If we are going to be effective at serving the needs of the parish and community through diverse programs and ministries, it's essential that we do so in a Christ-centered way."

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Edina parishioners celebrate feastday



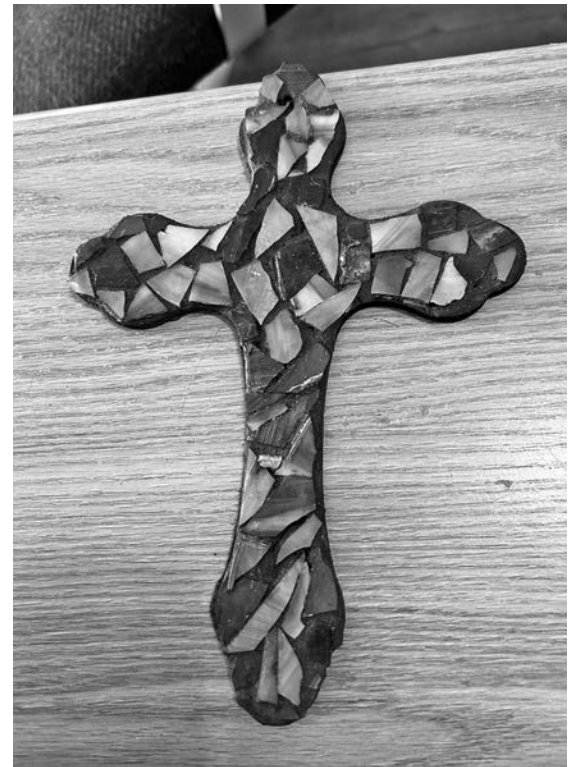
LEFT: Kate Devlin, Kelsey Moore and Conner Parker are making crafts at the craft table with Kerrie Hillyer during the St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration on March 20 in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Edina. **CENTER:** Father Simeon Etonu, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Edina and St. John Parish in Memphis, visits with parishioner Rose Ann Klote during the St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration meal. Parishioners attended Mass followed by a meal, cake walk, bingo and children's crafts at St. Joseph Church and the Knights of Columbus Hall in Edina.



— Photos by Nancy Peterson

RIGHT: Parishioner Dot Kriegshauser fashioned a mosaic cross from pieces of stained glass broken when St. Joseph Church caught fire on Aug. 15, 2013. She sold the cross on a silent auction at the feastday dinner to raise money for a fellow parishioner, who was involved in a serious UTV accident in January.

— Photo by Dot Kriegshauser



WEKENBORG

From page 5

Wekenborg. “Data shows that when you have mixed classrooms, all students — the neurotypical kids and the ones with special needs — achieve higher than if they were heavily segregated one way or another.”

She pointed out that no form of inclusion could happen without the commitment and cooperation of the school's general education teachers.

“All of our teachers at St. Peter truly believe that all students have something important to offer in the classroom and that we really are better off learning together,” she said.

Constant improvement

Mrs. Wekenborg said it was nearly unimaginable for a community the size of Jefferson City to offer a Catholic special education program in the 1960s.

In fact, it's still quite unusual.

“We really are ahead of the curve and would be a model for a lot of schools,” she said. “But we're still always asking, ‘What can we learn? What should we change? How can we improve? What more should we be doing for all learners?’”

She's quick to praise the parents, parishioners, pastors, staff and students down through the years who worked hard, sacrificed, and helped make Vogelweid what it is and continue to help it endure and improve.

“You know, it takes a lot of commitment to keep funding a program like this,” she said. “A lot of schools say they cannot even begin a program like this because of the commitment it takes. But here, the people have always been supportive through the years.”

The impulse to innovate has been constant since the center's founding.

“Every director who served before me has evolved the program to meet student needs,” Mrs. Wekenborg stated. “Education is constantly evolving, as well as what we're trying to provide here.”

She said she's learned from all the educators she's worked with at Vogelweid, including longtime faculty member Sister Bernadette Forck of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI), and Peggy Gretlein, the center's previous director.

“Peggy was quite the visionary,” said Mrs. Wekenborg. “She was always having us ask, ‘Where do we want to go, and what should we be learning in order to get there?’”

Mrs. Wekenborg stopped in San Antonio on the way to Dallas to visit with Sr. Bernadette and several other retired CCVIs from Jefferson City.

“Sr. Bernadette was such a big part of Vogelweid for so many years,” said Mrs. Wekenborg. “She was greatly loved and respected by everyone and I learned so many things from

her — about being a good teacher and about the kindness and the acceptance she always showed to the kids.”

A distinct calling

Mrs. Wekenborg often turns to God in prayer.

“It's always, ‘Please guide me to help these kids develop to their fullest potential and cultivate the gifts you've given them,’” she said.

She emphasized that “fullest potential” encompasses every

aspect of every child.

“Whatever God has given to them, we want those qualities to shine and be developed,” she said. “Oftentimes, you do have to help develop those characteristics. God created those gifts and gave them to them, but we have to help them shine.”

“That's true for every student, regardless of his or her ability level,” she observed.

She said that while Catholic school educators know from

the beginning that they'll be making some serious sacrifices, the rewards are indescribably satisfying.

“If you ask anyone who has taught for a while and stuck through the tough times, they can list off the benefits it brings them, both spiritually and emotionally,” she said.

“You come to understand that it is a vocation,” she stated. “It's what you're called to do, or else you wouldn't have been led in that direction.”

WELLNESS

From page 4

She meets regularly with Father Christopher Cordes, diocesan vicar for priests, for discussions about helping the priests stay healthy.

“I'm very much about communication,” she said. “It's very important.”

