

## Life high the cross!

Father Paul Clark blesses and rededicates the refurbished and expanded “Crucifix Entrance” to Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. The massive crucifix is an important reminder.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

September 15, 2023 • Vol. 67 No. 6

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Campers learn Fr. Tolton’s story through mother’s voice



*“Soon, I will be done with the troubles of this world! I am goin’ home to live with my Lord.”*

By Jay Nies

Through the mind of a historian and the heart of a mom, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton’s heroic virtues were given a full hearing before the children at a camp bearing his name.

Professional storyteller Mett Morris, formerly of Quincy, Illinois, reprised her popular role as Martha Jane Tolton, mother of the Roman Catholic Church’s first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

She broke into hymns and spirituals while sharing Martha Jane’s story of growing up enslaved, being separated from her parents, falling in love with and marrying a man from a neighboring farm in northeastern Missouri, and risking her life to gain freedom for her children.

She passionately proclaimed how prayer, perseverance and help from many friends allowed her second-oldest son to answer his fervent call to Priesthood.

“He wanted to preach and praise God and help people,” Martha Jane told the children through Mrs. Morris.

She strode back and forth before the fireplace in the main hall of the Camp Jo-Ota Camping and Retreat Center in Clarence, casting glances at heaven and off into the distance.

The children’s eyes followed as her character spoke of having children, raising them in the Catholic faith, and deciding to escape with them to Illinois to avoid the risk of having the family broken up.

She recounted with wonder how

Professional storyteller Mett Morris of Chicago speaks to young people in the character of Martha Jane Tolton (1827-1911), mother of Missouri native Venerable Father Augustus Tolton (1854-1897), the Roman Catholic Church’s first recognizably Black priest in the U.S., during Camp Tolton at Camp Jo-Ota Camping and Retreat Center in Clarence on July 29. — Photo by Jay Nies

## New Catholic Charities executive director is driven by passion to serve God and his people

By Jay Nies

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri’s new executive director is deeply driven to uphold the dignity of every human person.

The diversity and inclusion she witnessed in action during her first visit helped convince her that this is where God wants her to be.

“One of the things I’m very passionate about is embracing diversity — letting people see that they belong,” said Litz Main, who will become the new leader of Catholic Charities in this diocese on Sept. 18.

“Not just among the staff but also the neighbors we serve — there is a lot of diversity to embrace, and respecting those differences and understanding that we don’t have to be the same in order to work toward the same goals,” she said.

Ms. Main brings not only an impressive resume to the job but a demonstrated enthusiasm for being Catholic and for

serving God and other people.

“That’s who I am,” she said. “I think it’s part of growing up Catholic. Serving was always a common denominator for every member of my family.”

She sees her work for Catholic Charities — first in southwestern Ohio and now here in Missouri — as a calling from God.

“I’m going where he’s leading,” she said. “I’m okay with God making me a little uncomfortable in order to carry out his plan for me.”

### Family values

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) is the charitable arm of the Jefferson City diocese.

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CAMP TOLTON, page 15

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### Finance Manager



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a Finance Manager to assist the Chief Financial Officer with overseeing and supervising the day-to-day functions of the Finance Office. This individual will oversee the accounting of multiple entities, including but not limited to general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, budgeting, banking and cash receipts. Additional duties include providing support to parishes and assisting with the diocesan investment platforms, oversight of the risk management program and annual external audits.

Bachelor's degree, preferably in accounting, finance or business administration, plus three to five years' experience in a multi-faceted accounting role. Non-profit fund accounting is preferred. Experience with Sage accounting system is a plus, but not required.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply on **Indeed.com** or send resume to [hrdir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:hrdir@diojeffcity.org).

### 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](mailto:HRDir@diojeffcity.org).

## Decree Of Appointments



*The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, hereby makes the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:*

**PRIESTS**

**Reverend Monsignor Gregory L. Higley**, acknowledging with gratitude the completion of his term of office as Judicial Vicar upon the expiration of the dispensation granted by the Apostolic Signatura as of Oct. 6, 2023, continuing as Judge in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Jefferson City and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia.

**Very Reverend Roberto M. Ike, PhD**, granting his request for a sabbatical with Lincoln University and a leave of absence from all diocesan service, effective Oct. 9, 2023, and until January 2024, at which time he will resume his duties as Dean of Mission Priests and receive a new parish assignment.

**Reverend César Anicama**, from Associate Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Pettis County, to Associate Pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish, Kirksville, with sacramental ministry at St. Mary Parish, Milan and the Mission of St. Mary, Unionville, effective Oct. 16, 2023.

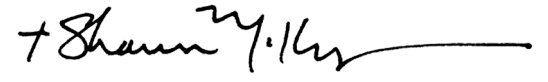
**Reverend Brad T. Berhorst, JCL**, from Adjutant

Judicial Vicar to Judicial Vicar for a term of three years, effective Oct. 7, 2023; and from Associate Pastor of St. Peter Parish, Jefferson City to Associate Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul

Parish, Pettis County, continuing as the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies, effective Oct. 16, 2023.

**Reverend Simeon A. Etonu**, to temporary Parochial Administrator of St. Andrew Parish, Holts Summit, continuing as Advocate in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Jefferson City, effective Oct. 9, 2023.

Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City this 7th day of September in the Year of our Lord 2023



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



Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL  
Chancellor

### 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.

Qualified candidates will be asked to complete a skills test online. The employer offers a full range of benefits including medical, dental, vision, life and long-term disability, plus a matching 403b plan.

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*"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."*  
— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight**  
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# Official Notice of Appointments

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

### PRIESTS

**Rev. Monsignor Marion J. Makarewicz, VF**, reappointed to the Diocesan School Advisory Council, effective Aug. 2, 2023.

**Reverend R. William Peckman**, appointed to the Diocesan School Advisory Council, effective Aug. 2, 2023.

**Rev. Monsignor Robert A.**

**Kurwicky, V.G.**, appointed to the College of Consultors, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

**Rev. Monsignor Gregory L. Higley**, appointed to the College of Consultors, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

**Rev. Monsignor David D. Cox**, appointed to the College of Consultors, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

**Rev. Monsignor Marion J. Makarewicz, VF**, appointed to the College of Consultors, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

**Very Reverend Christopher L. Cordes**, appointed to

the College of Consultors, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

**Very Reverend P. Gregory Oligschlaeger, VF**, appointed to the College of Consultors, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

**Very Reverend Jason T. Doke, S.T.L., VF**, appointed to the College of Consultors, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

**Reverend Michael W. Penn**, appointed to the College of Consultors, effective Sept. 1, 2023.

### LAITY

**Ms. Gina Bailey**, appointed to the Diocesan Retirement Committee, effective July 1, 2023.

**Mr. Craig Husting**, appointed to the Diocesan Retirement Committee, effective July 1, 2023.

**Mr. Tim Peters**, appointed to the Diocesan Retirement Committee, effective July 1, 2023.

**Mr. Ron Vossen**, appointed to the Diocesan Retirement Committee, effective July 1, 2023.

**Mr. Anthony Arnold**, appointed to the Diocesan School Advisory Council, effective Aug. 2, 2023.

**Ms. Connie Hesse**, reappointed to the Diocesan School Advisory Council, effective Aug. 2, 2023.

**Mrs. Angela Kolb**, reappointed to the Diocesan School Advisory Council, effective Aug. 2, 2023.

**Mr. Alan Lammers**, reappointed to the Diocesan School Advisory Council, effective Aug. 2, 2023.

**Ms. Erin Polson**, appointed to the Diocesan School Advisory Council, effective Aug. 2, 2023.

**Mrs. Kelly Rohrbach**, reappointed to the Diocesan School Advisory Council, effective Aug. 2, 2023.

**Mr. Robert Hackman**, appointed Executive Secretary of

the Diocesan Finance Council, effective Aug. 17, 2023.

**Ms. Barbara Reichart**, reappointed to the Diocesan Finance Council, effective Aug. 17, 2023.

**Mr. Matthias Tolksdorf**, reappointed to the Diocesan Finance Council, effective Aug. 17, 2023.

**Ms. Arlene Vogel**, reappointed to the Diocesan Finance Council, effective Aug. 17, 2023.

From the Office of the Chancellor,



**Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL**  
Chancellor

## Pray for deceased priests

- Sept. 17 — **Fr. Anthony J. Grellner**, Chaplain, St. Joseph Home, Jefferson City (1982)
- Sept. 20 — **Fr. Erwin R. Konrad**, St. Peter, Jefferson City (2013)
- Sept. 21 — **Fr. Raymond F. Weis**, Holy Spirit, Centralia (1979)
- Sept. 23 — **Fr. Joseph J. Wilberding**, St. Boniface, Brunswick (1980)
- Sept. 28 — **Fr. Joseph P. O'Rourke**, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Anthony (1973)
- Sept. 30 — **Fr. Herman J. Mayer**, St. Lawrence, St. Elizabeth (1959)



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

- Sep 15-17** Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Annual Meeting and Investitures of the Northern Lieutenancy, St. Louis
- Sep 18-20** Catholic Extension's 2023 Mission Bishops' Conference, Oak Brook, IL
- Sep 22** El Puente Office Blessing, 12 pm, Jefferson City
- Sep 23** Installation Mass of Reverend Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, VG as Pastor, St. Peter Parish, 5:15 pm, Jefferson City
- Sep 24** 25th Anniversary Mass for Very Reverend Daniel J. Merz, SLD, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, 2 pm, Columbia
- Sep 29** Missouri Catholic Conference Dinner, 5 pm, Bishop's Residence
- Oct 3** Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary Board of Trustees Meeting, Columbus, OH
- Oct 4-6** USCCB Catholic Home Missions Allocation Meetings, New Ulm, MN

**Bishop McKnight's September prayer intention for our Local Church**

For the police, fire and EMS workers serving their communities in uniform; may all first responders be preserved from harm as they serve to keep us safe. We pray to the Lord.

**Intención del mes de septiembre del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local**

Por la policía, los bomberos y los que trabajan en primeros auxilios en sus comunidades; que, al mantenernos a salvo, los socorristas sean protegidos de cualquier daño. Roguemos al Señor.



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

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# Deacon Matt McLaughlin is back at the Rolla Newman Center — this time, as Director and Campus Minister

By Jay Nies

Deacon Matthew McLaughlin's rocky road back to the faith ran through the middle of the University Missouri-Rolla (UMR) campus and into the Rolla Catholic Newman Center.

Several decades later, he's the Newman Center's new Director and Campus Minister at what is now the Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T).

"This is a place where you grow in your faith and prepare to serve as members of God's army on earth, in service of his Great Commission," the deacon stated. "That's what we're doing with these young people," he said. "We're helping them prepare to take their places in the Church, to do God's work as disciples in a broken and confused world."

Deacon McLaughlin has been ministering in Phelps County since his ordination to the Diaconate in 2007.

He and his wife, Ellen, met as students at the university and are raising their five children in the college city of 20,000.

"It makes sense that they'd want to hire someone who's an established member of the community here, who was active at the Newman Center as a student and is now serving as a deacon in the parish," Mrs. McLaughlin said of her hus-

band.

The Rolla Newman Center's mission is to serve as a spiritual home to about 1,000 Catholic students at Missouri S&T and other nearby institutions of higher learning.

The center traces its origin to the late Monsignor Gerold J. Kaiser, who in 1953 gathered the Catholic students at the university and told them, "When the intellect and mind grows, so does our faith."

The impressive and spacious building, completed in 2003 under the visionary leadership of Franciscan Sister Renita Brummer, is adjacent to St. Patrick Church and school and overlooks the S&T campus.

The center's name honors St. John Henry Newman (1801-90), who came to Catholicism from the Church of England and was influential in bringing Catholic students to and fostering Catholic identity at the Anglican university at Oxford. Pope Francis declared him a saint in 2019.

The center is a place for Catholic students and faculty to deepen their faith and prepare for leadership in the Church.

It's home to a welcoming faith community and a place to encounter Christ and develop a deep, personal relationship with Him.

Deacon McLaughlin said the center's primary mission is to form future leaders for the Church.

"This involves meeting Catholic students where they are on their faith journey and accompanying them however far they're able and willing to follow God from there," he said.



Deacon Matt McLaughlin is met his wife, Ellen, while they were students at the University of Missouri–Rolla (now known as Missouri University of Science & Technology). He is now Director and Campus Minister at the Rolla Newman Center, a spiritual home for Catholics on campus.

"It's not entirely a matter of letting them find their own way," he noted. "You want to guide and accompany, and sometimes even push, but not beyond what they're ready for."

He believes most young people think they're at S&T to prepare for their role in the workforce.

"But they're actually at the point where they're preparing for the entirety of the rest of their lives," he said. "Their spiritual formation is a critical part of that, and we have the opportunity to serve them in that critical point in their lives."

## Stars and stripes

Deacon McLaughlin earned bachelor's and master's degrees in nuclear engineering while Mrs. McLaughlin completed studies in mathematics and computer science at what was then known as the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR).

