

“Steeple Chasers”

A group of women from the diocese cultivate friendships and their faith during summer road trips to holy and historical places.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

July 21, 2023 • Vol. 67 No. 2

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

With saints who point the way to Christ in the Eucharist



A parishioner adores Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament, displayed in a monstrance on the altar of St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville on July 15, in the presence of relics of St. Manuel González García and Blessed Carlo Acutis, who both promoted worship of Christ in the Eucharist, as part of an eight-day prayer vigil in the diocese.
— Photo by Jay Nies

**Parishes host relics of St. Manuel González García, Blessed Carlo Acutis
Part of National Eucharistic Revival
See a related story on Page 3**

By Jay Nies

The mortal flesh of two holy men pierced the silence with the witness of their lives.

“Here is the one you’re looking for, the fulfillment of your deepest desires,” their presence before Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament proclaimed.

“You’re never alone, because he is here for you. Prepare a place for him. Come, give thanks and celebrate with him and invite him into your heart.”

Relics of St. Manuel González García (1877-1935) and Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006), both of whom came to know Christ by adoring him in the Holy Eucharist, were brought to eight churches in the Jefferson City diocese on successive days in July.

The parishes included: the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, St. Patrick Church in Rolla, St. Peter Church in Marshall, St. Patrick Church in Laurie, St. Brendan Church in Mexico, St. Joseph Church in Westphalia, St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville, and the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

Each parish offered Mass and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the presence of the relics of both men, along with presentations about why Catholics revere their memory.

The relics have been displayed in churches throughout the United States as part of the National Eucharistic Revival called for by the U.S. Catholic bishops in 2021.

EUCCHARIST, page 14

Vogelweid Learning Center at J.C. St. Peter to expand to Helias Catholic H.S. in 2024

Will vastly expand special education services

Anticipating support from renewed SPIRE Foundation, which could help schools throughout the diocese

By Jay Nies

Helias Catholic High School is in the process of becoming more catholic.

That is, more universal.

By this time next year, services now offered through the Vogelweid Learning Center at St. Peter School in Jefferson City will be expanded to the diocese’s largest Catholic high school.

This will allow students who qualified for special education services in grade school to continue receiving them for four more years in a Catholic environment.

“It’s the realization of a dream that appeals to our highest aspirations as Catholic educators,” said Erin Vader Ed.D., superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Jefferson City diocese.

The Vogelweid Learning Center at Helias is slated to begin with the 2024-25 academic year.

It will offer special education services well beyond the programs already being offered through Helias’s Pope John Paul II Student Success Center.

“Expanding to Helias is a natural continuation of what we all stand for in Catholic education — for students to have access to what they need in order to develop to their fullest God-given potential,” said Paula Wekenborg, director of the Vogelweid Learning Center at St. Peter.

The expansion will “complement what they’ve already established at Helias, what they’ve already developed, their staff, their expertise,” she said.

Services will include teaching functional life-based skills to students with significant learning challenges, helping them prepare for employment and independent living.

VOGELWEID, page 7

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Administrative Assistant



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking an experienced administrative assistant to support the Director of Parish Services. This individual should be proficient in data entry and have excellent skills with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Occasional travel to parishes in the diocese may be required (with the Director); no personal car is necessary. This position is open to candidates of all faiths.

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Administrative Assistant



The Chancery office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a highly skilled Administrative Assistant for the Stewardship Office. This person is responsible for assisting the director and associate director in implementing the bishop's vision of spirituality of stewardship throughout the diocese, which covers 38 counties in central and northeastern Missouri.

Responsibilities:

- prepare presentation materials and strategic briefings for deans and pastors
- general administrative and office management duties
- meticulously plan, coordinate and execute events and activities
- provide administrative support for the Stewardship Office
- work closely with the director and associate director as a team partner to educate parishioners on the spirituality of stewardship and convey the impact and importance of supporting their parish and sharing their gifts for the common good
- ability to travel within the diocese (no overnight travel); fleet vehicle provided for day trips

Qualifications:

- practicing Catholic in good standing preferred
- bachelor's degree preferred
- event planning and management is desired

We are seeking a confident, competent individual to manage the Stewardship Office. Qualified candidates can apply on **Indeed.com** or send resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Bp. Gaydos to celebrate 4 milestones with Aug. 16 Mass in Cathedral

DATE: August 16
TIME: 3 pm

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos of Jefferson City, will celebrate Mass on 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St., to mark three significant milestones.

They are: the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop (postponed from 2022), his 80th birthday (Aug. 14), and the 55th anniversaries of his diaconal ordination (May, 1968) and of his priestly ordination (December 1968).

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City will concelebrate the Mass, as will Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, who will preach the homily.

They will celebrate the Votive Mass of Mary, Mother of the Church.

The Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook at facebook.com/JCCathedral.

A specially-designed prayer card for the occasion will include Mary, Mother of the

Church, with the Apostles on Pentecost as they are depicted in a large mosaic in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis in St. Louis.

Anyone wishing to give a gift in Bishop Gaydos's honor may contribute to Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri — ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/gaydos, or by mail to P.O. Box 104626, Jef-



Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos

A St. Louis native, Bishop Gaydos led the Jefferson City diocese from 1997 until his retirement in 2008.

erson City, MO 65110-4626.

If you already made a gift ahead of last year's postponed celebration, there is no need to give twice.

Visit diojeffcity.org/bishop-gaydos-aug-16-mass to RSVP for the Mass.

Pray for deceased priests

July 24 — **Msgr. John F. Kenny**, St. Anthony of Padua, Folk (1981);

Fr. Joseph B. Boland, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1998); **Fr. Arthur J. Mersinger**, St. Cecilia, Meta (2003)

July 25 — **Fr. Francis L. Kennedy**, St. Patrick, Jonesburg (1984)

July 27 — **Fr. Noel F. Brennan**, St. Joseph, Edina (1968)

Aug. 1 — **Fr. Aloysius G. Hilke**, St. Margaret of Antioch, Osage Bend (1979); **Fr. Ralph H. Siebert**, St. Francis Caracciola, Bourbon; and Sacred Heart, Leasburg (1986)

Aug. 3 — **Msgr. Gerard L. Poelker**, St. Lawrence, St. Elizabeth (2009)

Aug. 4 — **Fr. Fred J. Yehle**, Shrine of St. Patrick, St. Patrick (1989)

Aug. 5 — **Fr. Donald J. Kemper**, St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia (1984)

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Early Childhood Center Staff



Immaculate Heart of Mary Child Development Center in Jefferson City, Mo. is seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to join our team as Early Childhood Center Staff. A successful candidate is committed to providing a safe, Christ-like environment for the children, where they are loved, safe, and encouraged to learn. As part of our center,

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Qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent; early childhood education certification or relevant coursework preferred; previous experience working with young children in a childcare or educational setting desirable; practicing Catholic; First Aid and CPR certification (or willingness to obtain). This job description is a general outline of the duties and qualifications typically associated with the Early Childhood Center Staff role. Responsibilities may vary based on the specific needs and policies of the center. Ability and willingness to complete other training is necessary. Starting pay is \$15 per hour. For a detailed job description and to apply, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/29nznxdf>.

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

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Priests preach on the Eucharist, saintly witness, and good soil

By Jay Nies

Eight days of parish prayer vigils in the presence of relics of St. Manuel González García and Blessed Carlo Acutis included Mass at each parish.

With each Mass came a homily.

“For both of them, the Real Presence of the Eucharist transformed them, led them to prayer, and led them to love and serve other members of the Body of Christ,” said Fr. Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia.

St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo came to know Christ by adoring him in the Holy Eucharist.

Their relics have been displayed in churches throughout the United States as part of the National Eucharistic Revival called for by the U.S. Catholic bishops in 2021.

The purpose of the three-year Revival is to reinvigorate among Catholics the belief in and reverence for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Things to avoid

Father Dylan Schrader, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk, included a message of caution in his homily at Mass during the July 14 vigil in Westphalia.

“I am convinced that for most of us, what helps or harms our faith in the Eucha-

rist is not so much speculative theology as our practical habits,” said Fr. Schrader.

“We can say to each other over and over again that the Eucharist is really Christ himself, truly present — but if we don’t act like it, it doesn’t sink in,” he stated.

Fr. Schrader pointed to two things he has seen that destroy people’s faith in the Eucharist: the habitual reception of Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin, and habitual irreverence toward the Blessed Sacrament.

“In other words, if we want to build up faith in the Eucharist, it’s not just a matter of teaching information, but of taking our belief seriously — of living it,” Fr. Schrader stated.

“This means proper spiritual preparation for receiving Holy Communion, including Confession when necessary, and proper attitudes of bodily reverence,” he said.

“Prepare our hearts”

Monsignor David Cox, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend, offered a morning Mass and two Sunday Vigil Masses in the presence of the relics during the July 15 vigil in Wardsville.

At the morning Mass, he reminded the people that they are in the presence of the saints at every Mass.



Father Dylan Schader offers Mass in the presence of the relics of St. Manuel González García and Blessed Carlo Acutis on July 13.

— Photo by Annie Williams

“Having the relics of the saints with us is a visible reminder of what takes place in mystery all the time,” the priest stated.

He spoke of St. Manuel as a young priest filled with zeal going to his first parish with great expectations, but winding up disappointed with the indifference to the faith which he found.

“But, rather than becoming disillusioned and bitter himself, he told Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament that he would love the Eucharist for his people and thus began the conversion of that parish,” Msgr. Cox stated.

He described Blessed Carlo as an amazing young man.

“God is using him to point to Jesus present in the Eucharist!” he stated.

That evening, Msgr. Cox noted that Blessed Carlo and St. Manuel were “fertile ground” on which God sowed seeds that have produced a fruitful harvest.

“God sows generously those seeds of grace in the hearts of all of us,” the priest noted. “The ground on which the seeds fall depends on us. Are we preparing ourselves for those seeds?”

The saints remind Christians to approach the Eucharist with wonder, awe and love.

Each time a person receives Holy Communion it presents a new opportunity to grow in Jesus.

“If we prepare our hearts, our faith and love will grow,” said Msgr. Cox. “If we approach the sacrament with anger, indifference or in a state of serious sin then faith and love will not grow in us.”

Tilling the soil

Fr. Merz offered Sunday

Mass during the closing vigil on July 16.

He began his homily with a succinct summation of the Gospel: “We were created for relationship, we rejected that relationship, and in Jesus alone are we restored to that relationship.”

He spoke of three things Jesus warned against that block people from receiving that good news: having a hard heart, having lost hope and be-

lief due to suffering, and the lure of riches and pleasures. Jesus also describes the “good soil” that receives the Word and produces fruit, receives the Gospel, dies to the old self, and is transformed into something completely different from that seed, but actually into what it was really created to become.

“Frequent Confession, frequent Communion, daily prayer, daily reading of the Bible — these things water and plough the soil of our hearts so the Word will transform us from seed to full grown plant,” said Fr. Merz.

He pointed to St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo Acutis as examples.

“They’re witnesses to us that the futility of this world doesn’t apply to those who sincerely follow Christ,” the priest stated.

“Today, let’s all open ourselves to receive the Good News again, but this time with a heart more vulnerable, less hardened, less choked, and less fearful,” he said.

Indulgence for visiting elderly, celebrating grandparents day

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Catholics who celebrate the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly July 23 can receive a plenary indulgence, which is a remission of the temporal punishment due for one’s sins, the Vatican said.

In a decree issued July 5, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, said that a plenary indulgence will be extended “to grandparents, the elderly and all the faithful who, motivated by the true spirit of penitence and charity,” attend Mass or other services to celebrate the world day and that the indulgence can “also be applied as suffrage for the souls in purgatory.”



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

Appointments are not normally scheduled in the month of July.

JULY	
Jul 31- Aug 1	Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention, Orlando, Fla.
AUGUST	
Aug 5	Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery; Mass: Shane Kliethermes Admission to Candidacy, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, Jefferson City
Aug 6	Blessing of Immaculate Heart of Mary Child Development Center & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 1 pm, Jefferson City
Aug 8	Priests' Mutual Benefit Society Meeting, 10 am; Council of Deans Meeting, 11 am; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery
Aug 9	All Teachers Mass; 9:30 am, Helias Catholic High School, Jefferson City

Bishop McKnight's July prayer intention for our Local Church

For the men and women in military uniform; that they may serve their country with honor and be kept safe, especially those serving in harm's way. We pray to the Lord.

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

Por los hombres y mujeres en uniforme militar; para que puedan servir a su país con honor y estén a salvo, especialmente aquellos que están que sirven en áreas de peligro. Roguemos al Señor.



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

'Steeple Chasers' cultivate faith and friendship enroute to holy, historical places

The following is a narrative collaboration with Helen Franken:

Take a love of travel, love of history and historical Catholic churches, inquiring minds, a desire to grow in faith, and friendship — mix these together — and a group called "Steeple Chasers" is born.

It all began around the dinner table almost 10 years ago.

Diane Cole mentioned to Helen Franken and Peggy Huhmann that she and her sisters had recently traveled to see the cathedrals of Cedar County in Northern Nebraska.

Her adventures excited the other two, and before the evening was over, plans had been made for the three to make the trip to see these historical churches ... and a yearly custom began.

Diane and Peggy, who are members of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton, and Helen, a member of the Mission of St. Philip Benizi in Versailles, enjoyed this first trip so much that they have completed what has become a pilgrimage of faith each year since.

Two additional members of the group — Barbara Falotico of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City and Natalie Shackelford of the Versailles mission, joined the group more recently.