She sends the priests a monthly newsletter with helpful information, including practical ways to fight stress, knowing when to consult a healthcare professional, and frequent reminders to take care of themselves and advocate for their own health.

“And I like to make people smile, so I put a funny story at the end,” she noted.

The grace to listen

Spending a lot of time on the road gives Mrs. Freie plenty of time to pray.

“I like to pray the Rosary and ask our Lord to help me be a good listener and help the priests and just be there for them,” she said.

For her, being a good listener means being present and actively hearing without judging.

“You just sit there and let them talk,” she said. She works around the priests' schedules.

“That's harder for some than it is for others,”

she noted. “But the majority of them make the time.”

“If they just want to visit for an hour, I'm there for an hour,” she said. “Or even if it's a half-hour. Whatever they need.”

She's always amazed to discover how much concern the priests show for each other.

“I'm not allowed to tell anyone who I have or haven't been to visit,” she noted. “But they're quick to ask me how their fellow priests are doing.”

Mrs. Freie asks for prayers simply to continue following the Lord.

“I want to be able to keep asking him, ‘What do you want me to be doing today?’” she said.

She believes people can help their priests by praying for them daily, listening to them and “just being there for them.”

“It makes so much difference, knowing that people really care about them and appreciate them,” she said.

“Just asking them how they're doing, and really listening to their answer and being willing to help them, so they know we're all in this together,” she stated.



By Father Don Antweiler

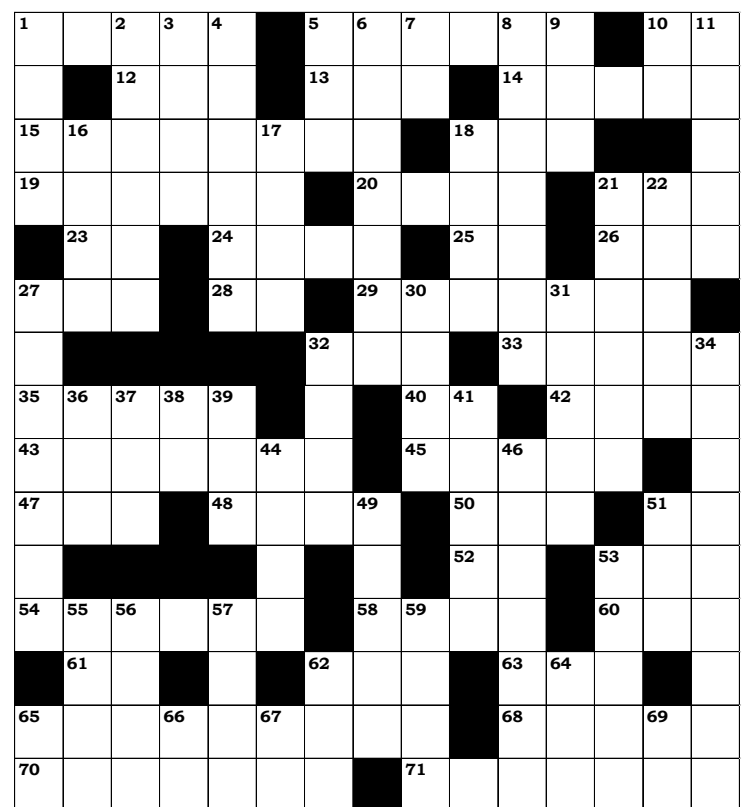
ACROSS

1. The Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad was the first RR to _____ Missouri from border to border, in 1859.
5. Abraham Lincoln rode the Hannibal & St. Joe RR in 1859, the year the RR _____, on his way to Council Bluffs, IA.
10. "It turned out to _____ good to eat. A man, or at least a man like Ransom, felt he ought to say grace over it; and so he presently did," — *Perelandra*, C.S. Lewis.
12. Scottish for the world of fairies, the _____.
13. Dodge truck.
14. Medical scans.
15. Rumors are rampant and I couldn't get any _____ willing to go on record with the facts.
18. James Bond or Jason Bourne, fictionally speaking.
19. "Several months later, slave catchers seized a prosperous _____ who had resided in Poughkeepsie (New York) for many years and carried him back to South Carolina," — *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, James McPherson.
20. "We continued our survey of the edge of the sodden portion of the _____...Right across the lower part of the bog lay a miry path," — *The Adventure of the Priory School*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
21. Letters for Works Progress Admin.; Great Depression New Deal agency that employed millions on public works projects.
23. A unit of blood, perhaps.
24. "This wretched youth had in his pocket the plans of the Bruce-Partington submarine. If the chief constructor of the _____ desired to consult them, even he was forced to go to the Woolwich office for the purpose," — *The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
25. Prefix for part or feat.
26. "_____ diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle, the cow jumped over the moon..." — Mother Goose nursery rhyme.
27. A brand of jeans.
28. Abbr. for #54 ACROSS.
29. "That same night they shall eat its _____ flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs," (Exodus 12:8).
32. Welcome, wrestling or car.
33. "You shall not work the firstlings of your cattle, nor _____ the firstlings of your flock," (Deuteronomy 15:19).
35. Very overweight.
40. _____ . Eliot; St. Louis born poet, playwright, literary critic, etc.; considered one of the 20th century's major poets.
42. Fashion magazine.
43. (Col.) Ulysses S. Grant's first assignment was to _____ the Hannibal & St. Joe RR. He was reassigned in Aug. of 1861, promoted to brigadier general.
45. "Holmes's two eyes were shining like _____," — *The Adventure of the Norwood Builder*; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
47. Prince Valian's son.
48. Acronym for Greatest Of All Time; said by many of footballer Tom Brady.
50. _____ 66; America's mother road.
51. The Master's golf tournament takes place in this State (abbr.).
52. "For a long moment the two scientists stared _____ each other, reaching out across the gulf that separates every man from is neighbor," — *Earthlight*, Arthur C. Clark.
53. "What greater gift than the love of a _____?" — Charles Dickens.
54. Prophet who predicted a "son of man" (human being) come down from heaven (divine being). Jesus used this title of himself more than any other. 34th book of the Bible.
58. Beneath the cornfields of this Midwestern State lies hundreds of prehistoric caves.
60. Boxing great Muhammed _____.
61. Letters for Common Era, denoting A.D.
62. King or queen.
63. He decided to take a stand and not kick the _____ down the road.
65. An overused statement about moral or idealized issues that is no longer impactful.