The late "Father Charles Pardee was the associate pastor at St. Patrick and director of the Newman Center," Deacon McLaughlin recalled. "He's who welcomed me back into the Church."

He met the future Mrs. McLaughlin about the same time, and they came to know each other as they were growing in their relationship with Christ.

Ellen was initiated into the Church after taking a job in St. Louis, and the couple got married in 1992. They worked

about 100 miles apart for several years before making their permanent home in Rolla.

Deacon McLaughlin served in the U.S. Navy submarine force for six years, followed by 35 years in the Navy Reserve, including a deployment to the Persian Gulf in 2003.

Recognizing a call "to serve God's people in some special way," he was accepted into candidacy and formation for the Permanent Diaconate and was ordained with his classmates on May 5, 2007.

The couple adopted the first of their five children a few weeks later.

"We sometimes joke that I needed the grace of being a deacon before God would let me be a father," he said.

He also took up a new role as a civilian engineer with the U.S. Army at Fort Leonard Wood around that time.

He retired from the Navy Reserve in November 2020 and from his Army civilian position in July 2021.

That's when his pastor, Father Gregory Meystrik, talked to him about serving as director of the Newman Center.

"He was looking for a full-timer," Deacon McLaughlin recalled. "I told him I couldn't do that — I retired because I needed to spend more time with my wife and kids."

A few months later, the subject of serving as campus minister came up again.

"I said I could see myself doing it part-time," the deacon

recalled. "Father said, 'We might be able to work with that.' And the next thing you know, I'm hired."

Mrs. McLaughlin noted that the center needed an anchor, someone with strong ties to the community who wants to stay around for a while.

"And maybe someone who had been there and knows how to talk 'engineer,'" the deacon added.

## Mind and heart

Deacon McLaughlin said his role as campus minister extends beyond the walls of the Newman Center building.

"I don't see my role as being limited to the Newman Community, per se," he said. "I see it as being of service to all the Catholic students on campus and to some extent, the Catholic faculty and staff."

He pointed out two things that set Missouri S&T apart from many other institutes of higher learning.

"It's a STEM university," he said, referring to the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"So, you draw a very analytical type of person. And unlike most colleges, it has a very skewed male-to-female ratio. Even now, three quarters of the undergraduate population is male."

He said most students, male or female, who come to the Rolla Newman Center take a much more analytical and thoughtful approach to their faith, rather than an emotional appeal to it.

"Not that the two are mutually exclusive," the deacon noted. "But when you start getting into discussions and debates of Catholicism versus other faiths, or degrees of orthodoxy within Catholicism, all of these discussions tend to become academic in nature here."

"So, a significant part of the ministry here is helping these young people to make that connection between the head and the heart," he said.

It's a struggle he's personally familiar with.

See McLAUGHLIN, page 14

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# Joy, affirmation at the Right to Life booth at this year's State Fair

By Jay Nies

A woman saw the models and immediately summoned her young daughter.

Together, they marveled at the display of realistic replicas of babies at various stages of development in the womb, including 12 weeks and 20 weeks.

"Mine's at 17 weeks!" the mother announced with delight.

"They grow on you, don't they?" another visitor commented.

"They do! Literally!" the mother said through laughter.

This was one of the countless exchanges at the Missouri Right to Life (MRL) booth at the 2023 Missouri State Fair.

The theme for this year's 10-day fair was "Where Traditions Grow."

One such tradition is pairs of volunteers representing many backgrounds and faith traditions staffing the pro-life booth right inside the entrance to one of the historical exhibit buildings.

Members of the Sedalia MRL chapter and surrounding chapters have been doing this for the past 49 fairs.

"The State Fair is a great way to meet people from all across Missouri and help them realize that a baby in the womb is alive and fully human from the moment of his or her conception," said Bonnie Diefendorf, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia.

"We do this in a way that's loving, non-argumentative and non-confrontational, because our goal is to change people's hearts," she said.

Recent developments have given abortion a higher profile in Missouri and throughout the country.

Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 and 1992 decisions that had legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States.

A "trigger law" that had been passed by the Missouri General Assembly immediately



**LEFT:** Volunteers Tammy Paulsen and Teresa Rider welcome visitors to the Missouri Right to Life Booth in the Varied Industries Building at the 2023 Missouri State Fair. **RIGHT:** Ms. Paulsen and Ms. Rider pose for a photo in the booth.

— Photos by Jay Nies



**"The State Fair is a great way to meet people from all across Missouri and help them realize that a baby in the womb is alive and fully human from the moment of his or her conception."**

— Bonnie Diefendorf

the state's Constitution.

As the pro-life booth's long-time coordinator, Mrs. Diefendorf gives an orientation to first-time volunteers each year.

She encourages them to stay positive with visitors and show compassion for people who may have been personally touched by abortion.

She said that despite the issue heating up in the headlines, this year's fair was smooth sailing for the volunteers.

"All who reported back to me related really positive responses and thank-yous for being present," she stated.

Total donations given at the booth increased from \$50 to \$500 this year.

Aug. 18 was Tammy Paulsen's first time volunteering on the front lines at the fair.

"It was a good experience with good interactions," said Ms. Paulsen, who is director of Crossroads Family Ministries in Cole Camp.

"The time was well spent, encouraging others to keep up the fight to protect life within the womb," she said.

She noticed that the models of pre-born babies drew quite a bit of attention, "especially from pregnant ladies."

"We did not have any deep conversations with anyone during my four-hour shift but did have many encouraging exchanges between passers-by who agreed with the pro-life message," she said.

A week ahead of the fair, volunteers stocked boxes of tote bags, pens, lapel buttons,

refrigerator clips, bumper stickers and other freebies for each day of the event.

"People wanted lots of materials," said Mrs. Diefendorf, who works the opening shift on the first day and the closing shift on the last day each year.

"They cleaned us out of bumper stickers, bookmarks and 'precious feet,'" she said.

"Precious feet" are a lapel pin that show the size of a baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception.

This was Mrs. Diefendorf's 48th year spending time in the booth. The only fair she's missed was the year her daughter was born in August.

"We gave out about 3,500 totes, and hundreds of 'babies' and stickers," she noted.

By "babies," she was referring to "Precious Ones," tiny molded images accurately depicting what a baby looks like after 12 weeks in the womb.

The models, small enough to fit into someone's pocket but large enough for them to know it's there, are the favorite freebie for most children and teens.

Teresa Rider of Sedalia shared the shift with Ms. Paulsen this year.

She spoke of a how a few years ago, volunteers were ask-

ing visitors to the booth to sign a petition to outlaw abortion at 20 weeks after conception.

"I remember one woman saying, 'I won't sign that. I'm pro-choice!'" said Ms. Rider. "I showed her the 20-week baby model and told her, 'But we're talking about a baby this size!'"

Dumbfounded, the woman signed the petition.

"That shows you the importance of these models," said Ms. Paulsen. "They say a lot more than we can."

Ms. Rider recalled another time, when young visitor asked what "right to life" means.

"I had to explain that we're against people having abortions, because we believe every

life inside and outside of the womb has the right to life," she told the visitor.

They talked a little about the arguments people give for keeping abortion-on-demand legal, and Ms. Rider provided some good answers.

"And then she says, 'Wow, I have to think about this. You've given me something to think about,'" Ms. Rider recalled.

Only once over the years was someone so angry and belligerent with her that all she could offer was a promise of prayer.

"I could see the woman was really hurting," said Ms. Rider. "I wanted her to know that she wasn't alone, that I would pray for her."



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# Interparish Faith in Action group in Osage County collects for “Christmas in July” Box of Joy project

By Neal A. Johnson

Several women throughout Osage County have started a group called Osage County Faith in Action, many of whom are faith-filled and want to give back to local parishes, communities in the United States, and even areas on the other side of the world with a “Christmas in July” project.

Co-led by Nyla Bassett, a member of Holy Family in Freeburg, and Westphalia St. Joseph parishioner Angela Stuecken, who brought the idea to Bassett, the group’s motto is “Feed, Lead, and Protect.”

Ms. Stuecken said Osage County Faith in Action members did not want to hold this project during the Christmas season because it would take away from other programs such as Osage Caring Projects.

“We are doing just that with our first group project,” Ms. Bassett said of “Box of Joy,” which blesses underprivileged children around the world.

“Angela and I had been in contact with other prayerful projects over the years, and our paths have crossed more than once through continued Catholic education,” she said. “Angela is a wealth of information, and I really lean on her. Common friends and interests kept us connected, so when Angela reached out and said she had something big up her sleeve, I was all in and excited.”

Ms. Bassett gathered several of her prayer group friends from Freeburg and went to see what Ms. Stuecken had planned.

“Angela invited us into her house and talked about Cross Catholic Outreach and a few of the projects CCO has, including mission trips and why they are so important,” Ms. Bassett explained. “It was decided that night that it would be good for Osage County to have a group to join together — some people from each parish if at all possible — to pray and serve together. ‘Feed, Lead, and Protect,’ that is what God asks of us, and that is what we hope to do together.”

Ms. Stuecken noted that Ms. Bassett and Holy Family

parishioners have gone above and beyond. “They agreed to host in the church basement, and it’s very much appreciated,” she said.

By the end of the collection period on July 31, the group had collected 657 boxes, which were loaded and packed at Holy Family. The final boxes were prepared for shipping Aug. 2.

Women from Argyle, Babtown, Bonnots Mill, Frankenstein, Freeburg, Folk, Koeltztown, Linn, Loose Creek, Meta, Rich Fountain, Westphalia, and St. Thomas took on the challenge of filling boxes.

“We actually fell short, but that’s okay for our first year,” said Ms. Bassett, noting the



goal was to fill 1,000 boxes. “It was truly a joy to fill them.

“I was blown away by the community’s support with this project,” she added. “Individual people would take three or four boxes home and come back and get two or three more.”

Ms. Bassett’s home parish set a goal of 100 boxes and blew that away with 150.

“We knocked it out of the park,” she said. “We had people donate boxes of toothbrushes, and soaps, and school supplies. It was so amazing to watch how it all came together. I have no doubt in my mind that next year, we will hit 1,000 boxes.”

“Some of the other parishes did the same,” Ms. Stuecken added. “They took a set number of boxes and ended up



Members of a new interparish women’s service group known as Osage County Faith in Action package Christmas gifts to be sent to people in need this year through Cross Catholic Outreach and its “Box of Joy” program.

— Photos by Neal Johnson

coming back for extra boxes because the response of charity was so overwhelming. The community rallied together and exceeded what they thought they could do.”

In developing countries, Christmas is not always a day marked by feasting and gift-giving. In fact, the hardships of poverty leave many children resigned to deprivation.

In 2014, Cross Catholic Outreach began the Box of Joy ministry as a way to combat this hopelessness and bring smiles to the faces of children around the globe.

According to information on the organization’s website, the organization partners annually with Catholic parishes, schools, groups, and families to support in-country ministry partners and their efforts to help the poor.

“Our mission is to mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ,” the mission statement reads. “Your gift empowers us to serve the poorest of the poor by channeling life-changing aid through an international network of dioceses, parishes and Catholic missionaries. This cost-effective approach helps break the cycle of poverty and advance Catholic evangelization.”

A Box of Joy is a donated Christmas shoebox packed with toys, clothing, school supplies, and other essential items by Osage County Faith in Action.

Each child who receives a Box of Joy also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells the Story of Jesus.

“A Box of Joy provides hope to children in need,” said Ms. Bassett. “Each gift represents Christ’s love and may be the only Christmas gift they receive.”

She explained the group asked for volunteers to fill a box with the necessities of a child and donate \$10 (\$9 for shipping and \$1 to purchase additional supplies to fill each box to the max) to get the boxes to their destination.

Recommended donated items include both toys and practical items. Cross Catholic Outreach notes on its site that “socks, flip-flops, and hats are just as celebrated and cherished by needy boys and girls as toy cars and dolls.”

Practical items of need include manicure sets (without nail polish), age-appropriate scissors, air pumps with needles for soccer balls, bar soap, wash cloths, toothpaste and toothbrushes, sewing kits, and lip balm.

Since the organization’s inception nearly a decade

ago, 512,855 Box of Joy gifts have blessed boys and girls in nine developing countries. In the 2022 Box of Joy season, 118,990 gifts were sent to children in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras and Malawi.

During Box of Joy week — Nov. 4-12 — gifts are donated and delivered to local drop-off centers by participating parishes, schools, groups, and families.

From the drop-off centers, the gifts are picked up by the Box of Joy ministry and brought directly to the national screening center in Doral, Florida.

Each shoebox is screened to ensure the gifts are safe and appropriate for the children being blessed.

Gifts are then shipped to developing countries.

Relying on its trusted network of mission partners, Cross Catholic Outreach distributes Box of Joy gifts to children in needy families identified by local priests and nuns serving impoverished communities.