Over the years, the explora-



Members of the "Steeple Chasers" group make a stop during this year's 1,254-mile excursion to churches and other historical holy sites.

tion list has grown to include historical churches in Kansas, North and South Dakota, Iowa, south of Jefferson City, north of Jefferson City, all the Holy Doors of the diocese (plus some in Illinois), churches in the St. Louis area and south to Perryville.

The group has completed nine trips thus far, taking turns planning where to go and making the necessary contacts to ensure that the churches would be open upon their arrival.

"The contact people are always very cooperative and thrilled that we have chosen their church as one of our visit sites," said Mrs. Franken.

Two years ago, at the end of their trip, the group decided to create T-shirts, with a different color to wear for each day of the trip.

The ultimate destination for

this year's excursion was Fort Wayne, Indiana.

By the end of the six-day trip, the group had visited many more amazing Catholic churches and wonderful, awe-inspiring shrines and museums; learned about saints they had not heard of previously; and met some amazing, faith-filled people who were thrilled to talk about their church and its history.

The people you meet

The people they've met over the years have always been an unexpected gift on these trips.

"We all believe that these people are truly sent by God," said Mrs. Franken.

Examples include:

- a retired priest who just "happened" to come early to say Mass while they were in the church, and wound up chatting for 30 minutes about his life in the parish before the group joined him for Mass;

- another priest who "happened" to choose to have breakfast the same time as the travelers, and wound up joining them and sharing his life story as a priest pilot in Alaska;

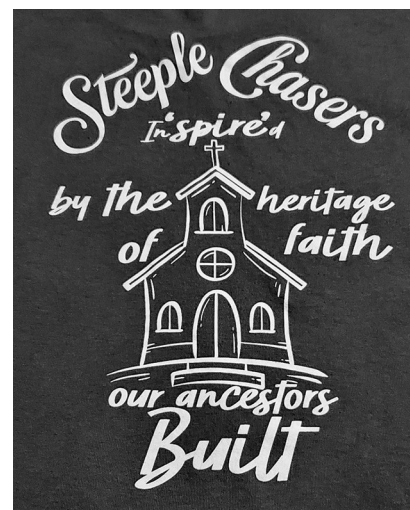
- another lady who came into a church as group members were praying and began

to share the story of her parish church, which was soon to be closed — which wound up leaving the entire group in tears.

"The faith stories of the remarkable people the group has met could fill a book," said Mrs. Franken.

Prayerful art

A few of the highlights of this year's pilgrimage included



the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John, Indiana; the Bishop Fulton Sheen Museum in Peoria, Illinois; and a guided tour of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana; along with many other cathedrals and churches.

"Amazing works of art created in stained glass helped make an impressive worship atmosphere in these historical churches," Mrs. Franken stated.

For instance, the windows in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois, combine a mixture of traditional Catholic saints with American history.

"Thus Washington, Lincoln and the American flag were incorporated into the beauty of the stained glass," said Mrs. Franken. "This was the first time the members of the group had encountered this concept on their trips."

An interesting aspect of every church is the unique way the Stations of the Cross are displayed.

Many of the churches the group visited this year have Stations rendered in mosaics.

Other churches on the itinerary have painted, framed representations of Christ's passion and death.

A concept that no one had seen before included painted stations with soldiers on horses in the early stations and a background behind the main characters in each.

"This was particularly striking in the Twelfth Station, where the viewer could see Jerusalem depicted in the background behind Jesus hanging on the cross," Mrs. Franken noted. "It was uniquely prayerful!"

Chance encounters

The Steeple Chasers group prayed in 24 churches and three shrines, visited four museums and two Catholic college campuses and learned prodigiously during the six days of the trip.

They also made a few other stops along the way, including a Mennonite shopping area and the largest covered wagon in the world.

Among the interesting, faith-filled people they crossed paths with were Father Tony Steinacker from St. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington, Indiana.

"When he found out that the group was from the Jefferson City diocese, he shared that he had been a student under Bishop (W. Shawn) McKnight," Mrs. Franken recalled.

Fr. Steinacker gave the group a book that the church had published for its 175th anniversary. In it, he wrote a

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First religious sisters in Jefferson City cared for Civil War wounded

Treated casualties on both sides

Survived heavy artillery fire near Glasgow

By Michelle Brooks

The first Catholic sisters to arrive in Jefferson City were Sisters of Mercy from Chicago.

They left the familiarity of their school and hospital work in the north to travel south in September 1861.

For context, Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias had arrived 22 years earlier in Westphalia, and the first St. Peter Church in Jefferson City was only 15 years old.

St. Peter Parish had more than 40 families when the sisters arrived.

Col. James Mulligan was in charge of the "Irish Brigade," or the 29th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, recruited in Chicago.

Col. Mulligan requested that the sisters send a contingent to care for "the suffering among his soldiers" as they were stationed at Lexington, Missouri in the first summer of the Civil War.

Lt. Timothy Shanley escorted six sisters to St. Louis, then up the Missouri River to Jefferson Landing.

State Auditor William Moseley and his wife, Eliza, who were from the Bootheel, invited the visiting sisters to stay with them.

The sisters then continued toward Lexington aboard the *Sioux City* steamer.

As they approached Glasgow, hundreds of Confederate troops emerged on both sides of the river's banks. Mother Mary Francis was on the deck saying her prayers when the first shots flew past their boat.

The sisters gathered in the most protected place in the boat. There, they fully expected that their lives would end.

Instead, miraculously, the overwhelming firepower of the enemy neither harmed anyone aboard, nor sank the boat, which returned safely to Jefferson City.

Choosing to establish their care in the Capital City, the sisters again stayed with the

Moseleys.

Later, the Moseleys departed from the city but left their home and enslaved people to assist the Sisters of Mercy.

The Union hospital was placed under the sisters' care.

Before their arrival, nursing had been provided by fellow convalescing soldiers.

The sisters found the arrangement dingy, unsanitary and without sufficient furniture. Many of the wounded were on blankets on the floor.

Being the first women of a religious order in Jefferson City, they were met with a cold reception. But their compassion and vigilance soon yielded appreciation and gratitude.

Each morning, they marched in procession to Mass at St. Peter Church before taking up their hospital duties.

When Gen. John Fremont came to Jefferson City in late September 1861, he visited the sick under the sisters' care and provided a generous amount of supplies for their continued work.

At the end of October, the hospital had 175 patients and by the end of December, it held 421.

Local doctor Bernard Bruns, who was mayor of Jefferson City at the time, assisted at the hospital.

Eventually, two more sisters and several other volunteers from Chicago joined them in Jefferson City. Auxiliary hospital space was added in Lindell Hall, formerly a seminary on State Street.

But by the end of February 1862, the Jefferson City hospital had only 100 patients and was discontinued.

The Sisters of Mercy left Jefferson City in April 1862 to take charge of the hospital steamer *Empress*. Aboard that vessel, they made several trips over five weeks to Pittsburgh Landing to pick up wounded from the Battle of Shiloh and transport them to hospitals in the west.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland. Sisters arrived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1843, opening the first Mercy

Hospital in the world in 1847.

The Irish order was among the first to volunteer as nurses in 1854 in the Crimean War, just as in America.

During the U.S. Civil War, more than 100 Sisters of Mercy served as nurses.

President Abraham Lincoln praised their charity and courage, calling them Angels of Mercy.

All six of the first Sisters of Mercy in Jefferson City were born in Ireland.

Mother Mary Borromeo Johnson later established Mercy Hospital in Davenport, Iowa, as the third hospital west of the Mississippi River, which helped care for the cholera outbreak there in 1873.

Sister Mary Monholland was described in the order's archives as "feisty, faithful and financially savvy." After the war, she established a school in Independence, Iowa, then followed Johnson to Davenport.

Sister Mary Louise Berry "soothed the agonies of the wounded and the dying of both armies, making no distinction between the Blue and the Gray," her obituary said.

Sr. Mary Louise was in charge of the Jefferson City hospital, during the sisters' stay. In the fall of 1862, she began her life's work in Ottawa, Iowa, where she was buried with military honors and a U.S. Army headstone.

The Sisters of Mercy in Chicago also organized a nursing school. The order eventually established 800 hospitals across the nation, becoming the largest private hospital network.

This is not the same religious order which arrived in 1902 to establish a hospital in Jefferson City. Those were Franciscan Sisters of Mary from St. Louis.



Mother Mary Francis was one of six Sisters of Mercy of Chicago, originally from Ireland, who provided hospital services to Civil War casualties in Jefferson City in 1861-62.

hem Jefferson City, which was released in July.

This article was published in the June 3, 2023, edition of the *News Tribune* (newstribune.com) and is republished here with permission.

A vestige of that hospital may be seen above Whitton Expressway near the tri-level.

Mrs. Brooks is a historian and former reporter for the *Jefferson City News Tribune*. She enjoys telling the lesser-known stories of the community's past. She has published four books on local history. This article was a remnant of her research for her latest book, *Murder & May-*

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The Catholic Missourian editor has been on pilgrimage for 25 years

By Jacob Luecke

The *Catholic Missourian* Editor Jay Nies likes to begin his articles by placing the story in God's hands.

Before asking a single interview question, he invites his guests to join him in prayer.

"I always lead people in the 'Glory Be,' if we can," he said. "I think it's important that we acknowledge God is present and we ask him to inspire us during the interview, and also to inspire the people who will eventually read the article."

After reciting the prayer together, the interview begins.

The serenity of the 'Glory Be' is replaced by the thunder of the keyboard as Mr. Nies transcribes the conversation, fingers always racing against another approaching deadline.

For 25 years, Mr. Nies — relying on God's help — has been inspiring readers through his journalism in *The Catholic Missourian*.

The Chancery staff celebrated the anniversary during a special luncheon on Friday, July 21.

Mr. Nies joined the newspaper in 1998 as associate editor.

A lifelong St. Louisan, he arrived with little knowledge of the diocese he would be covering. But he knew a lot about journalism, having grown up in a home where newspapers

were written and assembled on the dining room table.

"I'm looking forward to working for a paper that asks, 'What does it mean to be Catholic in the Jefferson City diocese, and where does that put us in relation to the rest of the world?'" Mr. Nies said in *The Catholic Missourian* article announcing his hire.

The years since that quote can be catalogued into a succession of deadlines, each bringing the responsibility of transforming 24 blank pages into a mirror that reflects our diocese in that living moment.

"It's clear to me, as someone who worked closely with Jay for many years at the Chancery, that he really treats his work as a Christian ministry said Deacon Dan Joyce," former diocesan communications director. "Through his topic selection, informative and clear writing, and creative photography, he conveys to us how the Holy Spirit is at work in the Diocese of Jefferson City."

While Mr. Nies has documented a number of monumental moments in our history, much of his reporting highlights the daily joys happening in our community.

His style of journalism portrays an organic faith, illustrating the life of a diocese striving to live in the example of Jesus.



Jay Nies, editor of *The Catholic Missourian*, stands next to one of the new bells for the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City on March 31, 2023, the day Bishop W. Shawn McKnight blessed them.

— Photo by Annie Williams

"I would like to thank Jay Nies for his 25 years of service to our diocese and for his continued leadership of our *The Catholic Missourian*," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. "Talented Catholic journalists like Jay use their writing as a tool for evangelism and to help deepen the faith of their readers."

"As we celebrate Jay's service, let us pray that his reporting will continue to inspire us to grow closer to God," the bishop said.

Baptized by ink

Mr. Nies was only 8 years old when he was baptized into the world of journalism.

His parents had been tasked by their pastor to help set up a newspaper for their parish of St. Joseph in Manchester.

He remembers seeing them write feature stories and lay out the news on the family's dining room table.

"It was really cool watching my mom and dad put together the church newspaper," he said. "That got me excited about newspapers."

He would tag along when his parents took their stories to the printers.

"You'd go in there and it smelled like ink," he recalled. "You had all the union typesetters in their uniforms. People were running around with screens on."

"You can't be around that and not kind of get excited about it, don't you think?" he said.

He remembers making his

own newspapers with friends, photocopying them and selling them to classmates at school — to the chagrin of a teacher who didn't appreciate the money-making aspect of the venture.

He got his first real assignment as a teenager when his mom asked him to interview the school bus driver.

Despite this early exposure, when he arrived for college at Saint Louis University, Mr. Nies said he initially felt too intimidated to try reporting for the campus newspaper.

That changed during his sophomore year when a professor saw his talent and encouraged him to get involved.

"My life revolved around the paper from that time forward," Mr. Nies said.

After college, he took on freelance assignments as he worked day jobs, hoping to eventually find full-time work as a staff reporter in St. Louis.

When that opportunity didn't materialize, he began looking for reporting jobs in central Missouri, and found several editors who were interested in hiring him.

He accepted an offer to be a general assignment reporter for the *Sedalia Democrat*.

Living in Sedalia was his first exposure to the Diocese of Jefferson City and to reading *The Catholic Missourian*.

"I felt comfortable reading it," Mr. Nies said. "There was a lot of good stuff in there."

When a reporting job opened at the diocesan newspaper, he took a chance and

applied.

Breaking news

Mr. Nies had just arrived at *The Catholic Missourian* when one of the biggest stories of his career broke — Pope John Paul II would travel to St. Louis in January of 1999.

It would be a historic moment for all Catholics in the region.

Mr. Nies was granted press credentials to cover the event. For a native St. Louisan, it was a thrill to be present for the pope's visit, and to watch as the Catholic faith of our state and region was put on display for the world.

Just six years after that historic visit, Mr. Nies was tasked with putting together a newspaper announcing the death of the pope. He counts this as one of the most impactful moments he's experienced in journalism — and in his own life as a Catholic.