68. "You have made _____ to me the paths of life..." (Acts 2:28).
70. Today four miles of track between Brookfield and Laclede are used for _____ rail car storage.
71. Nuns.

DOWN

1. Throbbing pain in an arm or leg, or sharp chest pain are symptoms of a blood _____.
2. The Hannibal & St. Joe RR was formed during an 1846 meeting in the Hannibal _____ of John Marshall Clemens, father of Mark Twain. Construction began in 1851.
3. "I was surrounded by theater, music, dance, museums. And I learned how to _____ on the Charles River. So, I had a great childhood in Boston," — Leonard Nimoy.
4. The Hannibal & St. Joe RR connected those two cities which, before the Civil War, were the _____ and third largest cities in Missouri.
5. _____ *pro nobis*.
6. The RR line ran from Hannibal through _____, Monroe City, Shelbina, Clarence, Macon, Bevier, Brookfield, Laclede and all the way to St. Joseph.
7. 13th letter of the alphabet.
8. The Hannibal & St. Joe RR is said to have carried the first letter to the Pony _____ which began in St. Joe in 1860, behind the locomotive MISSOURI.
9. "By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if it were _____ land..." (Hebrews 11:29).
10. "Confederate Pres. Jefferson Davis's other weaknesses were accentuated _____ his firm conviction that he had real military talent," — *Jefferson Davis and the Political Factors in Confederate Defeat*, David Potter.
11. *An _____ Concerning Human Understanding*, by John Locke (very influential with our Founding Fathers); 1689; he described the mind at birth as a blank slate.
16. "And he was transfigured before them; his _____ shone like the sun..." (Matthew 17:2).
17. Country formerly known as Persia.
18. Coke or Pepsi.
21. The first widespread experiment with "post offices on _____" began in 1862 on the Hannibal & St. Joe RR; the



- baggage car where it was located was furnished by the RR.
22. Put the _____ to the metal!
27. "...and the _____ shall lie down with the kid..." (Isaiah 11:6).
30. _____ Original Famous Salad Dressing is a Mo.-made sweeter style French dressing with a bold horseradish flavor.
31. "_____ was an old lady who swallowed a fly, I don't know why...—Perhaps she'll die!" — opening lyrics of a ditty by Rose Bonne and music by Alan Mills; 1952.
32. Osage Co. town that is the original home of Diamond Dog Food.
34. "He had no _____ with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus," (Matthew 1:25).
36. Sound from a bitterly cold person.
37. A very long time.
38. Abbr. for street.
39. Test that measures electrical activity in the brain.
41. "You shall no longer supply the people with _____ as you have previously done," (Exodus 5:7).
44. The Hannibal & St. Joe RR today is part of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe system, a top transporter of intermodal freight and of enough _____ to generate 25% of the electricity in the U.S.
46. "A month after Ulysses Grant left, in Sept. of 1861, the worst of many _____ by bushwhackers occurred with the
- burning of the Platte River bridge causing 17-20 people to be killed and 100 injured.
49. "The one who falls and gets up is stronger than the one who never _____!" — Roy T. Bennett.
51. "My _____ Sal"; title from a 1942 Oscar winning musical/comedy starring Victor Mature & Rita Haywood.
53. Common transport for a float trip.
55. Letters for Am. Civil Liberties Union; founded in 1920; self-styled "guardian of liberty"; liberal legal advocate for causes and individuals.
56. "Worst of all, in the Klan's eyes, the white and colored Catholics actually went to the same services here in Charqua Co. The Klan hated Catholics _____ about as much as Jesus and Negroes," — *Tobit's Dog*, Michael Richard.
57. "Keep your tongue from _____, your lips from speaking lies," (Psalms 34:14).
59. Lyrical poems meant to be sung.
62. Greyhound or Trailways.
64. Member of a colony.
65. Letters for Post Script, an addition to the body of a letter.
66. On a baseball card, letters for triple play.
67. "Et _____, Brute?" According to Shakespeare, Caesar's words to his friend Brutus as he saw him in the group stabbing him to death.
69. In football, letters for the wide receiver position.

ANSWERS on page 19



(Clockwise from top right) Father Stephen Jones, Father Nicholas Reid, Father Boniface Kasiita Nzabonimpa, Father Paul Clark and Father Dylan Schrader gather for a photo in the Cathedral of Our Lady (Notre Dame) in Chartres, France.

— Photo from Fr. Jones's Facebook page



Priests of the Jefferson City diocese and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight gather for a photo in the sanctuary of the Crypt Church in the Basilica of Sainte-Thérèse in Lisieux, near the end of their priestly pilgrimage to France.

— Photo from Father William Debo's Facebook page

PRIESTS

From page 1

Fr. Meystrik encountered many other people in the town who were kind, engaging, helpful and cheerful — “what I’d call ‘ambassadors of hospitality,’” he said.