This fall, Osage County Faith in Action’s second community project will benefit Feed the Hungry. The ladies will partner again with Cross Catholic Outreach on a Food Packing Event in which they will pack Vitafood meals scientifically formulated with the right blend of protein, vitamins, and nutrients to improve health that are easy to ship and store.

“These lifesaving meals are then provided to hungry children and families for the impoverished worldwide,” said Ms. Bassett.

*Mr. Johnson is editor of the Unterrified Democrat newspaper (unterrifieddemocrat.com), which published a version of this article and gave permission for it to be republished here.*

# Helias Catholic H.S.'s 'Crucifix Entrance' blessed, rededicated

*"Go now! Take up your cross, and with your life, complete your way."*

— Clarence Enzler,  
"Everyone's Way of the Cross"

By Jay Nies

The 30-foot-tall crucifix that gives the student entrance to Helias Catholic High School its name is much more than a symbol for the hundreds who pass by it on their way to class each day.

It's also a reminder to follow Jesus back out into the world, encountering, accompanying, praying and sacrificing for all people, just as he did.

"This entryway into a place of growth and learning is also an exit, through which we are sent forth on mission," stated Father Paul Clark, chaplain of Helias Catholic.

Fr. Clark blessed and rededicated the school's substantially expanded and improved "Crucifix Entrance" on Sept. 7.

Arms raised toward heaven, he pronounced the prayers of blessing and then cast holy water onto the walls, the floor, the crucifix and the people standing nearby, just as Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis had done nearly 67 years previously.

"O God, it is by your gracious favor that today we inaugurate this work, this entryway to a building dedicated to education," Fr. Clark prayed. "Grant that those who will come through here as teachers or as students may always pursue the truth and learn to know you, the source of all truth."

The priest pointed out that holy water is a reminder to all Christians of their Baptism — "that which brings us into relationship with our God and actually gives us the Holy Spirit that the Church wants to renew and always generate in us as we are sent forth by that same Spirit."

Joining Fr. Clark in the rededication ceremony were student leaders in the school's



Father Paul Clark, chaplain of Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, blesses and rededicates the renewed "Crucifix Entrance" to the school during a Sept. 7 ceremony.

— Photos by Jay Nies

campus ministry program. The rest of the school took part in the ritual via livestream in their classrooms.

Together, they prayed a specially written prayer for the occasion.

"Open our hearts and minds more fully to learn who you are as our God and to grow in who

encounter, that by our words and actions, we may reveal to others that Jesus is present in our hearts."

They also prayed for all who will pass through this refurbished entrance, and for all who provided the means to build it.

Helias Catholic Interim President Ron Vossen, himself a Helias graduate and longtime faculty member, spoke of the significance of highlighting the crucifix at the entrance.

"Our school's mission is to support students as they strengthen their faith, build community and seek excellence in all they do," he said.

He pointed out that students have been crossing paths with that same crucifix since Helias Catholic opened in 1956.

"When you talk about Helias and traditions, this is definitely one of them," he said. "I'm so pleased to be standing here with this completed renovation, with the cross front-and-center, to really bring this forward and let people see what we stand for."

He thanked the benefactors who paid for the project, as well as the Architects Alliance Inc., which designed the renewed entrance; Sircal

Contracting Inc., the general contractor; "and the many other contractors who helped with this."

## "Marked by the cross"

This was the original main entrance to the school build-

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

ing, designed by famed mid-century church architects of Murphy and Mackey of St. Louis.

The crucifix includes a sculpted aluminum figure of Christ fastened to a large walnut cross.

The school's founders got the idea to make a large crucifix the focal point of the entrance when "the Crusaders" was chosen as the school's nickname.

"Crusaders" comes from the Latin word meaning "one marked by the cross."

Even after a new main entrance was completed as part of an expansion to the complex in 2017, most students still enter and leave the building through the Crucifix Entrance.

Renovations to the en-

trance, completed in late 2022, were designed to make the building — and by extension, the community — more welcoming and hospitable to students and visitors.

They included extending the entrance outward and adding an atrium area, as well as covered walkways leading up to the entrance on both sides.

A prominent new sign says "Helias Catholic High School."

The original crucifix was brought forward with the expanded entryway, "with new lighting installed to keep the image of Jesus on the cross visible at the heart of our community at all times," stated Helias graduate Rebecca Martin, communication director for the school.

Helias alumna Maureen Quinn, director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry for the Jefferson City diocese, said there are traditions "with a little 't'" at Helias Catholic and those "with a big 'T'."

"This crucifix is about as big of a 'T' as you can get," she said.

Father Joseph Luzindana, diocesan moderator for youth and young adult ministry, also attended the dedication.

"It's beautiful," he said. "I'm so happy to see that the first thing that greets you here is a crucifix — a big one."

He said that's important because of Jesus's directive that "if you want to be a follower of mine, the first thing you must do is carry your cross and follow me."

"Whatever we do here, we do it in Christ," Fr. Luzindana stated. "And the symbol of that is the cross."

## A place for Mary

The renovated entrance also includes a new statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, patroness of the Jefferson City diocese.

Helias alumnus Jim Wisch and his grandson, Max Borgmeyer, a sophomore at the



Helias Catholic High School graduate Jim Wisch and his grandson, Max Borgmeyer, a sophomore at the school, stand next to the pedestal they built for the new statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

we are as your children," they prayed. "When we leave these halls, may we, like you, look with love at each person we

## QUESTION CORNER

## Are Protestant martyrs of the English Reformation heretics or in heaven?

By Jenna Marie Cooper  
OSV News

**Q: Do you think the martyrs of the English Reformation went to heaven even though they were teaching communion to be symbolic and not literal? Wouldn't they be guilty of heresy? (Roswell, GA)**



A: First, let's define a few terms. According to canon 751 of the *Code of Canon Law*: "Heresy is the obstinate denial or doubt, after baptism, of a truth which must be believed by divine and catholic faith." Note that a person does not become a heretic by being genuinely mistaken, honestly uninformed about the truths of the faith, or privately suffering from a personal doubt. Rather, heresy consists of an obstinate — that is, persistent and stubborn — rejection of Catholic teaching by a person after they were baptized, i.e. after they were presumably (and fully) catechized and thus could be expected to have the "tools" necessary to properly understand our faith.

Given this, we can make a technical distinction between what we call "formal" and "material" heresy. Material heresy is the simple fact of a person professing a belief that is at odds with the Catholic faith, when looked at apart from the full context of that person's intentions, or level of understanding. Merely material heresy is not necessarily a sin and is not a canonical crime (though it can still be a serious problem in many circumstances — e.g., you would not want a religion teacher in a Catholic school to be a material heretic).

Formal heresy, on the other hand, is true heresy, where a person knowingly, deliberately and freely proclaims a teaching directly contrary to our Catholic faith, perhaps even after having been corrected repeatedly by their proper pastors.

Historically, the "martyrs of the English Reformation" are not a monolithic group. There were many Catholic martyrs who died as witnesses to the truths of our Catholic faith. But as you allude to in your question, there were also a great number of Protestants who were killed for defending their own understanding of scripture and Christian doctrine. The main point of departure for the English Reformation (as opposed to other Protestant movements throughout the rest of Europe during that time) was a denial of papal authority. Still, among the English Protestants there seems to have been a range of different specific beliefs regarding other areas of the faith. So, although some Protestant English martyrs did embrace formal heresy with respect to belief in the Eucharist, others may have been only material heretics, and some earlier Protestant English martyrs likely did believe in the Real Presence.

I cannot "read souls," so I personally don't have an opinion as to whether or not any specific Protestant martyr of the English Reformation was ultimately destined for heaven. But we do believe that God is loving and merciful and desires that all his children be saved, and we can never know what exactly goes on between a soul and God in the last moments of life. Therefore, we can certainly hope that the Protestant martyrs embraced the light of God's truth once it became obvious to them, and subsequently made it on the path to heaven.

One notable Catholic martyr of the English reformation, St. Thomas More, expressed this exact sentiment regarding his own persecutors. At the end of his trial, just after having been condemned to death for refusing to acknowledge King Henry VIII as the head of the church in England, More stated that just as St. Paul persecuted St. Stephen, yet both were now saints and friends together in heaven, "...so I verily trust, and shall therefore right heartily pray, that though your lordships have now here in earth been judges of my condemnation, we may yet hereafter in Heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation."

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

## Papal Audience September 13, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we have been reflecting on the spread of the Gospel through the witness of men and women of every time and place. Today we turn to Latin America and the example of Blessed José Gregorio Hernández. Born in Venezuela in 1864, José Gregorio was unable to pursue studies for the priesthood for reasons of health. Accepting this as God's will, he studied medicine and devoted his life to the care of those in need. Because of his deep devotion to Christ, expressed in charitable service to the least of our brothers and sisters, he became known as the "doctor of the poor." His apostolic zeal was born of a personal experience



of God's mercy and daily union with the Lord in Holy Mass and personal prayer. At the outbreak of the First World War, he offered himself as a sacrificial victim in union with Christ, interceding for the dawn of peace, and died shortly after learning of the end of the war. The life of Blessed José Gregorio Hernández can inspire us, in the concrete circumstances of our own lives, to draw closer to the Lord in prayer, to serve him in the poor, and to work for the spread of his Gospel and the growth of his Kingdom of holiness, justice and peace.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Senegal, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and the United States of America. Upon you and your families I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all!

## Pope encourages Mongolian flock in faith, unity, witness during visit

By Cindy Wooden  
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

During a pastoral visit to Mongolia, Pope Francis met leaders of the nation's tiny Catholic community, offering them encouragement but also reminding them that faith and unity must be at the center of their lives.

Without daily prayer and respect for the structure and unity of the Church, "our strength will fail, and our pastoral work will risk becoming an empty delivery of services, a roster of duties that end up inducing only weariness and frustration," the pope said Sept. 2.

At the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Ulaanbaatar, the pope met with Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar, and with the priests, religious and lay volunteers who minister to Mongolia's 1,450 Catholics and offer education, health care, food, shelter and other social support to thousands of others.

Bishop José Luis Mumbiela Sierra, head of the Diocese of the Holy Trinity in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Central Asia, and other

bishops from the region also attended the meeting.

Before entering the cathedral, Pope Francis was welcomed with a glass of milk at a ger, a traditional Mongolian dwelling, on the cathedral grounds.

He went inside and met Tsetsege, a Mongolian woman who uses only one name, who had found a statue of Mary in a garbage landfill before Christian missionaries arrived in the country.

She showed it to the first Catholic she met, a Salesian sister, and it is now venerated inside the cathedral as Our Lady of Heaven.

Consolata Father Ernesto Viscardi, who has been in Mongolia for 19 years, told reporters, "It's a great surprise" that the pope would travel so far to visit "the world's smallest Catholic community," but it also is the "Bergoglio style," a reference to the pope's family name.

The papal visit brings the world's attention to Mongolia, he said, but it also is a powerful sign to Mongolian Catholics that they are part of a universal Church.

The big challenges for Cath-

olic missionaries in the country, he said, are: finding ways to connect with young people, making the Church truly Mongolian — "otherwise we'd just be colonizing again" — and, finally, continuing to serve the poor and hurting while being mindful that that is not the "foreign NGO" that it is in the eyes of the government.

Pope Francis praised the churchworkers for making love for the poor their "calling card" but assured the government and those suspicious of the church that "the Lord Jesus, in sending his disciples into the world, did not send them to spread political theories, but to bear witness by their lives to the newness of his relationship with his Father, now 'our Father.'"

"Governments and secular institutions have nothing to fear from the church's work of evangelization," he said, because the Church "has no political agenda to advance but is sustained by the quiet power of God's grace and a message of mercy and truth, which is meant to promote the good of all."

With missionaries coming

See MONGOLIA, page 23



## Observing Hispanic Heritage Month as Catholics

By Hosffman Ospino  
OSV News



Every year, between September 15 and October 15, the United States observes Hispanic Heritage Month. The observance began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 and, in 1988, was extended by law into a full-month celebration.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we all are invited to honor and highlight the many stories, experiences, and contributions of Hispanics living in the United States, which are integral to who we are as a nation.

For U.S. Catholics, Hispanic Heritage Month should be a major occasion to affirm and celebrate who we are and who we are becoming. Of the approximately 63.7 million Hispanic people living in this country, about 31 million self-identify as Catholic. What's more, about 43% of all Catholics in the United States of America are Hispanic.

Educational institutions at all levels in

our nation engage in different activities to highlight Hispanic cultural elements and learn more about the Hispanic population. Teachers do a superb job creating moments where this happens, in the classroom and through school wide activities. Many other organizations do likewise.

I must say, however, that I do not see the same level of enthusiasm observing Hispanic Heritage Month in our Catholic parishes. It is rather strange since nearly half of all U.S. Catholics are Hispanic and fully 25% of parishes have developed some form of Hispanic ministry.