"In many ways, our history can be broken down into the time before Pope John Paul II, and the time after," said Mr. Nies. "I suspect that people who aren't born yet will still be unpacking his insights and finding new ways to apply them long after we've all left this world."

Between those two historic events, Mr. Nies also played a critical role in communicating to our faithful as stories of sexual abuse inside the Church were coming to light in the early 2000s.

He remembers that as a painful and confusing time and as a very challenging situation for a Catholic journalist.

He also remembers seeing how our community came together during that period in a way that he had not experienced before.

He experienced closeness and camaraderie, even as the Church reckoned with pain and sorrow.

But over the years, the stories of joy have vastly outnumbered those of pain. He found it especially inspiring to report on the opening of sainthood causes for Missouri natives Venerable Father Augustus Tolton and Servant of God Julia Greeley.

See EDITOR, page 23



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VOGELWEID

From page 1

“We’re taking a broader view of our vision and mission: to be able to serve all of God’s kids,” stated Elizabeth Twyman, accommodations coordinator at Helias Catholic.

As part of the expansion, the school is in the process of hiring a special education teacher who specializes in working with high school students.

“The more kids we can serve, the better,” said Mrs. Twyman. “The more kids we can bring closer to Christ, the better we’re doing our job.”

What is Vogelweid?

The Vogelweid Learning Center was established in 1964 as the special education division of St. Peter School.

It now functions as a special services program for children 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 Vogelweid genuinely unique.

The center helps students across a broad spectrum, 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 special 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.

Of one mind

Mrs. Wekenborg and Mrs. Twyman already collaborate on helping students who’ve received services from Vogelweid make the transition to Helias Catholic.

“We’ve worked closely together and have a united vision and goals,” said Mrs.

Wekenborg.

“Helias has been serving students who have received services and supports through Vogelweid for years,” Mrs. Twyman noted. “This expansion is allowing us to continue those services to our students with lower functioning skills with the personnel needed and the support from the Vogelweid program at St. Peter’s.”

Growing its own staff and drawing on the resources of the Vogelweid faculty will allow Helias to serve students with an even broader range of needs.

“We want to ensure that all saints and scholars who come through Helias get what they need to become successful, faith-based, productive adults and members of our Church,” said Mrs. Twyman.

“We want to make sure that we have services that not only help those children with special needs, but also propelling our AP students to go on to help cure cancer,” she added.

In-SPIRE-ing

Support for Vogelweid at Helias Catholic will come from the newly-revitalized SPIRE Foundation.

The foundation was established in 2015 to support special education services at Catholic schools throughout the diocese.

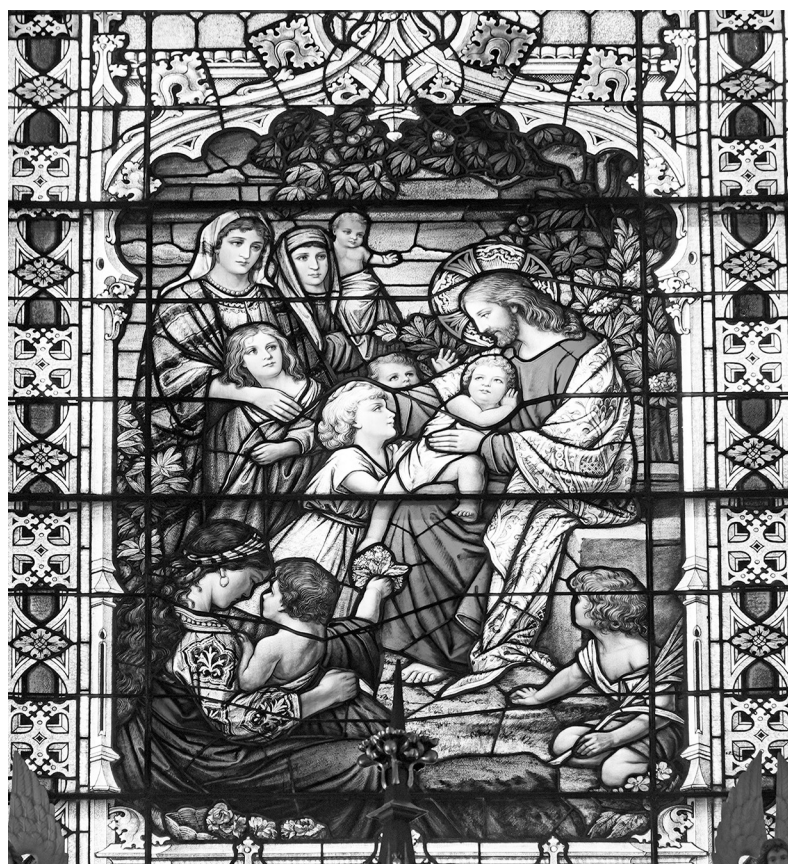
SPIRE’s main premise is that Jesus loves and welcomes all children, and his schools should do likewise.

“Jesus ministered to the most vulnerable in society,” noted Donna Frazier, a college educator and former Catholic school teacher and administrator, who’s a member of the group bringing SPIRE back to the fore.

“Children with disabilities are the most vulnerable in our society,” she said. “We need to be ministering to them, welcoming, including. That must be at the center of our mission.”

SPIRE’s objectives fall into two categories:

- raising awareness among school administrators, teachers, staff and parents of the need to provide Catholic edu-



This elaborate stained glass window in St. Martin Historic Church in Starkenburg illustrates Jesus’s words, “Let the children come to me ... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these,” (Matthew 19:14).

cation to children with special needs, as well as the availability of workshops and professional development opportunities to help teachers bring out the children’s best efforts; and

- raising money and helping secure grants to pay for staff development, classroom materials and additional personnel to help students with special needs achieve success in Catholic schools.

“The long-term goal is to raise enough money so that (the schools) can have paraprofessionals, certified special education teachers, as well as physical and occupational therapy and speech programs in the schools,” said Mrs. Frazier.

Unanticipated blessings

Paula Backues sees the expansion of Vogelweid as “the best thing that can happen.”

“It’s an excellent program, and we’re thrilled to see an extension of it being made at Helias,” she said.

Mrs. Backues, her husband Corey and their children are members of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City.

Their daughter Sophia has

Down syndrome and related developmental disabilities.

“From Day 1, we always felt that Sophia was the gift from God that we never knew we needed,” Mrs. Backues stated.

“I believe that with God’s hand, she has opened our eyes to so many blessings that we would never have experienced without her,” she said.

Sophia went to St. Peter School and received services through Vogelweid from preschool through eighth grade.

In the process, “she got to learn about her faith and how it can be a positive influence in her life,” Mrs. Backues said.

She’s convinced that that same inclusive, faith-based environment helps all the children at St. Peter School.

“The student body there is used to having kids with special needs in their midst,” she said. “And because it’s a faith-based environment, typical students were open not just to Sophia learning from them, but to learning FROM her as well.”

A turning point

Mr. and Mrs. Backues worked with St. Peter School

and Helias Catholic for over a year to plan for Sophia’s transition to high school.

“Our hope was for her to go to the Catholic school and be with the kids she went through grade school and middle school with,” said Mr. Backues.

Those efforts ended in disappointment, with Sophia having to leave Helias near the end of her first semester.

She’s doing well now at Jefferson City High School, but the hardest part was no longer being with lifelong friends.

Stung by the experience, the Backueses set about helping to build something better.

“The blessing on the back end of all of this is, I think there’s now a better understanding of what needs to happen,” said Mrs. Backues.

The couple said they want for their daughter what every parent wants for their children: “for her to be included, accepted and able to achieve to her best ability.”

“Whether you have child with special needs or a typically developing child, that’s what you want,” said Mr. Backues. “And you want them to have an education with faith built into it that will help them get to that level.”

“It will happen”

Mr. Backues is convinced that integrating more students with special needs and learning differences will benefit all students at Helias Catholic.

“So many times, people tell us, ‘We get more out of being around Sophia than she probably gets from being around us,’” he noted.

As work on numerous fronts to bring about the expansion progresses over the next year, Mrs. Wekenborg asks for prayers for guidance in making the right decisions.

Likewise, Mrs. Backues requested prayers for continued commitment to making the expanded program succeed.

“It will take a village,” she predicted, “but as long as everybody has their faith in order, and if God helps everyone stay committed, it will happen.”

QUESTION CORNER

Baptismal certificate function; annulments and hell

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: I am getting married and the priest my fiancé and I met with said we need new baptismal certificates. Why can't we just use the ones our parents got when we were baptized? (Portland, Maine)



A: Baptismal certificates aren't a one-and-done kind of document. It is true that when you are baptized, you (or your parents, if you were an infant at the time of your baptism) receive a paper certificate attesting to the fact that your baptism took place on a certain day at a particular place.

However, the official record of your baptism is not one piece of paper in a file, but rather an entry into a baptismal registry book. Your entry in the baptismal register in your parish of baptism then serves as the "master record" of your life as a Catholic. Baptismal registry books register the details of a person's baptism, but also include room for subsequent major sacramental life events.

For instance, when a Catholic who was baptized as an infant later receives the sacrament of confirmation, this is recorded next to their name in the baptismal register of their parish of baptism. If the confirmation happens in a parish other than the one where they were baptized, then the parish of confirmation must take care to contact the parish of baptism to ensure that everything is recorded properly.

Other life events that must be recorded in a person's original baptismal register include reception of holy orders and religious profession, or a woman's becoming a consecrated virgin. Marriage in the Church is also an important life event to be recorded in a baptismal register — and if a marriage is declared null by a tribunal, this would also be noted in the same place.

When Catholics request a copy of their baptismal certificate, their parish of baptism issues a brand-new hard copy based on the information in the baptismal register. This new copy will have a section on the back which relates all the biographical details recorded over the years in the registry book.

So, if you are requesting a copy of your baptismal certificate as part of your marriage prep, a newly-issued one lets the priest or deacon know about any previous life events, such as a prior marriage or previous reception of holy orders, which might present an issue or impediment with your upcoming wedding.

Q: My husband abandoned me years ago. I know that I am married and that I am called to live chastely, and I am doing that. But my friend told me I will go to hell since I don't have an annulment. Is that true? (Madison, Wis.)

A: No, nobody "needs" a declaration of nullity to avoid hell, or even to participate fully in the life of the Church. In fact, it's never good to start the marriage nullity process because of feeling rushed or pressured by third parties.

We are all required to live out the virtue of chastity according to our state in life and particular circumstances. This means, essentially, that a person can only enjoy sexual intimacy with a person to whom they are married. Divorce in and of itself is not necessarily sinful, and being an abandoned spouse is certainly not a sin. But — as you correctly note — even in cases of divorce, separation or abandonment a once-married couple is still presumed to be married until potentially proven otherwise by a Catholic marriage tribunal. Because of this, a divorced Catholic would need a declaration of nullity if they wanted to marry another person (and it would be sinful to engage in acts proper to marriage with someone to whom they were not married).

But, if you are at peace living a chaste life as a divorced Catholic without seeking a new marriage, it's perfectly fine to remain as you are.

2024 Fr. Tolton procession to be joined by National Eucharistic Pilgrimage



More than 200 people honored Venerable Father Augustine Tolton on July 9 during a procession from St. Peter Church to Fr. Tolton's burial place in St. Peter Cemetery. Father Daren Zehnle, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Quincy, led Evening Prayer in the cemetery at the end of the procession.

— Photo from the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Facebook page

By Maria Wiering
OSV News

St. Paul, Minnesota

An annual procession to Venerable Father Augustus Tolton's gravesite in Quincy, Illinois, will be joined next year by pilgrims walking the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage en route to Indianapolis, the Diocese of Springfield's worship director announced July 9.

Declared "venerable" by Pope Francis in 2019, Fr. Tolton (1854-1897) is the U.S.'s first identifiable Black Catholic priest and one of six African Americans with ongoing causes for canonization.

He was born into a family of enslaved people in Missouri in part of what is now the Jefferson City diocese and was baptized where St. Peter Church in Brush Creek now stands.

Father Daren Zehnle shared the news with more than 200 pilgrims who participated in this year's procession from a parish with ties to Fr. Tolton in Quincy to his gravesite almost a mile away.

"I hope it leads more people to seek his intercession, so, God willing, we can have a miracle to attribute to him to make him a 'blessed,'" Fr. Zehnle, a Quincy native, told OSV News about the plans for the 2024 pilgrimage.

"Tolton certainly had a devotion to the Eucharist," he said. "He was a priest. ... I

think what you see in Tolton is that life of long suffering, of patience, of humility — that was surely all fruits of a Eucharistic devotion of seeking a union after Jesus himself. I think Tolton can show us the way to do that in our own lives."

Fr. Zehnle is not only the leader but also the founder of the Quincy pilgrimage, which he launched in 2016 after spending several years studying in Rome, where he had grown accustomed to making walking pilgrimages to holy sites associated with saints.

He realized that his 2016 return to the Springfield diocese fell a few weeks before the 130th anniversary of Fr. Tolton's return to Illinois from Rome, so he and some friends organized a walk to his grave on that date.

In 2017, Fr. Zehnle moved the pilgrimage to the anniversary of Fr. Tolton's death, July 9.

Last year marked the 125th anniversary of Fr. Tolton's death, and Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield joined the pilgrimage and celebrated Mass at Fr. Tolton's grave.

"Every year we seem to get a few more people, and they just really enjoy it," Fr. Zehnle said. "We pray for his (Fr. Tolton's) canonization. We pray that we might follow his example more closely. We pray for an end to racism. We pray for more

priests to serve at altars in our diocese."

"Strong man of prayer"

Fr. Tolton was renowned not only for his holiness and preaching, but also for the considerable adversity he faced as the first publicly known Black priest in late 1800s America.