It reminded him of home.

“I see this kind of enthusiasm and intrigue about faith and life in the children and students of my parishes,” he stated. “It absolutely warmed my heart to see the same thing in France.”

“Inspiration and memories”

Church law requires priests to make an annual retreat to help them stay prepared for the rigors of ministry.

This priestly pilgrimage to Ars was originally planned for 2020 but was delayed twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Priests individually paid \$900 for the pilgrimage from their salaries, with some additional expenses covered by a donor.

They stayed in a monastery during their retreat, with simple but comfortable accommodations.

Several parishes back home had visiting priests offer weekend Masses for the pastors who were on the pilgrimage. In some parishes, with Bishop McKnight’s permission, deacons presides at a Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest, with the Eucharist having already been consecrated at

a Mass.

Father Matthew Flatley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, called the retreat “a stroke of genius” — “just what the Divine Physician ordered.”

“As full-time ministers in the Church, and just like many other lay ministers, we come out of the stupendous Holy Week Liturgies exhausted and in need of rest and refreshment,” he said. “This retreat and pilgrimage offered just that and more.”

The bishop and priests said they’re grateful for the sacrifices people made while they were away.

“It’s a blessing to have this time in prayer with priests from our diocese,” said Bishop McKnight. “This has been a time of grace for us on retreat and pilgrimage.”

“It was a wonderful experience filled with inspiration and memories — one that I’m grateful for and will benefit from spiritually for the rest of my life,” said Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, and diocesan vicar for priests.

“God bless all those who made it possible for me to be here with brother priests for a retreat and tours,” said Father Henry Ussher, pastor of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, St. Joseph Parish in Louisiana

and the Mission of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Clarksville.

Renewal notice

Upon arriving in France, the bishop and priests visited Dardilly, hometown of St. John Vianney.

“What a blessing to be on retreat in the place where the patron saint of priests ministered in the vineyard of the Lord!” said Father Stephen Jones, diocesan director of stewardship.

The priestly pilgrims toured St. John Vianney’s childhood home and the place where he was baptized.

Bishop McKnight and the priests offered Mass together each day in the Basilica of St. Sixtus, the parish church of Ars.

For one Mass, Bishop McKnight used St. John Vianney’s own chalice.

The group toured the rectory where the Curé lived, pausing at the confessional where he tirelessly ministered as an agent of God’s mercy.

Father Joby Thomas, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Moberly, marveled at seeing “the house, the items he used, the clothes, his coffin, the picture of his uncorrupted body and a few other photos of the surroundings.”

The priests and bishop stayed at “La Providence,” a former orphanage and girls’ school built by Fr. Vianney.

“It has been transformed into a simple guest house run by a community of religious sisters,” Fr. Jones noted. “They’ve been gracious hosts.”

The retreat director was Father Brett Brannen, a priest of the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, who is director of spiritual formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

“He began the retreat by asking us to ask God what he will renew in us on this retreat ... and then allow Christ to do that renewing,” Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek, wrote to his parishioners.

Fr. Flatley said the message was incredibly affirming.

“First, he thanked us for being priests,” Fr. Flatley recalled. “He informed us that he considers priests to be heroes in the modern era. He extolled us to be men of prayer, and reminded us that our first vocation is to be holy. We are charged to bring Jesus Christ to the people, and the people to Christ ... to be men of mercy.”

Priests presiding at Benediction each evening used the monstrance St. John Vianney had used to bless his parishioners thousands of times as pastor.

“What a great gift to be able

to bless my brother priests and bishop with Christ’s Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, using such a storied and revered item!” said Fr. Jones.

Worldwide communion

Father Dylan Schrader, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk, noticed numerous reminders of the Church’s mystical unity in Christ.

“Such moments are visible expressions of Catholic communion across time and around the world,” said Fr. Schrader.

He observed how Bishop McKnight, praying the Eucharistic Prayer with the priests at Mass, referred to “Francis our pope, me your unworthy servant, and my brother, Olivier, the bishop of this place.”

“Within the Mass, one of the visible bonds of communion of the Catholic Church is expressed by the fact that the priest always names the Bishop of Rome (the pope) and the local bishop,” Fr. Schrader said.

When a bishop celebrates Mass in his own diocese, he names the pope and mentions himself by saying “and me, your unworthy servant.”

“When a bishop celebrates Mass outside his diocese,” Fr. Schrader pointed out, “he

See PILGRIMAGE, page 23

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

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; **Vienna**, Visitation Parish Spring festival, 11 am-5 pm

May 14

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

May 19

Linn, Vitae Foundation's 3rd Annual Pro-Life Golf Classic,

11:30 am-3 pm, Osage Country Club, for info or to register, visit vitaefoundation.org

Meetings/ Workshops

May 2

Jefferson City, Diocesan parish nurses quarterly meeting, 10 am-2:30 pm, Catholic Charities Center, for info or to RSVP email devaney.susan@gmail.com

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

abril 30

Sedalia, Kermes, 1-3 pm, capilla de san Patricio, para más información contacte a María 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

mayo 20

Columbia, Planificación Familiar Natural - Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Parroquia Sagrado Corazón, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Diácono Enrique o Crísthia Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org; **Sedalia**, Noche de Oración para Jóvenes, 4-10 pm, Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Kevin Morales al 660-473-9177

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Jun. 10

Jefferson City, Diocesan Women's Ministry "Spring Into Summer" pilgrimage, 10 am-3:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry

Liturgical

May 6

Linn, Rosary Rally, 4-4:30 pm, St. George Church

May 9

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

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May 14

Laurie, Mother's Day Mass, 3-5 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, for info visit mothersshrine.com