We don't seem to have developed a strong culture of parochial observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. But that can change. A communal culture is built through small practices and the commitment to perform these regularly. Here are five practical ideas.

—Start with the parish bulletin and social media. Write a weekly article about Hispanic Catholics; highlight the Hispanic community of your parish or your town; explain a Hispanic popular Catholicism practice (e.g., posadas, alarcitos, quinceañeras); share the story of a U.S. Hispanic; Latin American or Ca-

ribbean saint; invite young Hispanics to write something about growing up in a Hispanic Catholic household.

—Set up a book display in the back of your church, or at the parish hall or perhaps in the parish office (think of an often-frequented space in your community) with works that describe Hispanic Catholicism and books written by Hispanic Catholics: poetry, novels, theological works, spirituality guides. The literature on Hispanic Catholicism is abundant!

—Organize at least one evening parish lecture or presentation during this special month with a speaker who shares something interesting about Hispanic Catholics. Promote the event among all parishioners of your community. If your community is multilingual, host events in different languages. Ah, make sure you offer some Hispanic food!

—Those who preach can take advantage of this time of the year to intentionally say something about the Hispanic Catholic experience from the pulpit as

they break open the Word. Catechists and teachers in the parish should be encouraged to share about Hispanic Catholicism in their lessons. Give them some resources.

—This is the perfect time of the year to invite your parish community into fiesta! It does not take much to bring the community together to enjoy each other's presence. It could be a picnic, a large meal or maybe a bazaar. Share Hispanic food and music. Start with a bilingual or multilingual Eucharistic celebration. Pray in Spanish, English, Portuguese, and Latin American indigenous languages.

These practices don't take much effort and cost rather little. The effects upon the parish community can be invaluable as they help us to appreciate our Hispanic Catholic roots more. Such practices are instrumental in reminding us who we are and who we are becoming as U.S. Catholics. Happy Catholic celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month!

*Hosffman Ospino is a professor of theology and religious education at Boston College.*

## Teresa of Avila, Good Pope John and ... Jimmy Buffett?

By Elizabeth Scalia  
OSV News



Too often lately, it feels like the offices from which we've historically taken our cues — our political and community leadership, the punditry, local authorities and even some church groups — are populated with unserious people who can't rise to a moment. Those who aren't peddling pure boilerplate and calling it constructive thought are offering endless scolds about how we should live, think and speak, and how, if things aren't getting better, it's because we're not doing enough of the right things. We should constantly be doing ever more of all these right things, it seems, until the world is saved and humanity perfected and then, finally, we may rest.

These exhausting harangues have become as penetrating (and authentic) as prop knives. They fall upon our ears like an approaching storm we've heard for too long — an over-familiar sound and fury, often signifying nothing.

Which is why the Jimmy Buffetts of the world are important to have around, and why it is worth a respectful pause and some consideration when they pass.

There was something poignant in Buffett's passing at the start of Labor Day weekend, when the days are growing

shorter and the flip flops and Hawaiian shirts must be put away along with our fantasies of living on a beach, responsible for nothing beyond bringing dessert to the next get-together. Sweaters come out in the evening and time seems suddenly too valuable to waste away searching for misplaced meaning, too fleeting to reclaim the misspent days which, valued too late, are forever lost.

Some dismiss the laid-back island-escapism of Jimmy Buffett as being something hedonistic or uncaring. The world is heavy with material and spiritual misery on every continent — we see it daily in the headlines — and from that perspective he might seem to have been just another fizzy artist, part beach bum, part vagabond, rolling easily between a beer keg and a few cocktails capped with frivolous little umbrellas while singing of hazy nights and strange tattoos (how it got there, he hadn't a clue!).

Buffett's biggest hit, "Margaritaville," celebrates a life lived in meandering dissipation; its plaintive chorus sounds only mildly regretful as the narrator wonders who is to blame for his under-achieving days until, in the final refrain he comes clean:

"Some people claim that there's a woman to blame

But I know it's my own damn fault."

If you didn't know that Buffett was raised Catholic, the last line is a dead

### REFLECTION

## Nurturing nature

By Mark Saucier

We were on a retreat in the rugged Ozark foothills — a day aside for prayer and reflection.

In one of our silent hours, I ventured into the pathless woods.

The woods have always been a curious and comforting place. Walking under the canopy or just sitting under a stalwart oak, it's a magical space.

In the woods, I find myself going in two directions. One is deep inside myself to an untroubled place where peace is in the very air I breathe.

The other takes me completely out of self to a focus, almost a rapture, on the immediate world embracing me.

Walking cautiously down a steep hill, I stopped a moment to survey my trek and found myself inches from a spider's web.

It was a seemingly impossible task. Three invisible threads anchored the web to a tree limb and two bushes, each at least four feet from the center.

The spider was working, slowly spinning the string — visible behind it until it stretched and dried.

Then it was scurrying along the web's perimeter, perhaps checking to see that edges held. All secure, it stopped for lunch, munching on the mites caught in this life-and-death trap.

I sat and found at my feet a tiny cedar sprout, maybe three inches tall, its top half already adorned in its tell-tale greenery.

Growing in a thimbleful of dirt between the rocks, its future looked precarious, but even at this tender stage, it already knew what it wanted to be and was on its way to becoming it.

A tiny gnat was hovering at my face, wings faster than the eye could capture. At any other time, I'd swat it away. But I let it be, appreciated it, observed it. This day, I am the trespasser.

I spied a fox climbing up from the creek. Lost in fox thoughts, it didn't notice me until I softly whistled.

It searched for the sound, found me, and then withdrew to thicker undergrowth. It stood there, nearly hidden, its coat the color of dead leaves and tree bark.

It just stared at me. Then suddenly, at the flutter of a bird, it was gone.

If we had more time, we might have been friends.

It was supposed to be an hour spent in silent prayer. I don't know if this qualified, but I certainly felt the presence of God.

Now, if I could just become this attentive to the people in my life.

See SCALIA, page 19

# Encounter

## AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

## Searching for a horizon full of hope En búsqueda de un horizonte lleno de esperanza



By Ilsi Palacios

A journey made with hope for a better future is taken by many who leave their native country.

They hope to find a new horizon full of opportunities for themselves and their loved ones.

For many like Martin, leaving their land was a difficult decision.

Such task is not to be qualified as an adventure, but as a brave decision.

A permanent resident since 1990, Martin, a native from Mexico, decided to go through the process to become a U.S. citizen after 32 years.

His family is well established in La Monte, Missouri and his beautiful granddaughter was born in this country.

Martin was ready to embrace this nation's nationality!

The day had come!

Martin received his citizenship certificate on the morning of August 19, 2022, at the Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, among other 502 new citizens of 94 different nationalities.

Martin, is an example of many permanent residents that contribute with their Christian values and heart to the United States society.

Like Martin, those who trust in God will see the fulfillment of his promises: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11.

It is good to know that,

even if the process appears to be intimidating for some, no one has to go through it by themselves.

Citizenship Day, proclaimed by the president of the United States along with Constitution Day or Week, is an opportunity for immigrant advocates, service providers and friends of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) to call attention to the important role that immigrants have played in the development and growth of our country, and in our local communities.

Citizenship Day was first proclaimed by President Harry Truman in 1952 and has been observed in some fashion every year since.

A federal law enacted by Congress in December 2004 designated September 17 as "Constitution Day" and "Citizenship Day" to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787.

This day enshrines — what was then and is now — a nation of immigrants.

Learn more about Citizenship Day from CLINIC online at [cliniclegal.org](http://cliniclegal.org)

*Ilsi Palacios is the Hispanic*



Ilsi Palacios

*Community Services Coordinator for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.*

*Based in Sedalia, Missouri and operating out of a satellite office housed by St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Ilsi provides case management and helps connect Spanish-speaking families to resources and services that enhance their lives and support their faith journeys, which sometimes includes referring them to the Family Immigration Services program or assisting them with the pursuit of citizenship.*

*To learn more about the requirements to start the application process, visit [uscis.gov/citizenship/apply-for-citizenship](http://uscis.gov/citizenship/apply-for-citizenship).*

*To learn how Catholic Charities supports legal immigration needs, visit [ccnmo.diojeffcity.org](http://ccnmo.diojeffcity.org).*

Por: Ilsi Palacios

Un viaje hecho con la esperanza en un futuro mejor es emprendido por muchos que dejan su país natal.

Esperanza encontrar un nuevo horizonte, lleno de oportunidades para ellos y para sus seres queridos.

Para muchos como Martin Barajas, salir de su tierra fue una

decisión difícil.

Por lo tanto, no se debe calificar cómo una aventura, sino como una valiente decisión.

Residente permanente desde el año 1990.

Martin, mexicano de nacimiento decidió pasar por el proceso de hacerse ciudadano de los Estados Unidos después de 32 años.

Con su familia establecida en La Monte, Missouri y su linda nietecita nacida en este país, ¡Martin estaba listo para abrazar la ciudadanía es-

tadounidense!

¡El día llegó!

Martin recibió su ciudadanía, la mañana del 19 de agosto de 2022, en el Estadio Kauffman, Kansas City, entre 502 nuevos ciudadanos de 94 nacionalidades.

Martin es un ejemplo de muchos residentes permanentes que han contribuido con su buen carácter cristiano y con su esfuerzo laboral a la sociedad de los Estados Unidos.

Como Martin, aquellos que confían en Dios, verán realizarse sus promesas: Porque yo sé muy bien los planes que tengo para ustedes — afirma el Señor —, planes de bienestar y no de calamidad, a fin de darles un futuro y una esperanza. Jeremías 29:11

Es bueno saber que este proceso a pesar de parecer intimidante, no se tiene que pasar solo.

Para saber cómo Caridades Católicas del Centro y Norte de Missouri puede guiarle en el proceso de la aplicación para la ciudadanía, visite [ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/family-immigration/](http://ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/family-immigration/)

Para saber más sobre los requisitos para aplicar a la ciudadanía puede visitar [uscis.gov/es/ciudadania/solicite-la-ciudadania](http://uscis.gov/es/ciudadania/solicite-la-ciudadania).

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## Catholic Charities Parish Engagement and Charity Events (PEACE)

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri will hold six Parish Engagement and Charity Events on Saturdays this fall in parishes throughout the diocese.

Presenters will include Paul Crnkovich, director of adult faith formation for St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, and Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND,

Tori Bakers and Ashley Wiskirchen of Catholic Charities.

Each event will include a morning or afternoon of faith formation, fellowship and information on how Catholic Charities can help equip individuals, families and parishes to meet the needs of others in their communities through works of charity and mercy.

Here are the dates and locations for the remaining events:

•**Sept. 16** — 8:30-11:30 a.m., Our Lady of the Lake Church, 2411 Bag-nell Dam Blvd., Lake Ozark

•**Sept. 23** — 9 a.m.-noon, Mary Immaculate Church, 715 E. Washington, St., Kirksville

•**Sept. 30** — 8:30-11:30 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 17 St. Patrick Lane,

Rolla

•**Oct. 7** — 8:30-11:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive, Columbia

•**Oct 7** — 1:30-4:30 p.m., Catholic Charities Central Offices, 1015 Edmonds St., Jefferson City

RSVP for the event most convenient for you at: [ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace](http://ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace).

# Bishop McKnight offers 'Mass on the Quad' on MU campus



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight offers this year's "Mass on the Quad" the evening of Sunday, Aug. 27, in Traditions Plaza in the middle of the University of Missouri campus in Columbia. Several priests joined him at the altar, including Father Andrew Auer, associate pastor of St. Thomas Newman Center Parish, who preached the homily. Several hundred young people, mostly students at the University of Missouri, Columbia College and Stephens College in Columbia, attended the Mass. St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish's campus ministry department and parishioners organize the beloved tradition each year to welcome students back to campus. Congregants were encouraged to submit their contact information, keeping them connected with events and activities at the Newman Center, located at 602 Turner Avenue. More photos from the Mass will be posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar. — Photos by Morgan Hanson

# Catholic Relief Services assists with Morocco earthquake recovery

By Kate Scanlon  
OSV News

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the U.S. Catholic Church's international relief and development agency, is assisting recovery efforts following a devastating 6.8 magnitude earthquake that has killed more than 2,900 people in Morocco and injured thousands, the group said.

Caroline Brennan, CRS' emergency communications director, told OSV News Sept. 12 that CRS would support the relief work of Caritas Morocco and Caritas Rabat, the charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Rabat, as both Moroccan Catholic aid agencies respond to the earthquake that struck in the High Atlas Mountains the night of Sept. 8.

"CRS, among many Caritas global members, is supporting the efforts of Caritas Rabat and Caritas Morocco as they map out these very early stages of emergency relief that provide support for people just to get by through each day, you know, things that you and I might need each day to get through, from blankets to food," Brennan said.

Brennan also said that telecommunications aid is a key effort in order to make sure survivors can communicate with loved ones.