When Fr. Tolton was a child, his mother courageously fled with her children from a Missouri plantation across the Mississippi River to freedom in Illinois.

Prevented from entering seminary in the U.S., he studied for the priesthood in Rome and planned to become a missionary in Africa.

However, at Rome's direction, he instead returned to the U.S. as a missionary following his priestly ordination in 1886.

Fr. Tolton's mission began in his hometown of Quincy; however he was essentially driven out by a local German priest jealous of his popularity.

Fr. Tolton then went in 1889 to minister among a burgeoning Black Catholic population in Chicago.

He died almost eight years later at age 43.

"This was a strong man of prayer" who overcame racism and other challenges with charity, said Valerie Jennings, interim director of the Tolton Spirituality Center in Chicago.

See PROCESSION, page 19

Three astute ‘prunings’ to insure a healthy synod on synodality

By Russell Shaw
OSV News



Back when the synod on synodality was only an item on Pope Francis’s to-do list, I wrote a column saying conservative Catholics like myself should get on board the presynodal bandwagon instead of standing on the sidelines making negative comments. Otherwise, I wrote, the synod on synodality could fall into liberal hands.

With the first assembly of the synod fast approaching in October, that is still a matter of concern. But however that may be, for the longer pull it remains reasonable to hope that clear thinking will make a difference as the Church struggles to assimilate synodality into its decision-making process. I offer what follows with that hope in view.

Speaking last month to the American bishops in Orlando, then-Archbishop (now newly named Cardinal) Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio, declared the purpose of synodality to be “to make our evangelization more effective.” That sounds great. But evangelization of whom on behalf of what?

The synodal Church, we often are told, will be a body that directs its evangelizing energies especially to people on the “peripheries.” As Archbishop Pierre said, “If they ‘come to church’ to encounter Christ, it will be because Christ has first come to them.”

As to the content of the evangelizing message, I find a powerful answer in Pope St. John Paul’s memorable 1998 encyclical *Fides et Ratio* (“Faith and Reason”). There the Pope identified certain “fundamental questions” said to be “pervasive” in all times and places: “Who am I? Where have I come from and where am I going? Why is there evil? What is there after this life?”

But do people really ask themselves these questions today? And if the honest answer is that in many cases it doesn’t look like it, isn’t that because contemporary secularism prevents countless people from thinking seriously by immersing them in a sensate culture of images, sounds, and frivolous messages that leave them too distracted to come to grips with matters of ultimate importance?

Supposing that is a reasonably correct reading of the situation, it points unavoidably to the conclusion that the fundamental evangelizing task for a synodal

church must be to pierce this distracting cultural fog, raise the old questions of meaning and value out on the peripheries, and announce anew that today, as always, the answer to them is Christ.

In a notable article “Synodality and the Second Vatican Council,” published in a journal called *The Thomist*, The Catholic University of America theologian Christopher Ruddy makes the important point — largely overlooked, it seems, by synodality’s conservative critics — that “the ecclesial renewal set in motion by the council is now reaching a new, mature, and perhaps decisive stage.”

But for the synodal process to produce the good fruit at which its sponsors aim, Ruddy writes, certain things — he calls them “prunings” — are necessary. He names three.

First, “the synod and its preparation need to be transparent and free from manipulation.”

Second, “Dialogue” and “inclusion” are not stand-alone, self-evident concepts but must respect the doctrinal boundaries established by the scriptural canon and rule of faith.”

Third (and “most fundamentally”), synodality “must not be conscripted into service as a cover for doctrinal change... on matters of human sexuality, sacramental discipline and doctrine and ordained ministry.”

Ruddy concludes that the “full vision of Vatican II” contains “both helpful stimuli and useful correctives to the ongoing synodal process.” Let us hope — and pray — that both in October and beyond the managers of synodality will draw freely on those sources and show proper respect for their integrity.

Russell Shaw, a veteran journalist and writer, is the author of more than 20 books, including three novels.

Re-reading in Ordinary Times

By Lucia A. Silecchia



Recently, I joined some friends for a retreat where, together, we reflected on a wonderful text by St. Bonaventure. It is fair to say that depth of his thought was much beyond me! So, when I was asked if I enjoyed the reading, my honest reply was that, yes, I enjoyed reading it but would really enjoy re-reading it.

Life, too, sometimes seems this way.

Certainly, each day of life is new — irreplaceable and unrepeatable. Certainly, too, new experiences, new adventures and new books to read are exciting. Yet, there are times when the opportunity to relive or re-experience something is a beautiful gift as well.

This somehow seems most true in summertime.

For some, summer is the time for revisiting hometowns and vacation destinations that are family traditions. For others, it is the time to visit the same people and hear the same stories told yet again. For others, it is the chance to return to a favorite fishing spot, familiar campsite or carefully chosen site for a beach blanket. For others, it is enjoying, once again, the familiar taste of traditional summer treats and, indeed, for some, it is long after-

noons re-reading favorite books.

As the years pass, I have come to appreciate the “reruns” of life more than I did in the past. I still enjoy seeing and doing what has been unseen and undone. Yet, I also know what a gift it is to re-experience things that I may not have fully appreciated before.

It may be hearing a loved one retell a story I have heard dozens of times before. Yet, each time I hear it, I know that I am different and the storyteller is different too. There may be an insight I have yet to learn from a story I thought I knew.

It may be returning to a familiar place — one I have seen so often. Yet, there will still be subtle changes that I will see for the first time. They may make me more grateful for the beauty of that spot, more wistful for the way it used to be, or more eager to preserve it for the future.

It may be participating in a family tradition that I think I know and then, for the first time, noticing something I had not appreciated before or feeling something I had not felt before.

And, yes, it may be re-reading a book I did not understand on the first round that now makes a little more sense, or offers a new truth to discover.

Faith, too, sometimes seems this way.

Stories from scripture that seem so familiar may have something new to teach

REFLECTION

Mountain majesties

By Mark Saucier

We looked like an intergenerational field trip as we gathered at the trailhead.

Twenty of us, from a backpacked toddler to a couple of older dawdlers, were intent on tackling a hike that started at well over 10,000 feet.

It didn’t take long to break into smaller groups — energetic rock-climbers, long striders, curious side-trackers, and grandparents bringing up the rear.

It was a steep trail, rising fast and filled with cutbacks, but a gurgling stream and its refreshing sound encouraged us.

At first, it was heavily wooded as we wound our way through spruces and pines, red cedars and even a sycamore.

The wildflowers clung like jewels to the side of the mountain. You might find pink elephant heads along the water, the star-shaped flower of the blue columbine in a small meadow, a whole patch of mule’s ear sunflowers laid out like a blanket, or the dainty sky pilot seeming to grow out of the rock itself.

The blooms stood out against the heavy majesty of the mountain. Immovable and enduring, it attested to time immemorial, to tectonic shifts, glaciers, and epochs of ever-changing fauna and flora.

After clawing up a mile or so, there was a vista with a panoramic view of the continental divide and a waterfall near the headwaters of that stream.

My son and I decided to go another mile-and-a-half to reach the ridge that marked the divide.

He made it. I came close.

As I rested, high above the trees and snowfields, I marveled at these mountains. I could understand the people of old assigning gods to lofty heights. Even the Abrahamic faiths revered their mountains as places of divine encounter.

I thought of the people we met on the trail. They were friendly, stopping to talk, in anticipation on their way up and in gratitude on their way down.

I thought of my children and grandchildren and what a gift it was to have this day, this week, this life together.

Looking down from that continental crest, I thought the old ones were right — that surely God dwelled here.

But it was more than a manifestation of God. It was a transformation of me. I realized that this beauty, this profound presence, this lurking of the divine is not just on a mountaintop, but everywhere and in everyone.

It’s always there.

Sometimes it just takes a little trek, a little movement, a little effort on my part to see it.

Encounter

A call to serve and save a life

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Judith Mutamba

You may know that cardiovascular diseases are among the leading cause of premature death in the USA and, indeed, across counties in Missouri.

Common cases of cardiovascular disease we see frequently in our communities and in our families are heart disease, stroke and chronic kidney diseases — the main risk factor of these diseases is hypertension, or high blood pressure.

You may be more familiar with these terms than you'd like to be, and if you are dealing with cardiovascular disease or high blood pressure, then you know the effect it can have on your life, livelihood and ability to reach your health goals.

Uncontrolled hypertension can lead to discomfort, emergency room visits, hospitalization, incapacitation and most tragically premature mortality.

But you, and those you love, can manage high blood pressure to feel healthier, reduce pain and inflammation, and avoid hospital trips — and Catholic Charities can help.

In the Mid-MO Self-Management of Blood Pressure (SMBP) program, a four-month-long program recog-

nized by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for its ability to lower and better manage blood pressure, participants work alongside a trained facilitator to learn and manage their health.

The results are wonderful! Participants in the SMBP program note lower blood pressure, increased awareness of triggers that cause the blood pressure to elevate, better eating habits and a newfound confidence in communicating their health needs and goals to their healthcare team.

It is heartening for me to see many participants move through this program successfully, but I know we could never do this work without the trained volunteers in local communities who give their time in service to others.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our work at Catholic Charities.

Alongside over 50 staff members, hundreds of people volunteer their time and their skills to carrying-out our mission in local communities across the Diocese of Jefferson City.

With over 1,000 active volunteers, and hundreds who regularly sign up to serve, our programs can reach beyond those who visit Catholic Charities in person and into underserved counties in our service area.

One of these amazing volunteers is Margie Luebbert.

In her 40-year career, she spent long hours working as a nurse in different capacities before retirement.



Catholic Charities volunteer, Margie Luebbert, meets with a participant of the Mid-MO Self-Management of Blood Pressure (SMBP) program during office hours. Through this evidence-based blood pressure management program trained facilitators, like Margie, meet with people who have been diagnosed with hypertension (high blood pressure) to help them reach their health goals.

Upon retirement, one would have expected Margie to be enjoying family life.

On the contrary, Margie drives at least twice a week from her Osage County home to Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri in Jefferson City, where she works as a health care volunteer.

Today she is a trained facilitator for Catholic Charities' SMBP program, volunteering her time and talents to meet with clients during her SMBP office hours and journey with them towards better health.

Watching Margie and listening to her chatting with prospective and enrolled participants in the SMBP program, one wonders whether she developed the healthcare skills solely from nursing or from her profound faith-based background, which resonates with the Catholic Charities values of serving others.

It is an added blessing to us that Margie is able to not only help facilitate the SMBP program, but refer those she meets with into wrap-around services in Catholic Charities Health and Nutrition that can ad-

dress food insecurity and other health needs.

Through the Senior Food Box program, supported by the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, our agency is able to deliver USDA food boxes to adults 60 years and older.

Through the Walk With Ease and Steps to Healthy Living classes, supported by MU Extension and Aging Best, clients can increase physical activity and manage chronic pain — bringing comfort and joy back into their daily lives.

Through a myriad of partnerships with SSM St. Mary's Hospital we are addressing food insecurity, and looking forward to Fall programs that will nourish patients and community members.

Alongside our staff, our trusted volunteers also help us address public health and food insecurity at Catholic Charities by volunteering with the Senior Food Box program, stocking and checking out neighbors in the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, assisting with Walk With Ease classes, and more.

As the director of health and

nutrition services I appreciate the opportunity we have as Catholic Charities, to work collaboratively with our key partners to serve in the community.

It is gratifying to see organizations collaborate to combine resources that magnify and make our offerings more accessible to communities across our diocese.

I believe in teamwork and collaboration, wherein our ability to combine forces, knowledge, expertise, and practical guidance improve the quality of life for those we reach.

We owe it, as we serve our clients, to deliver support that benefits their health since there is only one life to live.

Whenever I teach a class or encounter a new client the idea of health and hope comes into my mind — and I believe that together we can do it.

Judith R. Mutamba (BMS, MS) is the Director of Health and Nutrition Services at Catholic Charities.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics — Food and Nutrition with emphasis in Dietetics from the University of Missouri (MU), a Masters of Medical Sciences from University of Uppsalla (Sweden), and a second Masters in Nutrition Exercise & Physiology from MU.

She is currently a doctoral student in health administration with the University of Phoenix, Arizona. Judith's passion is on addressing chronic diet-related diseases.


She sees her role and mission, as that of translating relevant research into action — addressing chronic health disparities and working with other partners in the under-served communities.

To learn more about Catholic Charities' health and nutrition services programs, visit us online at ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/health-and-nutrition.

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Jacqueline Baldwin, Victim Assistance Coordinator

reportabuse@diojeffcity.org | 573-694-3199



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Knights of Columbus St. Robert Bellarmine Council 5401 celebrates 60 years of service

Ladies of the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in St. Robert celebrated the St. Robert Knights of Columbus council's 60th year of memberships by preparing and serving dinner to the Knights.

Altar and Rosary Society President Charline O'Neil baked a special cake with the Knight's logo, which was cut by outgoing Grand Knight Steve Hoffman and incoming Grand Knight Dominic Pemberton.

A Ladies Altar and Rosary Society member and wife of a Knight who was a member for 59 of the 60 years, congratulated the Knights and shared many of the outreach projects the council has completed in the Church and community in these past six decades.

She stated how their generosity and caring has impacted local residents, as well as St. Robert Bellarmine parishioners.

"There is something beautifully handsome," she added, "about a man who is sincerely dedicated to his faith, family and community — put an apron on him and a kitchen towel in his hand and he becomes our Knight in shining armor."