May 29

Clear Creek, 12th Annual Memorial Day Prayer Service, 9:30-10:30 am, St. John's Cemetery; **Jefferson City**, Memorial Day Mass, 9-10 am, Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel

Youth & Young Adults

May 3

Columbia, Diocesan Sixth Grade Vocation Day, 8:15 am-2:15 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; **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 21

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

May 23

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 29-Jun. 2

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

Jun. 5-9

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

Jun. 11-13

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

Jun. 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. 27

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

Jun. 19-24

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

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

May 2

Meta, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Citizens Civic League



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diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

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

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Paul & Laura Baumhoer, 35 years
Dave & Jenny Brooks, 25 years

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception
Bruce & Melanie McElfish, 40 years

Moberly, St. Pius X
Ken & Elizabeth Schroeder, 10 years

Salisbury, St. Joseph
George & Beverly Henke, 70 years

Birthdays

Jefferson City native **Sister Josetta Eveler**, of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, her 90th on Apr. 26

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Tony Bruemmer**, his 90th on Apr. 24

Deaths

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Lillian Luckenotte**

Unionville, St. Mary — **Gloria Rhoades**

SR. IRENE

From page 13

and small-group retreats, and preached retreats. Each sister was invited to choose one of these.

Sr. Irene was a lifelong learner, a teacher comfortable with her subject, including a program designed to help the person understand herself and her neighbors in a deeper, more compassionate way.

Her enjoyments included reading, walking, music, the beauty of nature and quiet time. She was always open to a thoughtful conversation about spiritual journeys and newly-discovered insights. She gave any visitor a warm welcome, letting them know she was grateful for a time to chat. Small kindnesses touched her deeply.

Sr. Irene looked for the best in others and expressed her joy when one of the sisters or the staff at Ruma had some success.

She loved her family and had a strong relationship with each of them, delighting in the time they could visit or even talk on the phone. She maintained close relationships with nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her par-

Baptisms

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Stella Louise Mott**, daughter of Andrew & Sylvia Mott

Indian Creek, St. Stephen — **Kash and Knox Davis**, sons of Jordan & Samantha Davis; **Garrett Lee Hagan**, son of Seth & Kelsie Hagan

Russellville, St. Michael — **August Alan Wolken**, son of Andrew & Lillian Wolken

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Novaleigh Shayne Eldridge**, daughter of John D. & Kayla Bixenman

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **William Thomas Brondel**, son of Michael & Ashley Brondel; **Mable Elizabeth Bruemmer**, daughter of Justin & Sarah Bruemmer; **Wolfe Jia Lei Burns**, son of John & Cheryl Burns; **Everly Marie Stockman**, daughter of Cole & Blake Stockman; **Boone Joseph Williams**, son of Ryan & Whitney Williams

ents, her sisters Marie (Harold) Drainer and Helen (Coy) Graham; her brothers Leonard (Teresa), Vincent (Leona), Thomas, and Leo McGrath.

She is survived by her sister-in-law Leeanne, nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and members of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

Burial was in the ASC Cemetery in Ruma, Illinois.

STUART WOLFE

From page 9

easy. Remember: we are following someone who was persecuted and put to death when he didn't deserve it.

11) Don't become a Sacristy Rat. Participate in the mission of the Church to be Christ in the world. Those who never leave the loft will always be preaching to the choir.

12) Faith is personal, not institutional. Keep Jesus first. Not even the Church can (or should) take his place. The Eucharist draws people to the Church and the Eucharist is what keeps us here. Nothing else comes close.

Sometimes we forget that while the Church is a treasury of God's grace, it was meant to be lived in. Welcome home, new Catholics, (and sorry about the mess).

Jaymie Stuart Wolfe is a sinner, Catholic convert, freelance writer and editor, musician, speaker, pet-aholic, wife and mom of eight grown children, loving life in New Orleans. "Called to Holiness" appears biweekly at OSV News.

HEINLEIN

From page 9

society than the living Body of Christ. How can we convince the world to believe in Christ when we can't get our act together and show the world a better way?

The task before us in reviving our Eucharistic faith is multifaceted. Yes, we need greater reverence and wider worship of our Lord in the Eucharist, but — as Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *"Deus Caritas Est"* — "A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented."

"The Body of Christ" the minister says as we receive the Eucharist. This means we receive the whole Body of Christ. We are one body in Christ, right?

"Amen," we respond, agreeing to treasure all those who receive the Lord's body, recommitting ourselves to Christ's last hope at his last supper.

Perhaps a fruit of our eucharistic revival will be a reinvigoration of our de-

sire to foster ecclesial communion. It's the Eucharist itself that establishes and reinforces the communion of believers. The Eucharist is the tie that binds. The Eucharist is also our model and blueprint for achieving it. Christ prayed for unity among us, and he showed us how to achieve it through sacrifice and charity. Our reception of the Eucharist should mean we do not impose upon Christ an image of who we want him to be; we accept him for who he really is. And that means we accept each other, help each other and love each other — and truly work toward the advancement of the kingdom of God through lives of sacrifice and charity. The life of the world depends upon this eucharistic living.

Michael R. Heinlein is author of Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I., and is currently in formation for the Association of Pauline Cooperators.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS

From page 3

fruitfulness of synodality."

Synod participants listed women, young people, immigrants, racial or linguistic minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, people who are divorced and civilly remarried without an annulment, and those with varying degrees of physical or mental abilities as marginalized within the Church.

Outreach and inclusion of these groups is ultimately driven at the local level by the faithful actively living out their baptism, McStravog told OSV News.