"One of the greatest challenges in emergencies like this, one of the greatest needs that you hear from families, is just wanting to contact their loved ones to find out if they're safe and to communicate where they are, communicate how they can meet, helping you find each other to find out if each other is OK," she said. "And so that need for connection is really significant in a time like this."

In assisting disaster relief around the world, Brennan said, CRS provides for immediate physical needs but also is mindful of unique or culture-specific needs that may arise.

Other concerns include giving survivors space and resources to grieve the loss of loved ones.

"It's really beyond just the physical needs of course, food and clean water and safe shelter are fundamental, paramount to being able to cope at a time like this, but also is really being mindful of those emotional needs," she said.

Brennan said she feels "so privileged and fortunate to have seen the impact of donations from the U.S. in emergency contexts around the world."

"However people are able to engage, if it's their time, their talent, or treasure, it certainly makes an enormous difference," she said.

CRS said those wishing to support recovery efforts can donate online at [support.crs.org/donate/morocco-earthquake](http://support.crs.org/donate/morocco-earthquake)

or by phone at 1-877-HELP-CRS (1-877-435-7277).



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# UPDATED: Celebrating four milestones (plus one) with Bishop Emeritus Gaydos

**Retired bishop offers Mass in Cathedral with fellow bishops, priests and faithful to mark his 80th birthday, 55 years of Diaconate and Priesthood and 25 years as a bishop ... and the 80th anniversary of his Baptism**

*Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos's celebration of four important milestones took place the day the Aug. 18, 2023, edition of The Catholic Missourian*

*went to press. The following information was later added to the online version of the story at cath.mo.com after the celebration was completed:*

By Jay Nies

Bishop Edward M. Rice, homilist for the Mass, called to mind another important anniversary for Bishop Gaydos: the 80th anniversary of his Baptism.

“Even your birthday is overshadowed by your Baptism be-

cause with your Baptism you were gifted with eternal life,” Bishop Rice noted. “What has brought us here today and what ultimately we are celebrating is your life in Christ.”

Baptism was also where Bishop Gaydos received his priestly vocation.

“Only because you were clothed in Christ in Baptism were you able to be clothed in the priestly garb,” Bishop Rice pointed out. “Throughout your life as a priest and a bishop, you have been able to spread the light of Christ because you were enlightened by Christ at your Baptism.”



**Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos greets friends outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City Aug. 16, after celebrating Mass to mark important anniversaries in his ministry. — Photo by Jay Nies**

not ask anything for yourself but only what God willed for you,” Archbishop Carlson stated.

**“My main work”**

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presented Bishop Gaydos a framed Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis, asking God for “an abundance of heavenly graces and the continued protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

See BISHOP GAYDOS, page 19

**Steward and guardian**

Archbishop Emeritus Robert J. Carlson, who led the St. Louis archdiocese from 2009 until his retirement in 2020, became friends with Bishop Gaydos through their work with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and their collaboration as shepherds of neighboring dioceses.

Through that friendship, said the archbishop, Bishop Gaydos taught him much about “what it means to be a man of God.”

“I learned that you are a man of great wisdom, a man of great faith, a man of prayer,” he said. “I admire all of those things about you and in your life.”

The archbishop recalled learning a lot from the example Bishop Gaydos gave while recovering from heart surgery.

“As you suffered with the

inconvenience, with the pain, you would turn everything over to our Lord, and you did

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<b>4</b> <b>September 30</b> Southeast Deanery St. Patrick Catholic Church (Rolla) 8:30 – 11:30 AM	<b>5</b> <b>October 7</b> Central Deanery Our Lady of Lourdes (Columbia) 8:30 – 11:30 AM	<b>6</b> <b>October 7</b> See City Deanery Catholic Charities Central Offices 1015 Edmonds Street (JC) 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

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SCAN TO REGISTER:

# New York cardinal: Remember 9/11, but don't forget the day after

By Kate Scanlon  
OSV News

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York told OSV News the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, which will be marked with solemn ceremonies across the U.S., should be observed with memories of lives lost and impacted by the day's events.

But he added it also is worth remembering the spirit of the following day, Sept. 12, 2001, when Americans came together as a nation.

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic terror group al-Qaida hijacked airplanes for suicide attacks that left nearly 3,000 people dead in New York City, at the Pentagon just outside Washington and in a field in rural Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where passengers thwarted the terrorists' intention to strike another target in Washington, likely the U.S. Capitol with Congress in session.

Cardinal Dolan, a St. Louis area native who became archbishop of New York in 2009, said the date is "nationally recalled with reverence, even internationally, but it's especially poignant to New York City ... because that was ground zero; that was the place of the tragedy."

In New York City, al-Qaida hijackers rammed two commercial jetliners into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into floors 93 through 99 of the North Tower. At 9:03 a.m. United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower. Within two hours, both towers collapsed, killing 2,753 people in New York alone that day.

"It's rare in my 15-and-a-half years as archbishop of New York that I've ever met anybody that did not have some disturbing memory of 9/11 — a neighbor, a family, a friend — just the reaction of seeing the tragedy upfront and knowing realizing how vulnerable we were," Cardinal Dolan said.

The 9/11 attacks would continue to claim more victims. In the years following, more than 4,600 first responders and survivors have since died from cancers and other ailments in-

curred by toxic dust, fumes and fibers from the debris; thousands more continue to suffer.

A 2021 study by the Pew Research Center found that most Americans who were old enough to recall the day remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard the country was under attack. However, an increasing number of Americans have no recollection of that horrific day, because they were either too young or were not

yet born.

Cardinal Dolan said that in remembering the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Americans should also reflect on Sept. 12, 2001, when Americans came together, he said, to console and recover.

The pastor of St. Peter's Church, which previously stood in the shadow of the World Trade Center and served as a rescue and recovery site, Cardinal Dolan said, told him that marking 9/11 "is very,

very important."

But the pastor shared why in the story of that terrible day, "9/12 is even more important."

"I said, 'What do you mean by that?' He said, 'Well, that's the day we took a deep breath and started to rebuild and renew and console each other.

That's the day we start kind of looking inward and looked outward. That's the day we just said, we got work to do,'" Cardinal Dolan recalled. "And he said, 'really, everything after that has been part of 9/12.' And I thought, 'My, oh my, how perceptive.'"

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## McLAUGHLIN

From page 4

“This is pretty much the environment I’ve always functioned in,” he said.

Just as Fr. Pardee helped Deacon McLaughlin find a more balanced approach to spirituality, the new director wants to do the same for today’s students.

“There’s the challenge of leading somebody beyond the mind to the heart, leading them past the law to the mercy,” Deacon McLaughlin noted. “Because if somebody, especially a young person, feels like they have THE answer, they can be judgmental of those who do not have or do not accept that answer.

“So helping passionate, young, committed, academically-inclined Catholics see and appreciate and share at a personal level without losing the intellectual passion — I see that as a big part of what I’m called to do here.”

### “Doing God’s work”

The Newman Center director works with an elected body of students, the Newman Council, which sets the schedule for worship and activities at the center.

Deacon McLaughlin said

most of the time he spends with students is between 2 and 10 p.m.

Every Wednesday evening while school is in session, more than 45 students gather in St. Patrick Church for Mass at 8:15 p.m., followed by volleyball in the parish hall and fellowship in the Newman Center’s student lounge.

Deacon McLaughlin sees having the Wednesday evening Masses at church as a way of connecting with Catholic students who aren’t comfortable getting fully involved at the Newman Center.

“It’s a more gradual segue into the community,” he noted.

Students also spend time on Monday and Tuesday afternoons adoring Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Incarnate Word Chapel at the Newman Center.

Other activities include study groups, socials, meetings and service projects.

Four campus missionaries of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) make the Rolla Newman Center their base of operations, leading Bible studies and mentoring students to become missionary disciples.



Deacon Matt McLaughlin

Deacon McLaughlin said his perspective on the Newman Center has broadened and matured since his days as a student.

“When we were there, I saw it as a home, a sanctuary, a place where I was growing in my faith,” he said.

“All those are a part of it and still need to be part of it today,” he stated. “We do want to give them a place where they can let their hair down with other faithful young people and just relax in a fun, safe and sanctified environment.

“On the other hand, we want to encourage their development into disciples who will go out and bring Christ to others,” he said.

“Our call as the Church is to work against the power of death — not just to defend ourselves against the power of death, but to go out and confront the power of death on its

own turf,” he stated.

This can only happen when the students are willing to accept and evangelize one another.

“We’re all made in God’s image,” the deacon noted. “But the reality of God’s goodness is so infinite that there are countless individual ways in which we are called to show his image to the world.

“That is why we are all needed as members of the Body of Christ,” he said.

### “Full spectrum”

The Rolla Newman Center has always been a ministry of St. Patrick Parish.

Deacon McLaughlin said a key to the center’s future success is building a stronger relationship with Catholic alumni and the parents of Catholic students.

He asks for prayers as the Rolla Newman community

plans for the future — “examining who we are, what we’re doing, what we’re called to do, where we’re falling short, how we can best understand the mission that God has for us.”

“We ask people to join us in praying for clarity in how best to serve God’s young people, and the wisdom and perseverance to do it well,” he said.

He pointed out that the early Christians were drawn to the Church less by doctrine and Liturgy than by the love and respect Christ’s followers showed to one another, day in and day out.

That’s an important reminder for all people whose paths to holiness converge at the Rolla Newman Center.

“I preach that Catholicism offers a glorious variety in terms of ways to worship God, licitly and in an orthodox manner,” said Deacon McLaughlin. “The depth and breadth and the full spectrum of the beauty of Catholicism is a big piece of what we need to help our young people appreciate — without losing their passion and appreciation for what they already know.”

## Border shelter for pregnant migrants


OSV News

Juárez, Mexico

A shelter near the U.S.-Mexico border run by a pro-life leader for pregnant migrants is preparing to welcome the first infant born while the mother is staying at the shelter, its co-founder told OSV News.

Destiny Herndon-De La Rosa, founder and president of New Wave Feminists and co-founder of the “New Wave Feminists Consistent Life Ethic Center” in Juárez, called the process of opening that shelter “kind of a wild journey.”

“You know, just like our humanity doesn’t begin at the birth canal, it doesn’t end at a border,” Herndon-De La Rosa said. “We’re all still human beings and the unborn child in a migrant mother’s womb is just as human as an unborn child in an American mother’s womb.”



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## CAMP TOLTON

From page 1

young “Gus” devoured his religious studies, became a catechist, realized that God wanted him to be a priest, and pursued that calling all the way to the Pontifical Urban College in Rome, as no U.S. seminary would accept him because he was Black.

He was ordained in St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City in 1886 and offered his First Solemn Mass the following day in St. John Lateran Basilica, the Pope’s cathedral.

Mrs. Morris expressed Mrs. Tolton’s delight of having her son sent back to Quincy as a missionary priest, offering Mass every Sunday and attracting congregants from near and far to the city’s church for Black Catholics.

The joy did not last. Jealousy and rivalries eventually made it nearly impossible for Fr. Tolton to continue ministering in Quincy.

“So finally, they sent him to Chicago, to be pastor at St. Monica’s Church,” said the character of Martha Jane.

She spoke of all the poor members of the parish, which had been founded to serve Chicago’s Black Catholics.

“They had no money,” she noted. “So, Fr. Tolton spent so much time going out to do speeches and programs to bring money to help the church.

“Sometimes, he got so tired, he had to have a seat to preach his sermon,” she recalled.

She spoke of helping him as a sacristan at church, housekeeper at his rectory and fellow pilgrim through life’s travails.

“We prayed all the time,” she said. “We prayed together.”

She spoke candidly of the day he died of heatstroke on a Chicago street on a blistering summer day.

“My son was dead at 43,” she said through tears. “That was a terribly sad moment. But you know, I still trusted God!”

Recalling his Funeral Masses in Chicago and Quincy, she set free a soaring rendition of his favorite hymn, “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name!”

“Today, I’m still sacristan at St. Monica Church,” Martha Jane proclaimed through

Mrs. Morris. “I did everything I could to help him, and I’m gonna still be here at St. Monica’s until I’m gone.”

She closed with the stirring spiritual, “I’ll Fly Away.”

### Curtain call

Mrs. Morris and Camp Tolton Director Amanda Durbin hugged and exchanged tears at the end of the presentation.

Mrs. Durbin pointed out the image of Fr. Tolton on the banner behind Mrs. Morris.

“Just seeing that young man’s face, so happy to honor his mother, just as Jesus honors his mother and wants us to honor her, too,” she stated.

Mrs. Morris then visited with children and adults and answered questions about Fr. Tolton.

She spoke of having portrayed Martha Jane last year in Chicago at a reunion of the descendants of Fr. Tolton’s siblings.

She also performed in a children’s play about Fr. Tolton,

**More photos will be posted in *The Catholic Missourian’s* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select “Photo Galleries” from the “Multimedia” tab on the menu bar.**

written by his great-great-niece, Sabra Penn.