TOP LEFT: Members of Knights of Columbus St. Robert Bellarmine Council 5401 and the St. Robert Bellarmine Altar and Rosary Society celebrate the Knights council's 60th anniversary with cake and festivities. **TOP RIGHT:** Outgoing Grand Knight Steve Hoffman and incoming Grand Knight Dominic Pemberton slice the first piece of cake. **LEFT:** An Altar and Rosary Society member speaks of the Knights council's projects and achievements.

— Photos by Charli Hartley

Now you see it ...

A group of St. Joseph Parishioners in Salisbury spent about an hour tackling a large tree branch that fell on the school playground as a storm moved through town July 12. The parish picnic was to be held the following Sunday. "This community is seriously one of the best," stated parishioner Kelsey Emmerich. "You always make sure our little school has all the help we need!"

— Photo from the St. Joseph School-Salisbury Facebook page





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USCCB 'rejoices' at announcement of two cardinals-designate with 'deep ties' to U.S.

OSV News

On behalf of the bishops of the United States, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of Military Services, USA, and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offered his congratulations and prayers July 9 upon Pope Francis' announcement of the creation of 21 new cardinals.

Two of the archbishops — U.S.-born Archbishop Robert F. Prevost, who took the helm at the Dicastery for Bishops in April, and French Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States — have "deep ties" to the United States, the USCCB statement said.

"Please join me in praying for Cardinal-designate Prevost and Cardinal-designate Pierre as they continue their lives of service to the universal Church," Archbishop Broglio said. "For the Church in the United States, their ministry has been a true blessing. Our episcopal conference rejoices in this sign of recognition of these distinguished Churchmen."

The pope announced the names after his recitation of the Angelus with the faithful in St. Peter's Square July 9. He said he would formally install the cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican Sept. 30.

•Cardinal-designate Prevost, 67, was born in Chicago, and had served as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, for more than eight years before being appointed to lead the Vatican body responsible for recommending to the pope candidates to fill the office of bishop



Cardinal-designate Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, pauses for a photo with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and four missionary priests from Uganda who are serving in the diocese — Father Ignitius Nimwesiga, Father Leonard Mukibi, Father Boniface Nzabonimpa and Father Simon Jude Kanyike — on May 4, the night before the rededication of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. Cardinal-designate Pierre previously served as apostolic nuncio to Uganda. Pope Francis included him in a list of 21 new cardinals announced July 9.

— Photo by Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki

in many of the Latin-rite dioceses of the world. Recommendations made by the dicastery are typically approved by the pope. Archbishop Prevost has been a member of the dicastery since November 2020.

He also oversees the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, established in 1958 by Pope Pius XII to study the church in Latin America, where nearly 40% of the world's Catholics reside.

The cardinal-designate holds degrees from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a doctorate from

the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. An Augustinian friar, he joined the Augustinian mission in Peru in 1985 and largely worked in the country until in 1999, when he was elected head of the Augustinians' Chicago-based province. From 2001 to 2013, he served as prior general of

the worldwide order.

In 2014, Pope Francis named him bishop of Chiclayo, in northern Peru, and the pope asked him also to be apostolic administrator of Callao, Peru, from April 2020 to May 2021. The pope then appointed him to succeed the retiring Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet

as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in early 2023.

•Cardinal-designate Pierre, 77, was born in Rennes, France. Ordained to the priesthood in 1970, he served as apostolic nuncio to Haiti, Uganda and Mexico until Pope Francis named him nuncio to the United States in 2016.

In total, the new cardinals represent more than a dozen countries on five continents. Three of the new cardinals are current Vatican officials, three are current or retired apostolic nuncios, 13 are current or retired heads of archdioceses around the world, one is a rector major of the Salesians and one is a 96-year-old confessor in Buenos Aires. Six belong to religious orders; two of them are Jesuits.

Continuing a papal custom, among the new cardinals were three churchmen — two archbishops and a Capuchin Franciscan priest — over the age of 80, whom Pope Francis said he wanted to honor because they were particularly deserving due to "their service to the Church." Being over the age of 80, they are ineligible to vote in a conclave.

The last consistory took place Aug. 27, 2022, when Pope Francis elevated 20 new cardinals, including Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego.

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EUCHARIST

From page 1

The purpose of the three-year Revival is to reinvigorate among Catholics the belief in and reverence for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

"It's beautiful that we have things set up the like this, with these saints leading us to our Lord's presence here on this altar," said seminarian Jacob Hartman.

"Invite them to lead you to him!" he advised.

Mr. Hartman, a Holts Summit native who's in his second year of theology studies at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, spoke on the Eucharist during all eight vigils.

He said that in the Eucharist, Jesus teaches his followers to see and love the way he does: with the heart.

"The Eucharist changes the way we see the world," Mr. Hartman noted. "It changes the way we see ourselves. It changes the way we see others."

"Gazing right back"

St. Manuel González García was a Spanish priest and bishop who came to be known as the Bishop of the Tabernacle.

He preached and wrote ardently and compellingly on the Eucharist and founded religious communities devoted to cultivating Eucharistic spirituality.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, who died of leukemia at age 15, centered his life on the Eucharist in order to grow in his relationship with Jesus. He used his technological prowess to develop a website to highlight Eucharistic miracles (*miraco lieucaristici.org*).

At each vigil, seminarians and young adults who have been helping with Catholic youth camps in the diocese this summer shed light on the legacies of St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo.

Relics — tiny pieces of the earthly remains of each — were displayed in ornate reliquaries before the Blessed Sacrament, where both men spent much of their time while they were alive.

"Jesus is truly present in the tabernacle, and St. Manuel gave his whole life to that," proclaimed John Paul Mc-



A participant in a prayer vigil on July 12 in St. Patrick Church in Laurie touches prayer cards to the relics of St. Manuel González García and Blessed Carlo Acutis.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Guire, a Mexico native and third-year college seminarian at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas.

Mr. McGuire shared a quote from St. Manuel, who spent most of his Priesthood reinvigorating the devotional life of a once-dying parish:

"My faith was looking at Jesus through the door of that tabernacle, so silent, so patient, so good, gazing right back at me."

In taking notice of that gaze, St. Manuel also discovered the sadness Jesus had experienced through his earthly life — "the sadness of 'no room at the inn'; the sadness of those words, 'Do you also want to leave me?'; sadness of poor Lazarus begging for crumbs from the rich man's table; the sadness of the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, of the soldier's slap, of the spittle in the Praetorium, and the abandonment of all."

St. Manuel spent his whole adult life working to ensure that Jesus, fully present in the tabernacle in church, would never be abandoned or left alone.

"He made his Priesthood of

being next to the Lord in the tabernacle, day-in, day-out," said Mr. McGuire.

"As close as possible"

Youth camp missionary Haydon Kent spoke of Blessed Carlo Acutis during the July 12 vigil in St. Patrick Church in Laurie.

Mr. Kent shared one of Blessed Carlo's favorite sayings: "If you want to get tan, you sit in the sun. If you want to know Christ, you sit in front of the Eucharist."

The speaker shared how Blessed Carlo came to a reverence for Christ despite a lack of any religious practice in his family.

Blessed Carlo stood up for children who were being bullied or marginalized at his school, actively assisted people in need, and put his passion for technology to holy use.

He created a website presenting 35 confirmed Eucharistic miracles — situations in which the presence of Christ's Body under the sacramental veil of ordinary bread became visible as human heart tissue.

Each time Blessed Carlo

went to Mass, he tried to spend 15 minutes ahead of time in front of the tabernacle and 15 minutes afterward, thanking the Lord and "just pondering the existence of the Eucharist," said Mr. Kent.

Diagnosed with leukemia at age 15, he united his sufferings with Christ's for the conversion of sinners and for the needs of Pope Benedict XVI, who was then the reigning pontiff of the whole Church.

"What Carlo wanted most was to be as close as possible to God," Mr. Kent noted. "And now we see in him an example of what that closeness looks like."

As God sees

Mr. Hartman referred to the Eucharist as "the healing of our love."

"It teaches us to love as God loves — to move past the physical, that which we can see, and look deeper," he noted.

That's essential for seeing past the darkness and ugliness that can be too easy to recognize in other people.

"We are human beings created in the image of God!" Mr. Hartman noted. "So, there is an inner dignity that lies deeper than any of our accomplishments or failures."

"The Eucharist trains us to follow God in that line of thinking and see each other and ourselves as he does," he said.

That's part of what makes the Eucharist the greatest gift — "that it allows us to love as God loves and to see how God sees."

It's also an invitation to trust God fully, despite any limits the earthly senses may present.

"The Lord desires to love us," Mr. Hartman noted, "but in our fallen state, we turn from him. We do not recognize him."

So, in the words of the late Pope Benedict XVI, "Jesus Christ became flesh so that he might become bread."

He carries forth his incarnation in the Eucharist and allows people to receive him and be in communion with him.

See COMMUNION, page 15



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COMMUNION

From page 14

“His resurrection 2,000 years ago was not the end of salvation,” Mr. Hartman emphasized. “It continues today!”

A pivotal moment

“It’s a holy moment in there,” lifelong St. Stanislaus parishioner Carol Davidson stated after taking part in the July 15 vigil in Wardsville. “A heavy moment, but an extremely holy moment.”

She came because she felt like she needed an attitude adjustment.

“And if I came and spent some time with Jesus in the presence of (St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo), maybe I’d leave with a better understanding of where my heart should be,” she said.

She initially questioned the timing of the vigil, with the parish picnic scheduled to take place the following day.

“I thought to myself when I went in, ‘We’re supposed to be home making pies right now,’” she acknowledged.

“And then it came to me that this is probably the most opportune day to be here, because there’s so much activity going on all around and there are even more people here than usual,” she said.

St. Stanislaus parishioner Bob Czarnecki didn’t know much about Blessed Carlo or St. Manuel before coming to spend time praying in the presence of Christ and the relics.

“I have this love for the saints,” he said. “Any time I get a chance to pray with them or venerate a relic, I take the opportunity to do so.”

He brought two rosaries to touch to both relics, linking his own prayer life to the physical reality in which both saints lived.

Mr. Czarnecki was interested to learn about both men and found it intriguing that Blessed Carlo lived part of his life in this century.

“I know they were both promoters of belief in Christ’s presence in the Eucharist,” Mr. Czarnecki stated. “And I feel the same way. Because the Eucharist is at the center of our faith.”

“I think if people could



LEFT: A pilgrim prays in the presence of the relics on display July 12 in St. Patrick Church in Laurie.



RIGHT: Little hearts and the young-at-heart visited relics of St. Manuel González García and Blessed Carlo Acutis during a vigil on July 16 in the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

— Photo by Jay Nies

— Photo by Annie Williams

have a true understanding of the Eucharist, it would draw more people to the Church,” he said.

“The more I learn about it, the more I am drawn to it and the more I love the Catho-

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

lic Church because of it,” he added.

Present, future saints

Natalie Clark, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Edina and a student at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, was one of the young-adult missionaries traveling with the relics across the diocese.

“It’s been a very interesting experience,” she said. “It transforms the way you look at everybody you encounter, because we’re here with relics of two physical, real saints, who were of flesh and blood.”

“They’re tangible and they’re right in front of you,” she said.

She now counts Blessed Carlo and St. Manuel among her friends.

“We’re all called to sainthood, just like these real saints in front of us, and someday, we’re all going to be relics,” she

said.

She’s convinced that both men would want people to know that everyone was created for a specific purpose, and that God works through the gifts and desires he places in each person.

“Blessed Carlo’s passion was technology and electronics, and that’s where he found his ministry, using the internet, which can be such a force for evil, as a force for evangelization and for good,” she said.

Ms. Clark loves considering how St. Manuel, upon approaching the abandoned church and scattered people he was sent to serve “had to fight against every one of his instincts, telling him to run away.”

“His life calls us to dwell always and completely in Christ in every action that we do,” she said.

That necessity starts with the Eucharist, she noted, “but it continues with each person using the gifts he or she has been given to help build up the Body of Christ and make him present to all people.”

“A moving moment”

Forty-six parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County traveled to the July 11 vigil in Marshall.

“It was an amazing and memorable evening!” stated Jennifer Cordia, St. Vincent de Paul Parish’s communications secretary.

“It’s a great honor to have something like this take place in our diocese,” Linda Adams, a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, said during the vigil in Laurie the next day.

“I’ve been reading and watching and learning about the Eucharistic Revival for a while,” she stated. “I’m excited to see things starting to take root with it.”

Lisa Reinkemeyer, a member of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton, said she hopes the prayer vigils and talks on the Eucharist will help renew interest in Eucharistic Adoration in parishes throughout the diocese.

“It’s a great time to reinvigorate that,” she stated.

Kenny Davy and his parents, Kenny and Sunny Davy, stopped in Laurie on their way back to Ohio from visiting Doane University in Nebraska.

The younger Mr. Davy is preparing to serve as a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionary in Doane this fall.

“We stopped here as sort of a vacation, and we looked online for a church that has Ado-

ration,” the elder Mr. Davy noted.

The family saw the opportunity to take part in the prayer vigil as a gift from God.

“It’s been so much more than we expected,” said Mrs. Davy. “It’s been a very blessed day for us.”

The younger Mr. Davy said an important message he took from the vigil was to keep spending time with Christ in Adoration.

“That’s something the Lord really wants from us — to spend time with him and be truly present,” he said.

Other participants shared their enthusiasm online.

“It was truly a moving moment and so refreshing to see passion about the Eucharist coming alive,” Lori Oberndorfer, a parishioner of St. Patrick Parish in Laurie, stated on Facebook.

“I continue to pray that the belief of the True Presence within the Holy Eucharist increases,” she said. “May we continue to encourage reverence during the consecration and within the Sacred Union of Holy Mass.”