At the same time, "the bishops really took to heart the call ... to reach out to the periphery," Coll told OSV News, who added that virtual synod sessions enabled broader participation.

Synod participants consistently articulated a longing for better forma-

tion in the faith and in Catholic social teaching, the document said.

As the synod process moves into its next phase, Coll and McStravog pointed to the need for humility and openness to God's will.

"We don't have all the answers, and none of this is pre-packaged," said Coll. "You have to trust that the Spirit will be there to guide us despite the messiness or maybe because of it."

Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.

The Final Document for the Continental Stage in North America, available in English, Spanish and French, can be viewed and downloaded at usccb.org/synod.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

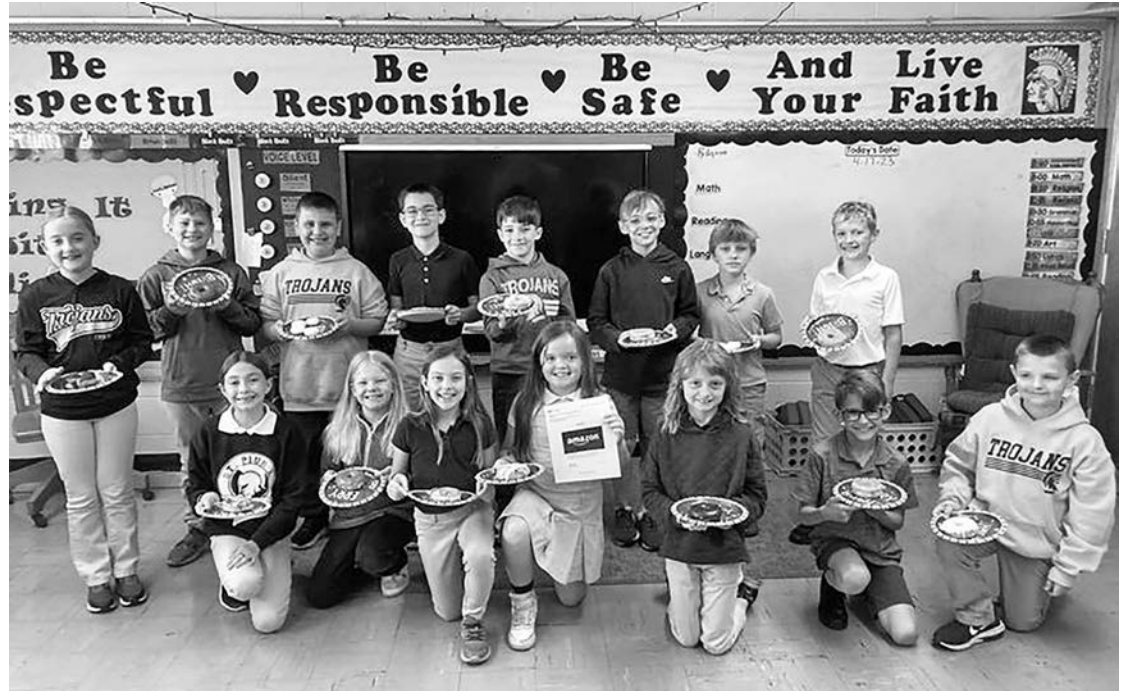
Hop to it!



Children of St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek visit the Easter Bunny while participating in the parish's 15th annual Knights of Columbus Easter egg hunt in the churchyard.

— Photo from the St. Stephen Catholic Church Facebook page

Mathematical certitude



The third-graders at St. Pius X School in Moberly enjoy a treat after taking fourth place among 380 teams across the United States in a 99 math challenge. Their teacher is Kathleen Resner.

— Photo by Mike Aulbur, principal

A tale of the bottomless blue



Students of St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City perform their spring musical production of "The Little Mermaid" on April 24 in the school gym.

— Photo by Jacob Luecke

"Take up your cross and follow me"



Children and adults of Holy Spirit Parish in Centralia take part in an outdoor walking Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 7. This was the 15th year for this beloved parish tradition.

— Photo from the Holy Spirit Catholic Church Facebook page

No greater love than this



Students of Immaculate Conception School in Montgomery City give a live presentation of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 7, in Immaculate Conception Church.

— Photo from Immaculate Conception Church - Montgomery City, MO Facebook page

Bible Accent

In the Old Testament, we can read about another Ethiopian man who listened to the words of a prophet.

In Jeremiah 38, we learn that some princes of Israel hated the prophet Jeremiah for preaching God's message that Jerusalem would be captured by Babylon.

They wanted to kill Jeremiah, so they threw him into a muddy cistern.

Ebed-melech, an Ethiopian man who was a court official in the house of King Zedekiah of Israel, heard what was happening.

Ebed-melech went to the king, who was sitting at the Gate of Benjamin in Jerusalem.

"My lord king, these men have done wrong in all their treatment of Jeremiah the prophet, throwing him into the cistern. He will starve to death on the spot, for there is no more bread in the city," he said.

"Take three men with you, and get Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies," the king replied.

The men rescued Jeremiah from the cistern, and the prophet remained in the court of the guard until Jerusalem was captured by Babylon, just as Jeremiah had preached.

Jeremiah gave Ebed-melech a message of comfort from God, who promised to deliver Ebed-melech from the Babylonians for trusting in him.

St. Mary Mazzarello

Mary Mazzarello was born into a peasant family in Italy in 1837. She worked long hours in the fields and vineyards, and she attended Mass frequently.

In 1860, members of a group she had joined were asked to nurse victims of typhoid fever. Mary took part and nearly died after becoming sick herself.