While living in Quincy, Mrs. Morris portrayed Martha Jane at several events in the Jefferson City diocese, including a 2012 celebration in the Shrine of St. Patrick in St. Patrick for Catholic clergy, and a 2016 gathering of the Father Tolton Legacy Society in Columbia.

“I keep trying to make it better,” she said.

### Martha Jane, Monica and Mary

Children and young people from a handful of northern Missouri parishes took part in this year’s Camp Tolton, held throughout the last week of



Participants in this year’s Camp Tolton in Clarence listen to Mett Morris tell the story of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton through the lens of his mother, Martha Jane Tolton.

— Photo by Jay Nies

July at the Camp Jo-Ota campground.

The experience, doled out in age-appropriate doses for children in pre-kindergarten through high school, melded 135 Catholic children’s faith with many of the outdoor activities they love.

“It’s been amazing,” said Mrs. Durbin. “We’ve spent the week focusing on heroically virtuous members of our Church family, who we believe are in heaven and who we believe we’re called to follow because we’re all called to sainthood.”

Priests took turns offering Mass and taking questions from the campers.

Pre-kindergartners and kindergartners spent a day at the camp; first- and second-graders spent two days and one night; and third- and fourth-graders, fifth- and sixth-graders, and seventh-through 12th-graders each stayed three days and two nights.

The camp started seven years ago, when members of the St. Mary Parish youth group in Shelbina were looking for something distinctly Catholic to do over the summer.

After organizers contacted the youth ministers at neighboring parishes, the inaugural Catholic Church Camp at Camp Jo-Ota came into being, with more than 100 participants.

The camp has grown steadily since then, with activities designed for each age group based on their level of formation.

The highlight of each year’s

camp is the Eucharistic procession into the woods.

Last year, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago, co-postulator of Fr. Tolton’s sainthood cause, came to Clarence and spoke to the campers.

In like fashion, this year’s speakers, including seminarians of this diocese, emphasized how everyone there is called to sainthood.

“I love that we have the example of Fr. Tolton so close to home,” said Mrs. Durbin. “And I’m convinced that Fr. Tolton wanted us to spend time learning more about his mother, and giving her a spotlight. And we did.”

They also held up St. Monica, who prayed for years for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine; and the Blessed Moth-

er, as examples of “the beauty of the role of mothers in these men’s lives.”

“Without these heroic mothers, we wouldn’t have St. Augustine, we wouldn’t have Fr. Augustus,” said Mrs. Durbin. “We wouldn’t have Mary’s ‘fiat’ that welcomed the Savior of the world.”

### “Power from above”

The campers were preparing to have a swimming party at 2:30 p.m. on their last day, but harsh weather

crept up and they decided to have fellowship in the main hall.

They played cards, wove bracelets out of embroidery floss, played cornhole, listened and danced to music and watched the storm blow through.

Later, they gathered in the chapel with the Totus Tuus missionaries and the teen and young adult counselors from this summer’s Catholic camps in the diocese.

Father Paul Clark, diocesan vocation director, presided at Mass.

Father Joseph Luzindana, diocesan moderator for youth and young adult ministry, preached the homily.

See MARTHA JANE, page 23

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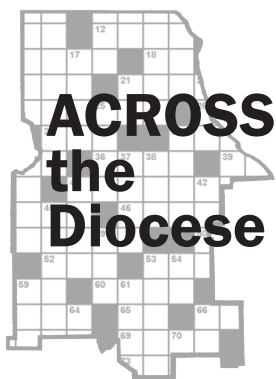
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By Father Don Antweiler

### ACROSS

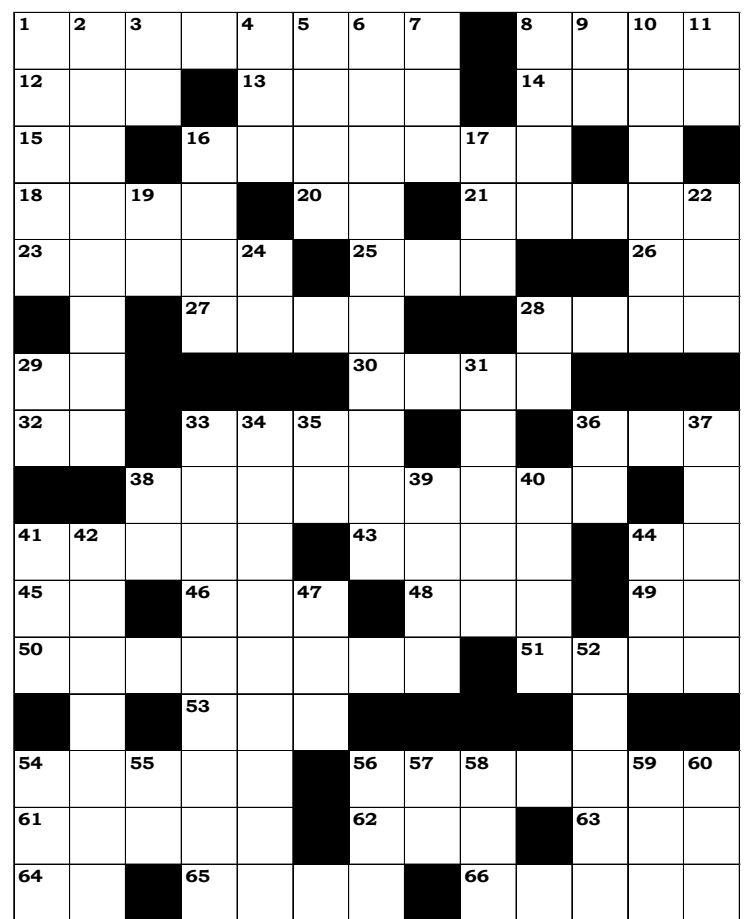
1. Despite the dislike and even bitter prejudice against Catholics in the \_\_\_\_\_ colonies, and despite being only 2% of the population, Catholics not only supported the American Revolution but often played a prominent role in it.
8. "Life is made up of \_\_\_\_\_, snuffles, and smiles, with snuffles predominating," —O. Henry.
12. Black or Red.
13. "...awake, \_\_\_\_\_ and harp! I will wake the dawn," (Psalms 57:9).
14. A type of gem.
15. This State has nine Nat. Parks, more than any other State (abbr.).
16. Daniel Carroll, another Catholic Founding Father & cousin of Charles Carroll, along with Thomas Fitzsimons, was one of two Catholic signers of the new U.S. Constitution; he served on a Convention Committee; he was then \_\_\_\_\_ to the U.S. House of Representatives, then returned to Maryland as State Senator.
18. "Anger is an \_\_\_\_\_ that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured," —Mark Twain.
20. Two letter ending for four, six, seven, ten.
21. Brand of instant decaffeinated coffee.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ Island is known as the sailing capital of the world.
25. "You \_\_\_\_\_ Your Life"; old comedy/quiz TV show (1950s) starring Groucho Marx.
26. \_\_\_\_\_PN; sports channel.
27. Himalayan Sasquatch.
28. The marriage counselor found the new couple had three checking accounts: his, hers, and \_\_\_\_\_. He was concerned.
29. Medical professional.
30. I am \_\_\_\_\_ and tired of all this pussyfooting around the issue!
32. Abbr. for *exempli gratia*, i.e., for example.
33. "They led Jesus away to the \_\_\_\_\_ priest..." (Mark 14:53).
36. Abbr. for the 16th book of the bible.
38. George \_\_\_\_\_ Washington tapped an ardent Irish Catholic, \_\_\_\_\_ John Barry, to head and build a U.S. Navy. He is called the Father of the U.S. Navy.
41. A transparent gem, glass, or even an ice cube shaped to refract or disperse a beam of light.
43. "The first day one is a guest, the second a burden, and the third a \_\_\_\_\_," —French philosopher Jean de la Bruyer.
44. Related to Rd., St., or Ln.
45. \_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_; letters for the Arts & Entertainment TV channel.
46. Billy finally got caught using his \_\_\_\_\_ shooter in school.
48. A brand of jeans.
49. "I thought \_\_\_\_\_ I eyed him, that I had seldom seen a more powerfully built man," —*A Study in Scarlet*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
50. "The magnificent red \_\_\_\_\_ was nearly the size of a terrier and you could see that it could talk. Indeed, the difficulty was to get it to stop talking for, as with all of them, it was a chatterer," —*Prince Caspian*, C.S. Lewis.
51. "They laugh at me because I'm different; I laugh at them because they're all the \_\_\_\_\_," —Kurt Cobain.
53. Mao \_\_\_\_\_ Tung; now called Mao Zedong.
54. Mount \_\_\_\_\_, where God gave Moses the 10 commandments (see Exodus 19:18+).
56. Today nearly one-third of the U.S. Congress is Catholic. Over 70 \_\_\_\_\_ people, 22% of the U.S. population, are Catholic.
61. "A potential friend is only a '\_\_\_\_\_ away,'" —Paul Liebau.
62. "Fetch Brother Cadfael here a beaker of \_\_\_\_\_. Bring pitcher and all," —Fr. Eadmer in *The Heretic's Apprentice*, Ellis Peters.
63. Letters for Society of

Women Engineers. At Mo. S&T in Rolla, the chapter has over 100 members and is active on campus and in the community.

64. Dorothy's Auntie.
65. Kellogg's Rice Krispies: the \_\_\_\_\_, crackle and pop cereal.
66. The Mizzou \_\_\_\_\_ in Columbia seats over 15,000 and is the home of Miz-zou's men's and women's basketball teams.

### DOWN

1. The little golden statue every actor/actress wants to win.
2. Charles Carroll, a Catholic Founding Father from Maryland, was the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence; served on the Board of War during the Revolutionary War and later was the first U.S. Senator, from Maryland. \_\_\_\_\_ the age of 95, he was the last survivor of the signers of the Declaration.
3. A border State with Mo. (abbr.).
4. "It would do if the lad was so \_\_\_\_\_-used here that he would make off for healthier places," —*The Heretic's Apprentice*, Ellis Peters.
5. No in Moscow.
6. (Fr.) John Carroll of Baltimore, a Jesuit priest and good friend of Ben Franklin, became the first \_\_\_\_\_ in the newly independent nation.
7. "\_\_\_\_\_ the games begin!" —phrase used in the Olympics in ancient Greece by Emperors to begin the games. The catchy phrase is still used today.
8. Arm and Hammer Baking \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I read it in the \_\_\_\_\_-ed section of the newspaper.
10. Thomas Fitzsimons was an Irish Philadelphia merchant and \_\_\_\_\_ who used his business acumen to strongly support the Revolution; he commanded a militia unit during the war; he represented Pennsylvania in the Continental Congress; along with Daniel Carroll, was one of two Catholic signers of the Constitution; served 3 terms in the new U.S. Congress. He was a strong supporter of his parish in Philadelphia.



11. Letters for Speed Limit or Skylight.
16. The kayakers found refuge from the fast current in the whirling \_\_\_\_\_ behind a huge rock in the water.
17. Superlative ending.
19. Moon of Jupiter.
22. "You can write me down as an \_\_\_\_\_ this time, Watson. This is not the bird I was looking for," —*The Adventure of the Cardboard Box*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
24. Wide shoe size.
28. Border State with Mo. (abbr.).
29. Prefix for form or turn.
31. General Lafayette, a French Catholic, while not a colonist, served under Washington and was instrumental in the Battle of Yorktown, the turning point in the Revolution. He became a very \_\_\_\_\_ friend of Washington.
33. Mary Waters, and Irish Catholic, organized \_\_\_\_\_ in Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War.
34. A method of baptizing.
35. A major car company.
36. A border State with Mo. (abbr.).
37. Stephan Moylan, a successful Irish Philadelphia merchant; was Washington's first secretary; appointed Commissary General of the Continental Army; formed a \_\_\_\_\_ regiment at Washington's request; he left the war as
- Brigadier General.
38. 101 in old Rome.
39. Computer brand.
40. Abbr. for routes.
41. Not, in Paris.
42. I am going to have a \_\_\_\_\_ Mass said for my deceased husband.
44. Clarence Cannon or Bag-nell.
47. "The eyes \_\_\_\_\_ blind. One must look with the heart," —*The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint Exupery.
52. "Many false prophets will \_\_\_\_\_ and deceive many..." (Matthew 24:11).
54. "St. Dorothy's pagan lover had not dominated her or destroyed her faith. \_\_\_\_\_ died free and for the truth; and then sent him roses from Paradise." —*The Insoluble Problem, Fr. Brown of the Church of Rome*, G.K. Chesterton.
55. The Cardinals belong to this group of teams (abbr.).
56. Even with GPS, I still like to follow our route with a highway \_\_\_\_\_.
57. A border State with Mo. (abbr.).
58. Pasture.
59. "Be not wise in your \_\_\_\_\_ eyes, fear the Lord and turn from evil," (Proverbs 3:7).
60. Letters for National Ed. Assn.; 3 million members nationwide.