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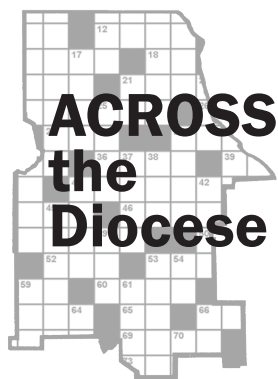
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By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. John J. Pershing is considered one of the most accomplished and celebrated American soldiers of the 20th century. After he led U.S. Forces in WW I, he was honored as the ____ ranking general in the history of the U.S. Army until his death in 1948.
7. In 1885, Pershing was promoted to 1st lieutenant & became one of the first white officers to ____ African-American soldiers in the 10th Cavalry, hence his nickname, "Black Jack" Pershing.
13. Honolulu's island.
14. To the n____ degree.
15. Letters on an airport airline schedule, perhaps.
16. "The ____ agent had teeth as white as piano keys. You could smell their arrogance." —*The Bourne Treachery*, Brian Freeman.
17. ____-gyn.
18. Alley ____; cartoon cave-man.
20. Conway ____; b. 1933, d. in 1993 in Springfield while on tour of a ruptured blood vessel; had 55 No. 1 hit singles, an astounding and singular achievement.
21. "Since ' ____ nature's law to change, constancy alone is strange," —English poet John Wilmot.
23. No runs, no hits, no ____.
25. Before entering West Point in 1882, Pershing taught African-American ____ at Prairie Mound school in Mo.
27. Mo. has 7,500 recorded ____, including Marvel, Meramec, Bridal, Mark Twain, Onondaga, Crevice, Stark, Crystal, Devil's Den, Devil's Icebox, etc., etc.
31. _____. Rev. Msgr.
32. Fast flier.
33. "Alaska is God's thumb-print. Alaskans refer to ____ where else as 'Outside.' —"Ketchikan, Alaska"; Charles Kuralt's America.
34. Measurements of electricity.
37. Prefix for new or view.
38. Pershing had a stern bearing and rigid ____ with all his troops. His determination and dedication gained him the respect and admiration of his men, if not their affection.
42. "The dispersed of Judah he shall assemble from the ____ corners of the earth," (Isaiah 11:12).
45. Sound of alarm or surprise.
46. A mafia member who is tasked to intimidate or harm others, perhaps.
47. In 1932, Pershing won the Pulitzer Prize for history for a ____ about his WW I experiences.
49. Krispy ____; a brand of doughnuts.
50. Country internet code for Netherlands Antilles.
51. In 1946, at 85 yrs. old, in his Walter Reed hospital apartment, he ____ married a woman he had met in Paris while in France. This lonely widower had exchanged love letters with her for over 30 years.
57. ____ Musee Louvre; The Louvre Museum.
58. Kin to Ave. or Ln.
59. In Greek mythology, the river of the Underworld.
60. Letters for the U.S. Geological Survey, which provides accurate scientific maps of the geology and topography of the U.S. This helps with earthquake detection, natural landscapes, built environment, etc. One of its long-standing facilities is in Rolla, Mo.
62. "The rebel Gen. Crittenden was in command and drunk. ____ he was an inveterate drunkard when in our army, I suppose the report is true," —*Troubled State [of Missouri], Civil War Journal of Franklin Archibald Dick*.
63. Bro's sib.
65. Cars.
68. Pershing was a mentor to a ____ of U.S. Army generals including George Patton, Dwight Eisenhower, George Marshall and (fellow Missourian) Omar Bradley.
72. City in Nevada.
73. "...praise and ____ him above all forever," (Daniel 3:57).
74. Yes in the Yucatan.
75. Along the way, Pershing had earned a law degree, taught

mathematics, invented an army exercise called "Jumping Jacks," formed a crack drill team that later became known as the Pershing ____, and taught fencing to future bestselling author Willa Cather among others.

DOWN

1. In the Roman Missal, at Mass, instructions to the priest after the words of consecration over the bread are: "He shows the consecrated ____ to the people..."
2. This border State of Mo. is the leading producer of pork in the U.S. (abbr.)
3. "It is a ____,' they said, and they cried out in fear," (Matthew 14:26).
4. What's all the ____bub about?
5. Pershing was born in Laclede, Mo. in 1860. When Pershing was 4 years old, Confederate bushwhackers were hunting his father who flew the Union flag over his general ____ in Laclede.
6. Third sorrowful mystery: the crowning with ____.
7. Letters for Common Era, often used instead of A.D.
8. ____; Mo.-based brand of salad dressing.
9. Throat or jaws of a voracious beast.
10. After WW I, Pershing became the only ____-duty six-star general in U.S. history. (George Washington was promoted posthumously in 1976 to what was called a six-star rank for the U.S. bicentennial.)
11. Egg of a head louse, as on human hair.
12. "This is the ____ the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." Many Christian musicians have composed songs based on this 24th verse of Psalm 118.
19. He hated KP duty, esp. scrubbing the ____ and pans.
22. Suffix for capital or social.
23. Actor Asner or newsman Bradley.
24. Q—U.
26. Letters for the U.S. Marine Corp.
27. Average grade.
28. Letters for audio-visual.
29. Comparative suffix.
30. Some short nicknames for Sylvester are Syl, Sly, or ____.
31. In 1898, Pershing led his 10th Cavalry up San Juan

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hill in the Spanish Am. War, alongside Teddy Roosevelt who was leading his "Rough ____." Roosevelt was very impressed with his gallantry. After Roosevelt became President, he promoted Pershing to brigadier general over 800 more senior officers.

34. "... ____ and you will receive..." (Luke 11:9).
35. Porky ____ of Looney Tunes.
36. He was a sore loser, a poor ____.
37. In the early 1900s, Pershing led U.S. troops against warring ____ in the Philippines. In 1915, he was reassigned to the Mexican border guarding against Pancho Villa. While there his wife and three daughters perished in a fire in San Francisco. A son survived. He never spoke of the deep anguish he felt at the loss.
39. Abbr. (id est) for "in other words."
40. ____ and behold!
41. " ____ dinky parlez vous"; chorus from the WW I era song Mademoiselle from Armentieres.
42. "Give us aid against the ____; worthless is human help," (Psalms 60:13).
43. Wyatt Earp had his shootout in Tombstone at the ____ Corral.
44. For ____; a sign seeking tenants.
48. "I am the Alpha and the ____..." (Revelations 1:8).
50. "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw ____ at her," —John 8:7 (2 wds.).
52. Area in England between London and the eastern coastline.
53. A Mark Twain House & Museum is located in Hartford in this State where he and his family lived from 1874-1891 (abbr.).
54. Possible two-letter ending for devil or rival.
55. Make a physical or mental effort.
56. "Blessed be God who lives forever, because his kingdom ____ for all ages," (Tobit 13:1).
60. Letters for United Services Org., the main charitable org. serving active-duty military members and families.
61. Beach board.
62. "The priest said his Catholic college students are struggling most with anxiety and low self-esteem. This is a symptom of our ____," —Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly.
64. "I could not be a John Paul _____. I was cut from a different cloth; I had a different sort of charisma, or rather a non-charisma," —*Last Testament*; Pope Benedict XVI.
66. ____ Aviv, Israel's largest city.
67. Distress letters.
69. Periodic table ltrs. for sodium.
70. ____ Puente; in English, The Bridge; org. to help Hispanics in the Jeff. City and surrounding areas.
71. On online auction sites, letters for No Reserve, meaning the seller has no minimum bid (reserve) on the item.

STEEPLE CHAPERS

From page 4

message including the names of other priests in the area who had been students under Bishop McKnight — whom he held in high regard as an instructor.

A local parishioner was just getting into her car when the group arrived at St. Mary Catholic Church, also in Huntington.

“She joined the group immediately and shared interesting stories of her church, including that it had one of only two stained-glass windows in the world depicting the Apostle John giving Holy Communion to Our Blessed Mother,” Mrs. Franken recounted.

She stayed and visited with the group.

“Neither of these people were scheduled to meet the Steeple Chasers,” Mrs. Franken noted.

“As a matter of fact, we had switched the trip schedule the night before, and the original plan would have prevented the group from meeting either of them,” she said.

Other interesting people included Father Kevin Mann of Canons Regular of St. John Cantius, parochial vicar of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Springfield, Illinois, who is a member of the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius.

He shared quite a bit of information with the Steeple Chasers during an impromptu meeting outside the church, while Mass was being celebrated in Spanish inside.

In South Bend, the group met another priest who came to unlock St. Stanislaus Church for them.

The rite stuff

South Bend is also where the group met Carl and Jane Littrell, who gave them a personal tour of University of Notre Dame campus, including the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Mr. Littrell grew up near Louisiana, Missouri, and his sis-

ter is a friend of Barbara Falotico, the organizer of this year’s trip.

He had attended Notre Dame, and he and Jane had many stories to share during the tour.

“His normal day to give tours at Notre Dame was Monday,” Mrs. Franken noted, “but he and his wife were excited to share our Tuesday morning with us.”

One of the many interesting churches scheduled for this trip was a Byzantine Catholic Church named in honor of St. Athanasius the Great.

A lady from the bakery behind the church came to guide the group on a tour.

She spoke at length of some of the differences between the Roman and the Byzantine rites — both of which are in communion with Rome.

After discussing the history of the church, the Byzantine liturgy, the icons and how the Sacraments are celebrated, she invited the ladies to visit the bakery.

The bakers volunteer there during the week, creating goodies to sell at a local market each Saturday, with the proceeds benefitting their tiny



This patriotic scene is rendered in stained glass in one of the windows in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois.



One of several Stations of the Cross images depicting soldiers on horses, found by Steeple Chasers in several churches on their recent trip.

— Photos by Helen Franken

church.

Conversation-starters

Although this year’s trip covered 1,254 miles in six days, praying the Rosary together each day, discussing the holy sites they had visited, the people they had encountered and the information they had acquired along the way made the time seem to fly by.

The Steeple Chasers travel as inexpensively as possible, taking along snacks to share as lunch along the way each day.

They stay at motels that offer complimentary breakfast, making the evening meal the only one that the group eats out.

This year, Barbara Falotico’s daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Chad Vanatta, provided their home as a “bed and breakfast” for two nights.

On this year’s trip, a woman they met wanted to know if the women were in a bowling league, because everyone had the same color.

“She thought our idea was neat after she read the shirt and had our explanation,” said Mrs. Franken.

Another lady approached them at their table at a restaurant one evening and asked about the Steeple Chasers, noting that she could not find anything about the group online.

“Many people have suggested a website or blog ... even a possible book of our adventures,” Mrs. Franken noted.

A gentleman they met in another restaurant suggested several churches the group should put on their next trip agenda.

New frontiers

People often ask the group’s members to disclose which church they’ve visited is their favorite.

“There is no possible answer to that,” said Mrs. Franken. “Our ancestors created beautiful places in which to worship, and we consider ourselves fortunate to be able to visit and share that beauty, perhaps worshipping in some small way with the people who built these testaments to our faith.”

She said the Steeple Chasers never know where next year’s trip will take them, but one thing is always certain.

“As long as we can physically do so, this group of ladies will be chasing steeples somewhere!”



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

Fundraisers & Social Events

Jul. 23

St. Elizabeth, St. Elizabeth community picnic, 11 am-6:30 pm

Jul. 30

Laurie, Benefit concert for Mary's Meals, with Joel Rosario-López, 5-7:30 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

Jul. 31

Jefferson City, Resurrection & St. Peter cemeteries Summer clean-up day

Aug. 1

Columbia, "An Evening of Story and Song," with Steve Angrisano, to benefit Mary's Meals, 6-8 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, to register for this free event, email lisageger@ourladyoflourdes.org

Aug. 6

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch Parish picnic, 11 am-6:30 pm; **Wien**, St. Mary of the Angels Parish picnic, 11 am-10 pm

Aug. 11

Jefferson City, St. Peter Par-

ish block party, 5-9 pm, parish campus

Aug. 10

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School Athletic Booster Club BBQ, 4-7 pm, Crusader Commons

Aug. 13

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

Aug. 20

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Meetings/ Workshops

Jul. 26

Columbia, Protecting God's Children for Adults (VIRTUS training), 7-9 pm, Sacred Heart Parish activity building

Jul. 27

Westphalia, Protecting God's Children for Adults (VIRTUS training), 6-8 pm, St. Joseph Parish

Jul. 30

Jefferson City, Jefferson City Diocese Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral

Musicians Cathedral tour and potluck dinner, 3:30-6:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or to sign-up, email JeffersonCityMO@npm.org

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

julio 22

Sedalia, Retiro de Vida en el Espíritu para Niños (7-11 años), 9 am-3 pm, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

julio 24

Lake Ozark, Protección de los niños de Dios para adultos, sesión de VIRTUS en español para empleados y voluntarios, 6-8 pm, Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Lago

julio 29

Sedalia, Convivio Diocesano RCC, Bothwell Park, 2 pm, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

julio 30

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

agosto 5

Sedalia, Retiro para Preparación de Quinceañera, 9 am-3 pm, San Patricio, para más información contacte el equipo de quinceañera de su parroquia; **Sedalia**, Planificación Familiar Natural — Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Parroquia San Patricio, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Diácono Enrique o Crithia Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

agosto 11

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

agosto 20

Sedalia, Retiro Parroquial: Buena Administración, 9

am-5 pm, San Patricio, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

agosto 25-27

Carthage, Mo., Encuentro Regional, Congregación of the Mother of the Redeemer, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

agosto 26

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

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Friday

Jefferson City, Centering Prayer Group, Immaculate Conception Parish, 11 am-noon

Liturgical

Aug. 8

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

Youth & Young Adults

First Wednesdays each month

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

Third Sundays each month

Jefferson City, Young Adult Mass, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Nov. 16-19

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

Health & Wellness

Aug. 7

Laurie, Blood drive, noon-5 pm, St. Patrick Parish's St. Leo Hall

Federal death penalty ban reintroduced in Congress

OSV News

Washington, D.C.