Her weakened health prevented her from doing farm work, so Mary opened a dressmaking business to create jobs for local girls. The venture was the beginning of the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, which now has 1,400 houses in 54 countries.

Mary died in 1881, and we remember her on May 14.



Philip baptizes an Ethiopian man

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

One day, the angel of the Lord spoke to the apostle Philip.

"Get up and head south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route," the angel told him.

Philip got up and set out.

At the same time, an Ethiopian man was worshipping in Jerusalem. He was an official of the Ethiopian queen's court and was in charge of her entire treasury.

Once the Ethiopian man had finished worshipping, he set out for home by the same route Philip was taking.

As he journeyed toward home, the Ethiopian man stopped his chariot to read from the prophet Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go and join up with that chariot."

Philip ran up to the Ethiopian man and heard him reading aloud from the prophet Isaiah.

"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I, unless someone instructs me?" the Ethiopian man replied as he invited Philip to sit in his chariot.

He had been reading this passage from Isaiah:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opened not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will tell of his posterity? For his life is taken from the earth."

"I beg you, about whom is the prophet saying this?" the Ethiopian man asked Philip.



Illustration by Linda Rivers

ip. "About himself, or about someone else?"

Philip, beginning with the passage from Isaiah, proclaimed Jesus to him.

As they traveled along in the Ethiopian man's chariot, they came to some water.

"Look, there is water," the Ethiopian man said. "What is to prevent my being baptized?"

He ordered the chariot to stop. He and Philip both went into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When the men came out of the water, the Holy Spirit

snatched Philip away, and the Ethiopian man saw him no more.

The Ethiopian man continued his journey home, rejoicing as he went.

Philip went to Azotus, and he went about proclaiming the good news to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Read more about it... Acts 8


1. What was the Ethiopian man reading?
2. Who baptized the Ethiopian man?



What was the Ethiopian queen also known as? (Hint: Acts 8:27)

Answer: The Candace.

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Puzzle

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

ot giben thwa zapbedit si repnevt ym

Sentence: _____

_____?

Answers: to, being, what, baptized, is, prevent, my; What is to prevent my being baptized?

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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. 2,030 pages, black leatherette; £60.00 (approximately \$74 USD)

Reviewed by Peter Jesserer Smith
OSV News

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 (CTS) *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. 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 readings 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

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

Air (R)
Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (PG-13)
Shazam! Fury of the Gods (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Beau Is Afraid (R)



Morally Offensive

John Wick: Chapter 4 (R)
Renfield (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

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.

Divine Worship: Daily Office 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.

The book has six ribbons, which, once placed, are easily advanced day-by-day through

the book. The Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham has also produced some well done tutorial videos to guide beginners.

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.

The Catholic Truth Society's *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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Mustard Seed
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and reflections

Sundays, 10:06 am, KWIX-AM 1230, Moberly
Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

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KBKC 90.1 FM, Moberly
KEFL 91.5 FM, Kirksville
94.7 FM, Columbia
103.3 FM, Fulton
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

PILGRIMAGE

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names the pope, mentions himself, and names the local bishop.”

Fr. Schrader said it's extremely important in Catholicism to be in communion with one's own bishop, in communion with the college of bishops throughout the world and the head of the college of bishops — the Bishop of Rome.

“That communion is not just lip-service,” Fr. Schrader stated. “It has tangible, on-the-ground expressions.

“It's the same as a second-century presbyter appealing to his bishop, ordained by the Apostles, just with more links in the chain,” he said.

Burning hearts

Upon conclusion of the retreat, the priests and bishop traveled to Paray-le-Monial, where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received apparitions of Jesus, renewing the Church's devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The group offered Mass together on Divine Mercy Sunday in the chapel where the apparitions took place.

“This is where Our Lord appeared to St. Marguerite Marie Alacoque three times, asking the world to turn to his Sacred Heart to receive the mercy of God,” said Fr. Thomas.

Fr. Jones pointed out that while the Christian faith is in decline in much of the Western world, especially in Europe, “that does not seem to be the case in Paray-le-Monial.”

“We visited two churches in a fairly small town, both of which were in the middle of Mass upon our arrival,” he stated.

“Both churches were full of locals, and the Mass in the basilica was overwhelmingly packed with people under 40 and tons of families and kids,”



The above photo is of the men's confessional that was in use in the Ars parish church when St. John Vianney was pastor there. The priest would sit on the right and the person going to confession on the left. He would often remark, “Look, he is smiling upon you.”

— Photo by Father Greg Meystrick

he said.

The group also visited Nevers, France, where St. Bernadette Soubirous spent her later years as a religious sister in the Convent of St. Gildard.

As a child, St. Bernadette received apparitions of the Blessed Mother under the title of the Immaculate Conception in a grotto in Lourdes.

The priests and bishop visited the convent on the 144th anniversary of St. Bernadette's death.

From there, they went to Bourges to visit the massive, medieval Cathedral of St. Stephen and then the 800-year-old Cathedral of Our Lady in Chartres.

“My camera could not do justice to the grandeur of any of these places,” Fr. Thomas stated.

They spent the following night at Mont-St-Michel, offered Mass in the morning in the local parish church, and toured the mountaintop village and the former Benedictine abbey there.

Some gave all

On April 18, the pilgrims visited Pointe du Hoc, the wall

of rock scaled by U.S. Army Rangers on D-Day in World War II, and the beach at Omaha, on which thousands of Allied troops landed in the campaign to defeat Nazi Germany.

The group also visited the American Cemetery in Normandy, where 9,000 plus soldiers who died in the war are buried and memorialized.

The priests and bishop observed the flag-lowering ceremony at dusk, accompanied by the playing of “Taps” and the ceremonial carrying away of the flags of France and the United States that are posted over the cemetery.