ANSWERS on page 19



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

From page 1

The agency responds to needs of people in these 38 counties, regardless of their faith, culture or situation.

In 2022, CCCNMO provided services to more than 6,000 individuals across a variety of programs, including mental health, housing and financial counseling, food security, health and nutrition education, disaster preparation and response, family reunification through immigration legal services, and refugee resettlement.

Ms. Main is a native of the Caribbean Coast of Colombia. She is fluent in English and Spanish.

Her innovative approach and strong background in business administration has helped expand the charitable outreach and language services of her current agency.

Having spent three years in medical school, she switched to working in the corporate sector, first in Colombia and then in the United States.

She had a “moment of enlightenment” while navigating the U.S. immigration system with her three sons.

“I saw that many people don’t have access to the language resources they need to fill out all those applications,” she said. “That’s when I started using my language skills to help other people in the community communicate.”

That eventually led to her starting a language social enterprise for Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio (CC-SWO), one of 167 Catholic Charities USA affiliate agencies in dioceses throughout the country.

“I was able to reinvent myself in a way that allowed me to serve God and other people and do what I felt myself being called to do,” she said.

Working for Catholic Charities made Ms. Main feel like part of a large family, “which we as Catholics believe we are.”

She also served as chair of CCSWO’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

“I want it to be very clear that diversity is essential while following the guidelines and directives of Catholic social

teaching,” she said.

She had worked for nearly eight years in Cincinnati when she began to wonder what more she could be doing.

One of her sons had recently graduated from high school and the other two were seniors, so she had no intention of moving far, let alone three states away.

“Then this opportunity was presented to me to uphold my ethics and upbringing on a larger scale,” she said. “I said, ‘I’m open to listening and attending to what God has in mind for me.’”

She had recently completed a certificate in organizational leadership from the University of Michigan.

The Catholic organization that helped CCCNMO conduct its national search for a new executive director contacted Ms. Main and encouraged her to apply.

“They did a fantastic job of selling the position,” she stated. “They understood that any organization I lead would have to align with my ethics, my values, my Christian desire to serve and help the community.”

Visiting Catholic Charities in Jefferson City, she immediately recognized the warmth and connectedness among the employees and Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, who served as interim executive director from April until now.

“At Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio, we promote the idea that we’re a family working for a larger family, and that we want to continue to expand God’s Kingdom,” said Ms. Main.

“That’s also exactly what I saw when I came to Catholic Charities in Jefferson City: a culture of compassion, a family serving their neighbors,” she stated.

### Flowers the fairest

Ms. Main noted that while Colombia is widely known for its coffee, it’s also where most of the fresh flowers sold in the United States come from.

“We are a country with immense biodiversity,” she said. “We have a beautiful array of flowers that are brought to

the United States to make people happy on a daily basis.”

The Colombian population is predominantly Catholic, with most people taking off work the week of Easter Sunday in honor of Jesus’s resurrection.

“It’s a whole week that we dedicate to praising and worshipping and celebrating,” said Ms. Main. “That’s something I really miss — dedicating a whole week to the remembrance of the sacrifice of our Lord.”

“We’re also very open about embracing and celebrating our connection with the Blessed Virgin Mary,” she noted.

Ms. Main prayed an Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary many years ago and has been gathering each Tuesday with a group of women in Cincinnati to pray the Rosary.

“The Rosary is my refuge,” she insisted. “It has kept me grounded and given me peace through the challenges of navigating a new country, speaking a new language, navigating a new culture.”

“I pray every day for God to keep me focused and to continue giving me a charitable heart and the openness to embrace diverse communities,” she said.

### Perfect plans

From the moment she wakes up until the moment she falls asleep, Ms. Main tries to remember that everything she has and everything she is comes from a tremendously generous God.

“I am honored to be our Lord’s daughter,” she said. “He wants us all to be generous like him — with our time, with our resources, with our very selves.”

She sees taking on this new role is an act of faith.

“I wasn’t planning on this,



Litz Main will become the executive director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri on Sept. 18.

Gaydos establish Catholic Charities in this diocese 12 years ago, was its director of mission integration for two years before serving as interim executive director.

She talked at length to her successor about “holding onto God through every moment.”

Ms. Main finds that to be a sound strategy.

“That’s what I do,” she said. “I pray and I listen. I trust. Even during difficult times, challenging times, even when I don’t know what I’m doing, I trust that

but God has this plan for me, and his plans are perfect,” she stated.

She has taken renewed interest in praying the Lord’s Prayer.

“Sometimes, when you’ve been given a lot of responsibility, you feel like you have to be in control of every single detail of your day,” she observed.

“The ‘Our Father’ helps you realize that you don’t have to be in control — that God has already won every battle,” she said. “Praying the ‘Our Father’ reminds me to be humble and recognize my total dependence on God, and that’s something I strive to do every day.”

She’s convinced that every challenge she’s faced up to now has been preparing her for this moment and this new role.

“I see all of that as being from God,” she said.

### “Hold onto God”

Sr. Kathleen, who helped Bishop Emeritus John R.

God knows what he is doing.

“I understand that I don’t always see the whole picture, but I have a lot of faith that he wants what’s best for me and my family and the community I’m here to serve,” she said.

She enjoyed visiting with Bishop McKnight and recognizing his passion for promoting concrete acts of charity and mercy.

“I can see he is very committed to the success of Catholic Charities and also to embracing the community we serve,” she said. “I’m very honored to work with him to make sure this mission gets accomplished.”

Ms. Main asks for prayers and patience as she steps up to her new leadership role.

“I have a lot to learn,” she stated. “I need prayers for the Holy Spirit to give me understanding so I can be an instrument of God’s love and compassion and help bring this organization forward so we can continue to do his work.”

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Want your event listed?  
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at [diojeffcity.org/event-listing](https://diojeffcity.org/event-listing).

## Fundraisers & Social Events

### Sep. 16

**Jefferson City**, K of C Council #1054 Annual Bob Jones Golf Tournament, 9 am-3 pm, Oak Hills Golf Course, for info or to register call 573-680-9495 or 573-690-1838; **Wardsville**, Wardsville/Osage Bend K of C BBQ, 11 am-5 pm, St. Stanislaus School gym

### Sep. 17

**Marshall**, St. Peter Parish "Harvest Festival," 11 am-4 pm; **Bonnots Mill**, St. Louis of France Parish fall festival, noon-6 pm; **Columbia**, "Are We There Yet?" 6th annual Basi family concert for Down Syndrome, 2-3:30 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church; **Krakow**, St. Gertrude Parish chicken & roast beef dinner, 11 am-6 pm; **Meta**, Citizens Civic League fall festival, 11 am-6 pm; **Montgomery City**, Immaculate Conception Parish Harvest Festival, 11 am-4 pm; **Russellville**, St. Michael Parish fall festival, 11 am-5 pm

### Sep. 23

**Jefferson City**, Redemption Inside the Walls concert, featuring Christian & Gospel vocalist Natalie Grant, 5-10 pm, Jaycees Fairgrounds, for info or to register visit [redemptioninsidethewalls.com](https://redemptioninsidethewalls.com)

### Sep. 24

**Adair**, St. Mary Church annual reunion, Mass at 1:30 with light refreshments following; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish fall festival, 11 am-4 pm; **Frankenstein**, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish fall festival, 11 am-6 pm; **Fulton**, St. Peter Parish fall festival, 11 am-6 pm; **Vienna**, Visitation Parish fall festival, 11 am-5:30 pm

### Sep. 28

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School homecoming parade, 6:30 pm

### Sep. 29

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School alumni homecoming event, 9-10:30 pm, Last Flight Brewing Company

### Oct. 1

**Holts Summit**, St. Andrew Parish fall festival, 11 am-6 pm; **Linn**, St. George Parish fall festival, 11 am-6 pm

### Oct. 4

**Jefferson City**, St. Peter Parish Ladies Sodality annual card party, 6:30-9 pm

### Oct. 8

**Belle**, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Hermann**, St. George Parish fall dinner, 11 am-5 pm; **Wardsville**, St. Stanislaus Parish fall supper, 11 am-6 pm

### Oct. 13-14

**St. Robert**, St. Robert Bellarmine Altar and Rosary Society Fall Sale, 9 am-5 pm

### Oct. 14

**Mary's Home**, Our Lady of Snows Parish fantasy night, 5-11 pm

## Meetings/Workshops

### Sep. 15

**Jefferson City**, Faith Based Health Ministry Network meeting, 10 am-2:30 pm, Catholic Charities offices, to RSVP email [devaney.susan@gmail.com](mailto:devaney.susan@gmail.com)

### Sep. 16

**Lake Ozark**, Parish Engagement and Charity Event, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 8:30-11:30 am, Our Lady of the Lake Church, for info or to register call 573-635-7719

### Sep. 19

**Jefferson City**, Grief Support Group, 6:15-8:15 pm, St. Peter Parish's Fr. Ahrens Room

### Sep. 23

**Columbia**, Pre-Cana Conference for engaged couples, 9 am-4:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration](https://diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration); **Kirkville**, Parish Engagement and Charity Event, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 9 am-noon, Mary Immaculate Church, for info or to register call 573-635-7719

### Sep. 26

**Jefferson City**, Grief Support Group, 6:15-8:15 pm, St. Peter Parish's Fr. Ahrens Room; **Columbia**, Parish Leader Formation Day, 9 am-3 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's Flanagan Hall, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/registration-workshops](https://diojeffcity.org/registration-workshops)

### Sep. 30

**Rolla**, Parish Engagement and Charity Event, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 8:30-11:30 am, St. Patrick Church, for info or to register call 573-635-7719

### Oct. 3

**Jefferson City**, Grief Support Group, 6:15-8:15 pm, St. Peter Parish's Fr. Ahrens Room

### Oct. 7

**Columbia**, Parish Engagement and Charity Event, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 1:30-4:30 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, for info or to register call 573-635-7719; **Jefferson City**, Parish Engagement and Charity Event, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 8:30-11:30 am, Catholic Charities Office, for info or to register call 573-635-7719

### Oct. 15

**St. Louis**, Respect Life Apostolate 50th Anniversary Conference, 9 am-4 pm, Cardinal Rigali Center, for info or to register, contact [prolife@archstl.org](mailto:prolife@archstl.org)

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

### septiembre 16

**Columbia**, Planificación Familiar Natural – Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Parroquia Sagrado Corazón, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Diácono Enrique o Crísthia Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a [ecastro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecastro@diojeffcity.org)

### septiembre 17

**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](mailto:ecastro@diojeffcity.org)

### septiembre 24

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

### octubre 7-8

**Marshall**, Congreso Diocesano,

Saline County Fairgrounds Multipurpose Building, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a [ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com](mailto:ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

### octubre 14

**Marshall**, Retiro para Preparación de Quinceañera, 10 am-4 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte el equipo de quinceañera de su parroquia

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

### Every Tuesday

**Jefferson City**, "Tuesday With Faith," small group discussions, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info, call 573-645-2478 or email [jimkemna@gmail.com](mailto:jimkemna@gmail.com)

### Every Friday

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

### Sep. 18

**Jefferson City**, "Dwell: A Blessed Is She Study on The Eucharist" for women of all ages, 7-8:30 pm, Mary Room at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office, for info or to register contact [julie.g@cathedraljlc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljlc.org)

### Sep. 20

**Jefferson City**, "Planting the Seed and Watching it Grow," women's ministry event, 6:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Mary's Room, for info visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events](https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events)

### Sep. 23

**Columbia**, Pre-Cana Conference for engaged couples, 8:45 am-4:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration](https://diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration)

### Sep. 28-Oct. 1

**Edina**, Men's Cursillo Weekend #72, St. Joseph Parish Center, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/cursillo](https://diojeffcity.org/cursillo)

### Oct. 2

**Jefferson City**, "Dwell: A Blessed Is She Study on The Eucharist" for women of all ages, 7-8:30 pm, Mary Room at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office, for info or to register contact [julie.g@cathedraljlc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljlc.org)

### Oct. 6

**Jefferson City**, Diocesan Women's Ministry "Ladies Night Out," 6:30-9:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or

to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events/](https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events/)

### Oct. 16

**Jefferson City**, "Dwell: A Blessed Is She Study on The Eucharist" for women of all ages, 7-8:30 pm, Mary Room at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office, for info or to register contact [julie.g@cathedraljlc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljlc.org)

## Liturgical

### Sep. 24

**Adair**, St. Mary Church annual reunion, Mass at 1:30 with light refreshments following; **Columbia**, Fr. Daniel Merz 25th anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood celebration, Mass at 2 pm, followed by luncheon, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, to RSVP, visit [comonewman.breezechms.com/form/ca8646](https://comonewman.breezechms.com/form/ca8646)

### Oct. 10

**Starkenburg**, Second Tuesday Mass, 11 am-2 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, for info visit [risensavior.diojeffcity.org](https://risensavior.diojeffcity.org)

### Oct. 14

**Linn**, America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally, noon-1 pm, in front of St. George Church

## Youth & Young Adults

**First Wednesdays each month**  
**Jefferson City**, Roofed/Connected/Searching in Community young adult group, 5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit [icangels.com/youngadults](https://icangels.com/youngadults)

**Third Sundays each month**  
**Jefferson City**, Young Adult Mass, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

### Oct. 4

**Jefferson City**, Praise, Prayer & Pizza, 7-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall

## Health & Wellness

### Sep. 19

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

### Oct. 2

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

### Oct. 11

**Jefferson City**, CPR training, 5:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall

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](http://diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence)

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

## Anniversaries

### Argyle, St. Aloysius

Bill & Alice Wansing, 45 years  
Jerry & Elaine Falter, 40 years  
Noel & Susan Steinman, 25 years

### Brookfield, Immaculate Conception

Jim & Nancie Saccaro, 50 years

### Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph

William & Judy Van Loo, 50 years

### Linn, St. George

Mike & Bridget Parkhurst, 50 years

### St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence

Frank & June Bax, 45 years

### Taos, St. Francis Xavier

Nicholas & Rosalie Rackers, 60 years

## Birthdays

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Jerry Quinlan**, his 91st on Sep. 22

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Robert Devoy**, his 97th on Sep. 3

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Liz Stratman**, her 94th on Sep. 2; **Lucile Brune**, her 91st on Sep. 3

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Charles Bernskoetter**, his 90th on Sep. 14

Linn, St. George — **Leonard Voss**, his 92nd on Sep. 16

Marshall, St. Peter — **Ann Collier**, her 98th on Sep. 6; **Albert Markes**, his 93rd on Sep. 25

St. Patrick, Shrine of St. Patrick — **Leo Nichols**, his 93rd on Sep. 15

## CRUCIFIX

From page 7

school, built the pedestal for the statue.