A bill to ban the use of capital punishment by the federal government was reintroduced in Congress, facing steep odds for passage.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who is also Senate majority whip and chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; and Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., reintroduced July 13 their bill, the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act, bicameral legislation that would prohibit the use of the death penalty at the federal level and require re-sentencing for those individuals currently on death row.

In a statement, Durbin called the death penalty "deeply flawed and disproportionately imposed on Black and Brown and low-income people in America."

Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network, a national Catholic organization working to end the death penalty and one of the groups supporting the bill, said in a statement that if passed, the bill "would eradicate the flawed and morally bankrupt federal death penalty system."



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Cemetery Clean-Up

Monday, July 31, will be the SUMMER CEMETERY CLEAN-UP at Resurrection and St. Peter Cemeteries in Jefferson City. **It is suggested that all patrons have their floral and/or decorations removed prior to 8 a.m. All items may be replaced after 5 p.m.** NOTE: Saddles or flowers in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed.



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

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

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

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius

Rick & Laure Falter, 45 years
Frank Neutzler & Aggie Steinman, 15 years

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception

John & Kay Osterman, 50 years
Lee & Melinda Wilbeck, 25 years
Christopher & Samantha McCoy, 10 years

Holts Summit, St. Andrew

Thomas & Jeanne Ferris, 30 years

Salisbury, St. Joseph

Bob & Donece Henke, 50 years

Vandalia, Sacred Heart

Norman & Andrea McBride, 20 years

Baptisms

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Hailey Carr**, daughter of Barkley & Meghan Carr

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Hattie Jane Wildhaber**, daughter of Brent & Christy Wildhaber

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Vincent**

Paul Boillot, son of Nicholas & Madelyn Boillot; **Hannah Ann**

Massman, daughter of Zachary & Kerry Massman; **Madelyn Christine**

Neuner, daughter of Cole & Lindsay Neuner

Marriages

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Holly Knaebel & Brent Thomas**

Deaths

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Sally Mills**

Hermann, St. George — **William Fischer**

Meta, St. Cecilia — **Roger Borgmeyer**

Elections

Jefferson City, Knights of Columbus

Dan C. Coppin Fourth Degree

Assembly — officers for the 2023-

24 Fraternal Year: **Joe Schaefer**,

faithful navigator; **Father**

Richard Frank, faithful friar; **Mike**

Flanagan, faithful captain; **Doug**

Smentkowski, faithful pilot; **Rich**

Anderson, faithful comptroller; **Scott**

Sellner, faithful scribe; **Gary Meyer**,

faithful purser; **Alan Mengwasser**,

Sam Orr, sentinels; **Mark Rehagen**,

faithful admiral; **Mark Rehagen**, **Vic**

Rackers, **Brent Cain**, trustees; **Scott**

Sellner, Honor Guard coordinator

Honors

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph

— **Tony & Charlotte Wening**, with

the AARP 2023 Chapter & REA Unity

Community Service Award for their

outstanding service to AARP and

efforts to improve their community

Ad multos annos



Members of Brunswick native Benedictine Father Kenneth Reichert's family join him for a 90th birthday celebration at Conception Abbey in northwestern Missouri on July 9.

SILECCHIA

From page 9

us each time we hear them because our hearts are different each time and may be open to learning something new.

Communal prayers, like the Stations of the Cross in Lent, a Rosary in May, or the words of a familiar parish Novena also have a different meaning each time if we are open to the unique graces they may hold at different stages of our lives.

A private prayer can also seem routine and familiar, as we repeatedly plead for the same things, express gratitude for the same things, or express sorrow for the same things. Yet, perhaps over time these same prayers are said with more patience, greater enthusiasm, or deeper sincerity as the years go by. Unknowingly, repeated prayers can change our hearts.

The rituals of a wedding or a funeral or a Baptism seem the same. Yet, the bonds we have with the couple uniting

their lives, the soul commended to God's care, or the infant joining the family all make the familiar blessedly brand new.

The heart of the Mass, too, is familiar enough that sometimes without care it can become habit rather than miracle.

Perhaps, then, there is a wisdom is seeking the insights, grace and adventure that come from re-reading life and seeing in the familiar all that is new, in the consistent all that has changed, and in what is ancient all the insights unseen.

Enjoy the re-reads, as life unfolds in ordinary times.

Lucia A. Silecchia is Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Research at the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law. "On Ordinary Times" is a biweekly column reflecting on the ways to find the sacred in the simple. Email her at silecchia@cua.edu.

PROCESSION

From page 8

She hopes that the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage connecting with the Quincy pilgrimage in 2024 will express the Church's unity around the Eucharist, noting that Fr. Tolton himself "was a unifier."

"What else brings us together as a church but the Eucharist?" Jennings asked.

Where all roads lead

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage includes four routes beginning May 17-19, 2024, from different points in the U.S. Pilgrims on those routes will converge in Indianapolis July 16, 2024, ahead of the five-day National Eucharistic Congress.

The congress event is the pinnacle of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops underway.

Will Peterson, founder and president of Modern Catholic Pilgrim, the St. Paul, Minnesota-based nonprofit organizing the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, said Fr. Tolton is the first of the "Saintly Six" — referring to the Black American Catholics on the path to canonization — officially to be linked geographically to the national pilgrimage.

He hopes others will be as well, as the routes are expected to pass through Baltimore; New Orleans; and La Crosse, Wisconsin — places connected, respectively, to Mother Mary Lange, Sister Henriette Delille and Sister Thea Bowman, whose causes are in various stages.

All four of the national routes are under a saint's patronage, and pilgrims traveling them are scheduled to visit

saints' shrines along their way to Indianapolis.

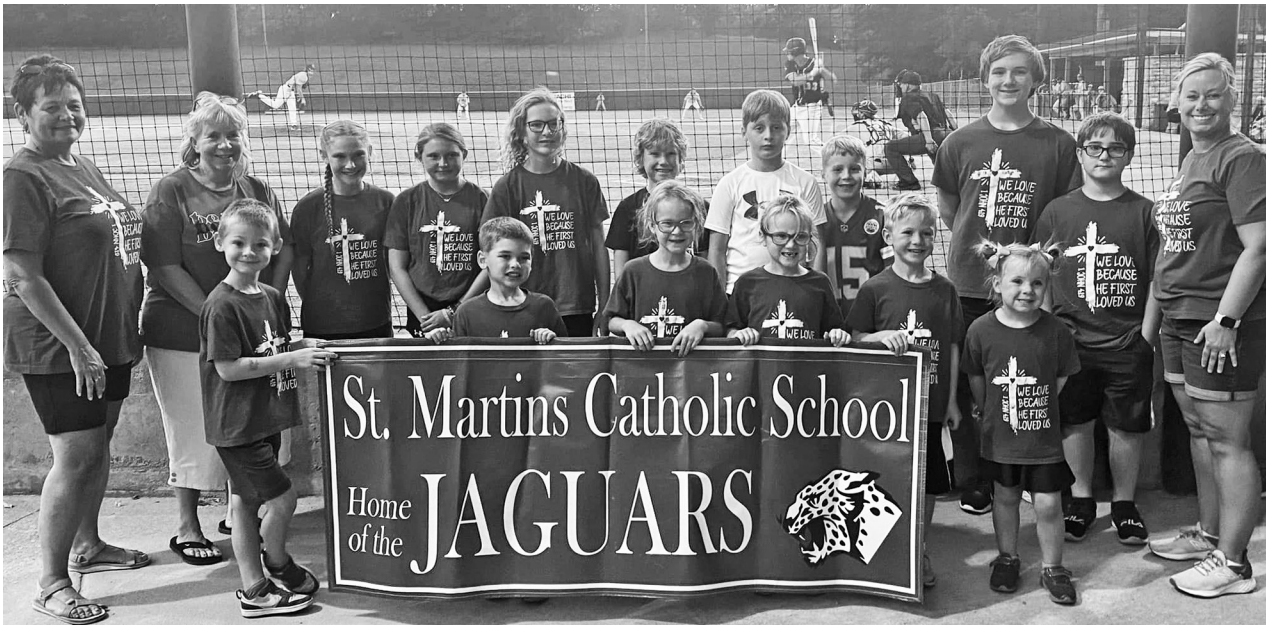
While each route will include "perpetual pilgrims" who will cover the entire distance, organizers anticipate Catholics will join those pilgrims for hours, days or weeks as they pass through dioceses across the country.

"It seems providential that we could be in this area, and it just aligns with what we're trying to do: engage with each diocese along each route with how they see the (National Eucharistic) Revival working within their diocese," Peterson said of connecting with the Fr. Tolton pilgrimage. "We're excited to be able to support the local church and to honor our saintly leaders of the Church."

Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News.

Crossword puzzle answers

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



Take me out to the ballgame!

Children from St. Martin Parish in St. Martins support the Red Slipper Warrior project and sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at the Jefferson City Renegade's baseball game July 14.

— Photo from the St. Martin Catholic Parish Facebook page

Swinkey Days for Kids



A few of the more than 175 children of all religious faiths, ages 4 and up, take part in St. Stephen Parish's Swinkey Days for Kids, July 10-12 in Indian Creek.

— Photos from the St. Stephen Catholic Church Facebook page

Chasing their sorrows away



"Created in Christ and Designed for Gods Purpose!" was the theme for Church of the Risen Savior Parish's Vacation Bible School at Valentine Hall in Starkenburg. Participants sang, crafted, played games, listened to God's word and made lots of memories. — Photos from the Church of the Risen Savior Facebook page

Bible Accent

During their 40-year journey in the desert, the Israelites not only argued with Moses about food but also about water.

In Exodus 17, we read that the Israelites left the desert of Sin and journeyed to a place called Rephidim.

Since there was no water there, the Israelites began to quarrel with Moses.

“Give us water to drink,” they demanded.

“Why do you quarrel with me?” Moses answered. “Why do you put the Lord to a test?”

The people grumbled against Moses.

“Why then did you bring us up out of Egypt? To have us die of thirst with our children and our livestock?” they complained.

Moses cried out to God.

“What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!” he said.

God told Moses to take some of the elders of Israel and go ahead of the people. God also told him to hold in his hand the staff he had used to strike the Nile.

“I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb,” God said. “Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.”

Moses did as God said, and water began to flow from the rock.

St. John Eudes

St. John Eudes was born in France in 1601, and he was ordained an Oratorian priest in 1623. He spent 20 years preaching the basics of the faith across northern France, and he also served the sick during epidemics of the plague. In 1643, he and some friends founded a new congregation devoted to training priests. The Congregation of Jesus and Mary, also called Eudists, was reconstituted after the French Revolution and today specializes in secondary education. He also helped spread devotion to the Sacred Heart and was the first to call for an official feast day. John died in 1680, and we remember him on Aug. 19.



God gives the Israelites manna and quail to eat

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

On the 15th day of the second month after God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the people came to the desert of Sin, which was between Elim and Sinai.

The people began to grumble against Moses and his brother, Aaron.

“Would that we had died at the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread!” they complained. “But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!”

God heard the complaining and spoke to Moses.

“I will now rain down bread from heaven for you,” God told Moses. “Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not. On the sixth day, however, when they prepare what they bring in, let it be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

Moses turned to Aaron.

“Tell the whole congregation of the children of Israel: Present yourselves before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling,” Moses told his brother.

When Aaron announced this to the whole assembly, the people turned toward the desert.

That’s when they saw the glory of God appear in a cloud.

“I have heard the grumbling



Illustration by Linda Rivers

of the children of Israel,” God said to Moses. “Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the Lord, am your God.”

In the evening, quail came up and covered the camp.

In the morning, a dew lay all about the camp. When the dew evaporated, fine flakes like frost covered the surface of the ground.

“What is this?” the Israelites asked one another.

“This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat,” Moses said. “Let no one leave any of it over until morning.”

Morning after morning, the Israelites gathered the manna, as much as each needed to eat. But when the sun grew hot, it melted away.

Read more about it...

Exodus 16


1. What did the Israelites complain about?
2. What food did God give the Israelites?



What did manna taste like?
(Hint: Exodus 16:31)

Answer: Waters made with honey.

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Puzzle

Using the hints provided, put a T next to the sentences about Moses and the Israelites that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.

1. ___ If manna was kept until morning, it became moldy. (Exodus 16:20)
2. ___ No manna came from heaven on the Sabbath. (Exodus 16:25)
3. ___ The Israelites ate manna for 35 years. (Exodus 16:35)
4. ___ While in Rephidim, the Israelites fought against Amalek’s people. (Exodus 17:9)

Answers: 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T

“The Miracle Club” offers ‘modest, character-driven,’ path to forgiveness

Reviewed by John Mulderig
OSV News

New York

A pilgrimage to Lourdes provides the framework for the tender drama “The Miracle Club” (Sony Classics). By turns humorous and touching, director Thaddeus O’Sullivan’s delicate film will appeal to grown-ups and perhaps mature teens. But it’s neither aimed at nor suitable for kids.

In a hardscrabble neighborhood of 1967 Dublin, best friends Lily (Maggie Smith) and Eileen (Kathy Bates) excitedly prepare to journey to the sacred destination in the company of a third pal, Dolly (Agnes O’Casey).

Dolly is hoping that the trip will cure the mysterious muteness of her young son, Daniel (Eric D. Smith), while Eileen is secretly worried about a lump on her breast.