Father Nicholas Reid, a priest of the Jefferson City diocese who's serving as a U.S. Air Force chaplain, led the praying of the Rosary there.

“We are thankful for all who gave their lives for our freedom,” said Bishop McKnight.

“In our midst”

On April 19, the priests and bishop concluded their pilgrimage by celebrating the Votive Mass of St. Thérèse of Lisieux in the crypt of the basilica that bears her name.

Fr. Cordes said the entire journey combined a restful, spiritually uplifting retreat surrounded by the spirit of St. John Vianney and the beauty of the French countryside, with an invigorating, fast-paced, road-trip-style pilgrimage to meaning-filled locations, concluding with a quiet day in Lisieux, “still filled with the influence of St. Thérèse.”

“Spending the days with Bishop McKnight and 19 priests of our diocese, enjoying the Liturgies and prayer times, French foods, conversations and other adventures provided a unique opportunity to celebrate diocesan Priesthood and

Daily Readings

Sunday, Apr 30

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Ps. 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6
1 Pt. 2:20b-25
Jn. 10:1-10

Monday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker
Acts 11:1-18
Ps. 42:2-3; 43:3, 4
Jn. 10:11-18 (second option) or, for the Memorial, Gn. 1:26-2:3 or Col. 3:14-15, 17, 23-24
Mt. 13:54-58

Tuesday, May 2

St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church
Acts 11:19-26
Ps. 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7
Jn. 10:22-30

Wednesday, May 3

Ss. Philip and James, apostles
1 Cor. 15:1-8
Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5
Jn. 14:6-14

Thursday, May 4

Acts 13:13-25
Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
Jn. 13:16-20

Friday, May 5

Acts 13:26-33
Ps. 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab
Jn. 14:1-6

Saturday, May 6

Acts 13:44-52
Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Jn. 14:7-14

Sunday, May 7

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 6:1-7
Ps. 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Pt. 2:4-9
Jn. 14:1-12

Monday, May 8

Acts 14:5-18
Ps. 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16
Jn. 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 9

Acts 14:19-28
Ps. 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21
Jn. 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 10

St. John of Avila, priest and doctor of the Church; USA: St. Damien de Veuster, priest
Acts 15:1-6
Ps. 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5
Jn. 15:1-8

Thursday, May 11

Acts 15:7-21
Ps. 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10
Jn. 15:9-11

Friday, May 12

Ss. Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs; St. Pancras, martyr
Acts 15:22-31
Ps. 57:8-9, 10, 12
Jn. 15:12-17

Saturday, May 13

Our Lady of Fatima
Acts 16:1-10
Ps. 100:1b-2, 3, 5
Jn. 15:18-21

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for May:

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

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the mission of pastoral service that we share,” he said.

Fr. Flatley said he returned to his post, filled with gratitude.

“Grateful to be engaged in ministry, grateful for the exquisite opportunity to serve as a shepherd, and grateful to be a priest,” he said.

Fr. Meystrick proclaimed: “We can give thanks for the life within the Church. I think the Lord is doing good things in our midst — at home and

in France.”

Much of the information in this article came from correspondence with Fr. Cordes, Fr. Flatley, Fr. Meystrick and Fr. Schrader and from social media posts by Bishop McKnight, Father Cesar Anicama, Father Paul Clark, Father William Debo, Fr. Jones, Father Fr. Boniface Kasiita Nzabonimpa, Fr. Oligschlaeger, Fr. Thomas and Fr. Ussher.

Outdoor Mass on Mothers Day at National Shrine in Laurie

DATE: May 14
TIME: 3 pm

Mothers and their loved ones are invited to enjoy the beauty of The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church on Mother's Day,

May 14. Father John Schmitz, rector of the Mothers' Shrine, will celebrate a special Mass at 3 p.m. at the outdoor altar. The Shrine is located on the grounds of St. Patrick Church, 176 Marian Drive,

off of Highway 5 in Laurie. Mother's Day is a special event for the Mothers' Shrine, which honors the Blessed Mother, Mary, and all who love with a mother's love, whether as a mom within a family or as a spiritual mother.

Following the Mass, the names of more than 60 new honorees for the Mothers' Wall of Life will be unveiled. The Mothers' Wall of Life is a unique aspect of the Mothers' Shrine. The names of 5,000 women submitted from 44 states and four conti-

nents are engraved on a black granite wall on the grounds of the Shrine. Names are added twice a year; submissions are accepted year-round at mothersshrine.com. The next engraving of names will be this fall. Contact Heather Crouch, the Shrine's professional administrator, at shrinemothers@gmail.com or 573-374-6279 for information, or visit: mothersshrine.com.



Fr. Korte 40th anniversary

DATE: April 30
TIME: 4 pm

Father William Korte, pastor of St. Cornelius Parish in Crocker and parochial administrator of St. Theresa Parish in Dixon, will celebrate his 40th priestly anniversary on Sunday April 30, in Jefferson City.

He will offer Mass at 4 p.m. in St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway, followed by a carry-in meal next door in the Selinger Centre.

Meat, drinks and table service will be provided. Please bring one to two dishes depending on the size of your family.

RSVP by calling or texting Casilka Kekeisen at 573-457-2036 (home) or cell 314-265-

1882 or Joleen Manson at 660-651-9004 or joleenmanson@hotmail.com.



REDEDICATE—

From page 1

building's failing systems while enhancing its beauty, functionality, capacity for hospitality and conduciveness to uniquely Catholic worship.

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For more information about the renovation, visit: diojeffcity.org/cathedral-renovation