The dynamics of their expedition are suddenly transformed, however, by the unexpected — and initially unwelcome — return of Chrissie (Laura Linney), a former member of the main duo’s social circle who’s been absent in America for 40 years.

Chrissie’s reappearance has been prompted by the death of her estranged mother, with whom both Lily and Eileen were close.

The reasons for Chrissie’s exile are not immediately made clear, though a connection to the long-ago drowning death of Lily’s son, Declan, is apparent.

Despite the fact that Lily and Eileen continue to shun



Laura Linney and Maggie Smith in a scene from “The Miracle Club” released by Sony Classics and opening in U.S. theaters on July 14, 2023.

— OSV News photo/courtesy Sony Classics

her, Chrissie decides to join the tour to France which is to be presided over by Father Dermot (Stephen Rea), the wise and sympathetic, if not very forceful, local cleric.

What follows is a sensitive exploration of tragedy and spiritual healing as long-festered emotional wounds are laid bare and the possibilities of reconciliation and renewed relationships examined.

Although the confessions of wrongdoing required to restore harmony and peace of mind are interpersonal, rather than sacramental, they are positive examples of moral honesty.

Questions are briefly raised in the dialogue about the authenticity of the apparitions to St. Bernadette Soubirous and the miracles attributed to Our Lady of Lourdes, and such skepticism may grate on believers’ nerves.

They may also wince at the repetition of an all-too-common Irish expletive that

at least approximates misuse of the Lord’s name.

As for viewers focused on the effectiveness of the tale, as penned by Jimmy Smallhorne, Timothy Prager and Joshua D. Maurer, they may feel it takes too easy a shortcut to forgiveness. Yet, in the age of the three-hour comic book adaptation, there’s something to be said for a modest, character-driven movie that comes full circle in a mere 90 minutes.

The film contains mature themes, including abortion, one direct and several oblique profanities, a rough term and occasional crude and crass language.

The OSV News classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned.

John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News.

On air

Mustard Seed
Sunday Scripture readings
and reflections

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

EWTN and other
Catholic programming
Covenant Radio Network
broadcasts

KHJR 88.1 FM, Jefferson City
KBKC 90.1 FM, Moberly
KEFL 91.5 FM, Kirksville
94.7 FM, Columbia
103.3 FM, Fulton
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

Movie Ratings



Adults and
Adolescents

Elemental (PG)

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13)

Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (PG-13)

Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (PG-13)



Adults

Asteroid City (PG-13)

The Blackening (R)

The Flash (PG-13)

Insidious: The Red Door (PG-13)

The Miracle Club (PG-13)

Padre Pio (R)

Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken (PG)

Sound of Freedom (PG-13)

Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse (PG)



Morally
Offensive

Joy Ride (R)

No Hard Feelings (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

Dawn Marie Beutner’s vast new work reveals hidden lives of the saints

By Kevin Wandra

Carmel Communications

San Francisco

The great Communion of Saints is a huge part of the lives of Catholics, but many don’t know that there are saints from every background, ethnicity, vocation, country and demographic just waiting to be discovered to help people on Earth who want to imitate holiness and get to heaven.

The Leaven of the Saints: Bringing Christ into A Fallen World (Ignatius Press), by Dawn Marie Beutner, seeks to connect those saints to Catholics searching for intercessors and real, holy people to whom they are able to relate.

Beutner entered the Catholic Church as a young adult and worked as an engineer before becoming a technical writer. She lives with her husband and two children in northern Virginia, where she leads various parish groups that promote life issues, serve the needy and learn about the Bible and the Catholic faith.

The saints have come from every background, people and era. They have been rich and poor, healthy and sick, single and married, members of the

clergy and of the laity. *The Leaven of the Saints* groups them according to the kind of Christian witness they have given the world — as martyrs, Fathers and Doctors of the Church, priests and religious, popes and bishops, national heroes, founders of religious orders, married persons and more.

Every reader will find at least one saint within the pages of *The Leaven of the Saints* with whom they can relate in some way and be inspired to follow Christ more closely because of their example.

“Amidst the demands of life and the experience of our own weaknesses, great sanctity can seem remote, even impossible to many people,” said Dominican Father Sebastian White, editor-in-chief of *Magnificat*. “Fortunately, Dawn Beutner has written a book which reminds us daily that it is God who makes saints through his grace and love. And if God has already transformed so many witnesses of his Son’s redemptive love in the world, can’t he do the same for us?”

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EDITOR

From page 6

He believes these stories “challenge us to get better at recognizing heroic virtue as it’s being lived out among us, possibly by people so far out on the margins that we don’t even notice them.”

Collaborative mission

The past decade saw Mr. Nies cover a historic transition in our diocese, with the retirement of the Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos and the subsequent ordination of Bishop McKnight.

As editor, Mr. Nies must maintain open communication with his bishop, who is publisher of *The Catholic Missourian*.

He tries to ensure that his journalistic decisions don’t run contrary to his bishop’s perspective.

He also works closely with his colleagues in the Communications Office to help support important diocesan initiatives.

“Catholic journalism is even more important today than when Jay started working for *The Catholic Missourian* 25 years ago, and Jay’s body of work illustrates why,” said Helen Osman, who served as diocesan director of communications through 2021 and continues to serve as a consultant.

“While he covers the work of the clergy and the Chancery, the stories that really change hearts and minds are those about everyday Catholics who are practicing their faith in extraordinary ways,” she stated. “Jay manages to bring these unsung heroes into readers’ hearts and imaginations in a way that really builds communion. Jay understands storytelling in an intuitive way that is really rare — and I say that having seen the work of Catholic journalists around the world! He’s a real treasure, and the local church of the Diocese of Jefferson City is blessed to have him.”

Sacred pilgrimage

Having written thousands of articles, Mr. Nies acknowledges that the puzzle pieces of a good narrative aren’t always easy to put together.

Some stories are mathematic — the formula is there, you just need to fill in the blanks. Others are like searching in the dark until inspiration finally strikes

— often in the heat of an approaching deadline.

Either way, he says he always tries to find a sense of beauty in the subjects he illuminates through his writing.

“That’s what I like about our Liturgy. That’s what I like about our Scriptures,” he said. “There’s something in the language that elevates it. I like that. It’s something you can aim for.”

Those who have followed his writing appreciate the depth of understanding that Mr. Nies brings to his craft.

“Jay has a great sense of history and a passion for learning,” said Mark Saucier, *Catholic Missourian* columnist and former diocesan missions and communications director.

“As a journalist, he is not just a storyteller, but an educator,” said Mr. Saucier. “Seldom will anyone read one of Jay’s articles and not learn something new — and not just some tangential fact, but something about a person or event that contributes to a fuller understanding and appreciation.”

“We kid him sometimes about the length of his articles,” Mr. Saucier noted, “but we must realize how difficult brevity is for one who sees the vast interconnectedness of everything over time. I don’t know of anyone who has given more to their mission or sought less personal attention in doing so. We should all be grateful for the many gifts Jay has brought to *The Catholic Missourian* and to the people of this diocese.”

Looking back, Mr. Nies likened his work as a Catholic reporter to being on a “sacred pilgrimage” with his readers.

“I get to be right here with them, learning new things and discovering new ways to get closer to God,” he said. “I get to go to Mass and attend events with them and share some of their experiences.”

“God ministers to me through people I interact with in this work, often in ways I don’t notice right away,” he said. “Looking back especially at times of darkness and confusion, I recognize people who said and did things that permanently altered my approach to this life and gave me a new kind of hope for what is to come in

the next.”

Having now crossed the milestone of stewarding *The Catholic Missourian* for 25 years, Mr. Nies gave special thanks to Associate Editor and Advertising Coordinator Kelly Martin. Mrs. Martin and Mr. Nies have been working together on the paper since 2003.

He praised how Mrs. Martin makes the paper consistently better through her design work as well as her proofreading of stories and layouts, often on very tight deadlines.

“Jay is certainly a talented writer, but it’s his capacity to accentuate the faith in every piece he writes. His knowledge on the subject at hand is second only to the eloquence in his writings. I liken him to a masterful artist — painting with both broad strokes and a fine-tip brush to create a beautifully blended work of art,” Mrs. Martin remarked.

He’s also very grateful to his girlfriend, Mary Koeneman, for her patience, encouragement and daily prayer support, and to his parents and siblings.

Looking ahead, Mr. Nies said he has high hopes for the future — and he continues to ask for God’s blessings:

“I hope we can keep opening doors of engagement between our readers and the leaders of the Church. I want people to stay curious and open to learning about the history, common experiences and the revealed, objective truth that unites us as Catholic followers of Christ.

“I want the Catholics here to have a steady current of content that can lift up their minds and souls and focus their gaze on Christ. I want to help bring clarity to things that cause confusion and unnecessary division. I want to help people look for ways to lead their families and friends and everyday acquaintances into deeper communion with their Maker.

“More than anything else, I want to be in heaven with all of them someday and hopefully hear all of the stories that I missed during our time here together.”

Mr. Luecke is director of communications for the Jefferson City diocese.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jul 23

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Wis. 12:13, 16-19
Ps. 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
Rom. 8:26-27
Mt. 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Monday, Jul 24

St. Sharbel Makhluf, priest
Ex. 14:5-18
(Ps.) Ex. 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6
Mt. 12:38-42

Tuesday, Jul 25

St. James, Apostle
2 Cor. 4:7-15
Ps. 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6
Mt. 20:20-28

Wednesday, Jul 26

Ss. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ex. 16:1-5, 9-15
Ps. 78:18-19, 23-28
Mt. 13:1-9

Thursday, Jul 27

Ex. 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b
(Ps.) Dn. 3:52-56
Mt. 13:10-17

Friday, Jul 28

Ex. 20:1-17
Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 11
Mt. 13:18-23

Saturday, Jul 29

Ss. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Ex. 24:3-8
Ps. 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15
Jn. 11:19-27 or Lk. 10:38-42

Sunday, Jul 30

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
1 Kgs. 3:5, 7-12
Ps. 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130
Rom. 8:28-30
Mt. 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Monday, Jul 31

St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest
Ex. 32:15-24, 30-34
Ps. 106:19-20, 21-22, 23
Mt. 13:31-35

Tuesday, Aug 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor of the Church
Ex. 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28
Ps. 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13
Mt. 13:36-43

Wednesday, Aug 2

St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop; St. Peter Julian Eymard, priest
Ex. 34:29-35
Ps. 99:5, 6, 7, 9
Mt. 13:44-46

Thursday, Aug 3

Ex. 40:16-21, 34-38
Ps. 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11
Mt. 13:47-53

Friday, Aug 4

St. John Vianney, priest
Lv. 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37
Ps. 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab
Mt. 13:54-58

Saturday, Aug 5

The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major
Lv. 25:1, 8-17
Ps. 67:2-3, 5, 7-8
Mt. 14:1-12

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for July:

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

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Immaculate Heart of Mary Child Development Center open house, blessing dates set

DATE: Jul. 30, 1-3 pm
Open House
Aug. 6, 1-3 pm
Blessing & Reception

The public is invited to two events at Immaculate Heart of Mary Child Development Center, 601 Scott Station Road in Jef-

erson City.

An open house will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 30, giving people a chance to visit the center and meet the staff.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will bless the center at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6, followed by a reception with cookies and punch until 3 p.m.

Scheduled to open on Aug. 7, the center will provide affordable childcare for infants and very young

children of diocesan employees as well as employees of parishes and schools of the diocese.

Its primary focus will be on helping to attract and retain teachers to work in Catholic schools.



Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools, at 573-635-9127, for information.

Concerts to benefit Mary's Meals

DATE: Jul. 30, Aug. 1
TIME: 6 pm

Two concerts will be held to raise money for Mary's Meals, a program which feeds more than 2.4 million children each day in 18 countries around the world.

Free-will donations will be accepted at both events.

LAURIE — Joel Rosario-López will perform an evening of story and song on Sunday, July 30, at the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, 176 Marian Drive in Laurie (mothersshrine.com).

Food trucks will be available from 5 to 6 p.m. at the concert site, and the concert will start at 6 p.m.

For information on the concert, contact Linda at 573-374-7855 or Heather at 573-374-MARY (6279).

COLUMBIA — Catholic composer and musician Steve Angrisano will offer an evening of story and song from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1, in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive in Columbia.

Dinner and desserts will be available for purchase.

By embracing the passionate message of faith, hope and love woven throughout his music and storytelling for all ages, Mr. Angrisano helps Mary's Meals by providing his talents to create more awareness of serving the poorest of poor in our global community.

To register for this event contact Lisa at lisageger@ourladyoflourdes.org.

Mary's Meals helps support families struggling to feed their children while boosting the country's wider economy.

These life-changing meals bring hungry children into the classroom, providing physical nourishment so they have the energy and opportunity to learn and giving them the chance of a brighter future.

For more information about Mary's Meals contact Michelle at michelle.keller@marysmeals.org.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 6
DINNERS SERVED 11 AM - 2 PM
ADULTS \$15 / KIDS 4-10 \$6
KIDS 3 AND UNDER FREE
FRIED CHICKEN - ROAST BEEF
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY - DRESSING
SLAW - TOMATOES - GREEN BEANS - CORN
HOMEMADE BREAD - PIE - CAKE - TEA - COFFEE
RIBEYE STEAK SANDWICHES 1 PM UNTIL SOLD OUT
GAMES FOR ALL AGES: BALL THROW - DUCK POND, KIDDIE RIDES - GRAB BAG, MONEY PITCH - WHEEL, TURTLE RACES
COUNTRY STORE: HAMBURGERS - SODA, SNO-CONES - ICE CREAM
4TH ANNUAL CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT: BRING YOUR TEAM - STARTS AT 4 PM

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