“I wanted to do a project with my grandfather, and this was one that he was working on,” said Max. “So it’s a good starter for us.”

The polished wood came from a walnut tree that had to be felled when a building in Jefferson City was expanded.

Max said he’s especially pleased with how he and Mr. Wisch filled the natural crevasses in the wood at the top of the platform with turquoise-colored highlights.

“It’s a nice color,” he said. “It complements the statue, and the turquoise goes nice with everything around it.”

Max said he enjoys being a Crusader.

“This is a Catholic school, and my faith is important to me, and the education here is very good,” he said.

He likes the idea that future generations of students will walk every day past something he and his grandfather made.

“It’s a good piece of history,” he said. “I’m glad we could leave our mark here.”

## Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Easton Robert and Ezden Urban Huhn**, sons of Ben Huhn & Amanda Weed; **Wesley Keith Wansing**, son of Tanner & Megan Wansing

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Rory Jane Mustain**, daughter of William & Rachel Mustain; **Braxton Tyler Townsend**, son of Zach & Katie Townsend

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Psalm Alejandro Norwood Rivera**, son of Portia Estrada & Alex Rivera

Marshall, St. Peter — **Karsyn Arth**, daughter of Jackson Arth & Sydney Fornshell; **Leandro Orellana**, son of Cesar & Graciela Orellana; **Theo Rugamas**, son of Diego Rugamas & Stephanie Vasquez; **Taeson Weaver**, son of Darice Weaver & Jordyn Townsend

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Rylie Sue Kever**, daughter of Alex Kever & Nicole Heckman

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Elliott Christopher Meissen**, son of Aaron & Emily Meissen

## Marriages

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Nicole Otto & Kyle Braun**

## Deaths

Fulton, St. Peter — **Patricia Anderson**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Lorraine Parker**

Mary’s Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Viola Lepper-Ihler**

## SCALIA

From page 9

giveaway.

That nearly everything in our lives will eventually reveal a component of self-accountability at its core is something every Catholic can identify with. Such recognition is a gift that comes to us not from so-called “Catholic guilt,” but from a formed Catholic conscience.

Buffett, like so many, journeyed away from his childhood Catholicism, although he still sang of belief and of prayer. But as any revert to the faith will tell you, the Church “stays with you.” Even after walking away, the potency of its sacramental graces — starting with Baptism wherein we are claimed for Christ — means the conscience is always nudged to wakefulness, and then to action, even if we’d prefer the sleep of oblivion.

Buffett was stirred to action after Hurricane Katrina, according to one man. “I worked at the New Orleans Margaritaville (while) in college,” tweeted John Veron. “I ended up in Austin TX with the clothes on my back and little else. ... Margaritaville cut us all \$3,000 checks immediately after the storm, no questions asked. ... They also let employees know that if any of us could get to ANY other Margaritaville, there was a job waiting for us.”

Employees who ended up in Orlando were “set up with clothes, jobs and housing,” Veron continued. “Jim-

my Buffett showed up for us when we needed it. He took care of me and my friends. I’ll always be grateful.”

Anyone surprised by the story would do well to remember what St. Teresa of Avila said when a critic disapproved of her unedifying enjoyment of a roasted partridge at dinner. “There is a time for partridge and a time for penance,” the great reformer rightly replied.

Knowing how to strike a balance between rest and action is a very Catholic thing, for we are a both/and church, part Mary and part Martha. Jimmy Buffett knew how to recognize when to take action and when to relax and enjoy the life he’d been given. This speaks to the value of a conscience formed and sustained by sacramental graces, whose effects the Holy Spirit tends.

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose unto heaven” (Eccl. 3:1). There is a time to work hard for a weary world, but also a time to kick off the shoes, settle back and take our cues from Teresa, or from Jimmy Buffett. It is good, and perhaps the better part of wisdom, to riff off of the prayer St. John XXIII was said to have prayed each night: “It’s your (world), O Lord. I’m going to bed.”

*Elizabeth Scalia is culture editor for OSV News. Follow her on Twitter/X @the anchoress.*

## BISHOP GAYDOS

From page 12

Bishop Gaydos thanked everyone who helped bring the day’s festivities about.

Explaining why he chose the Votive Mass of Mary, Mother of the Church, for this occasion, he offered three quotes from Scripture: one from Jesus, two from the Blessed Mother.

The first, from Mary at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38): “Let it be done to me according to your will.”

The second, from Jesus during his agony in the garden the night before his crucifixion (Matthew 26:36-39): “Not my will, but your will be done.”

Finally, from Mary at the Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1-11): “Do whatever he tells you.”

“That pretty well sums up what happens when you’re baptized,” said Bishop Gaydos.

Namely, receiving the means and obligation to obey God, wherever he calls and leads.

“The fact of the matter is, you’re not going to find more freedom, you’re not going to find more joy, you’re not going to find more peace than you will from opening your heart and accepting

God’s will and doing whatever he tells you,” said Bishop Gaydos.

He thanked everyone for continuing to pray for him.

“It’s my main work now: I’m praying for all of you!” he said.

## Crossword puzzle answers

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

## Giving it all back to God



Father Michael Coleman, a chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, prays with members of the Trailblazers varsity football team on the field Sept. 2.

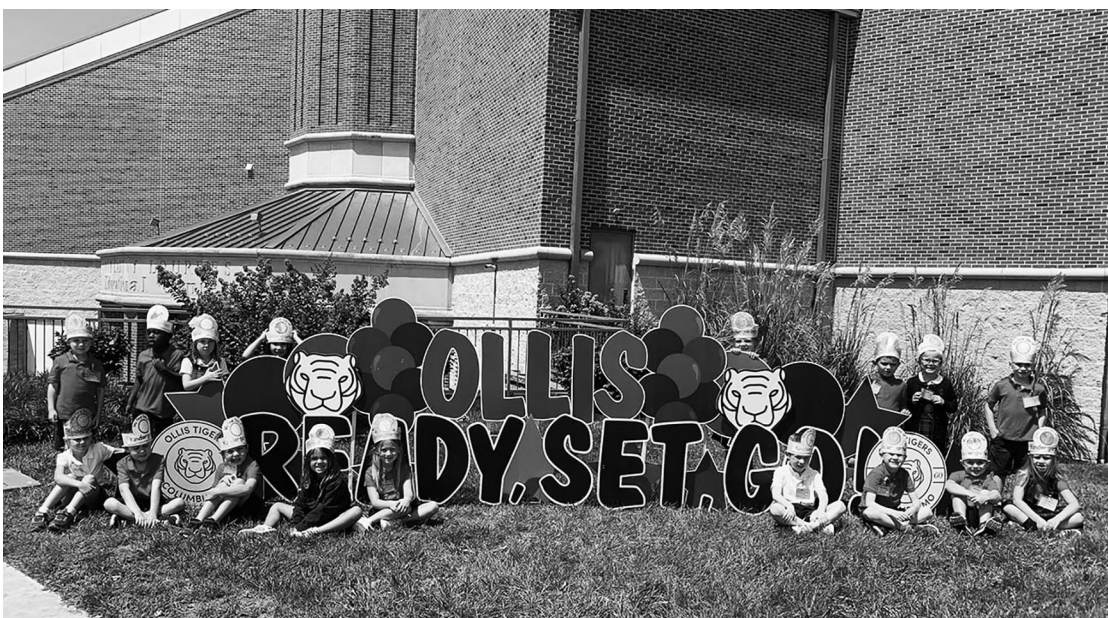
## Behold the Lamb of God!



Students of St. Andrew School in Tipton join their pastor, Father Anthony Viviano, at Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in St. Andrew Church. The students participate in Adoration and Benediction the first Friday of every month.

— Photo by Kara Higgins, principal

## Back for more



Students at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia kick off the first day of school Aug. 21 with new friends and old.

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

## A new beginning



Father Henry Ussher visits the kindergartners at St. Clement School in St. Clement Aug. 23 on their first day of school.

— Photo from Fr. Ussher's Facebook page

## Just getting started



Children at St. Joseph Preschool in Salisbury have a fun-tastic first day of school on Aug. 17. They started by going to Mass with their "big friends." Then, they listened to a story and went on a scavenger hunt through the school building. At the end, they found items to make a forest friendship snack. They drew photos of how they felt on their first day. "No matter what we do tomorrow, we know it will be another great day!" their teacher said.

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

## Bible Accent

In 1 Kings 21, we can read another story about a vineyard. A man named Naboth owned a vineyard next to the home of King Ahab, who ruled the northern kingdom of Israel. Ahab wanted the vineyard and offered to buy it. "The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral heritage," Naboth told the king. Ahab went home angry. He went to bed and wouldn't eat. Queen Jezebel, his pagan wife, asked what was wrong. He told her about Naboth's refusal to sell the vineyard. "What a king of Israel you are!" she scoffed. "Get up! Eat and be cheerful. I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." In the king's name, Jezebel sent letters to the elders and nobles, instructing them to proclaim a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. They were to arrange for two scoundrels to accuse Naboth of cursing God and the king. After that, Naboth was to be stoned to death. The elders and nobles did as they were told, and Naboth was killed. "Go, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite which he refused to sell you, because Naboth is not alive, but dead," Jezebel told Ahab.

## St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi was born in Italy in 1182 as the son of a wealthy merchant. He had a profound conversion experience after going to war for Assisi, being imprisoned and suffering from a very bad illness. Afterward, he gave up his family and riches to live a life of poverty and service because he believed Christ had asked him to do so. He founded the Order of Friars Minor, or Franciscans, and helped found the Poor Clares and Franciscan Third Order. In 2013, Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio took St. Francis' name when he was elected pope. St. Francis died in 1226, and we remember him on Oct. 4.



## Jesus talks about heaven and how to inherit eternal life

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic Courier

During their travels, Jesus told the apostles about the kingdom of heaven.

After he had preached to a crowd, some parents brought their children to Jesus for a blessing. The apostles scolded them and tried to keep the children away.

Jesus stopped the apostles and let the children come to him.

"The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these," he said.

Soon after, a rich young man came to Jesus and asked how to gain eternal life.

Jesus told the young man to sell all of his things and give to the poor.

"Then come, follow me," he said.

The young man became sad and went away because he had many possessions that he did not want to give up.

"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God," Jesus said.

Peter wanted to know what the apostles would receive, because they had given up everything to follow Jesus.

All who give up their possessions and families to follow him would inherit eternal life in heaven, Jesus replied.

But, he added, "Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

To help his friends understand, he told a parable.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out



Illustration by Tinda Rivers

at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard," Jesus said.

A group of men agreed to do the work for the usual daily wage paid to laborers.

The landowner hired more men at 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., saying he would pay them what was just.

At the end of the day, the landowner told his foreman to pay the workers beginning with the last and ending with the first.

Even though they had not worked a full day, the men hired at 5 p.m. were paid the same daily wage as the men who had been hired first and

worked more hours.

The men who were hired first expected to make more money than the other workers.


"You have made them equal to us," they complained.

"What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? ... Are you envious because I am generous?" the landowner asked.

"Thus," Jesus said, "the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Read more about it...  
Matthew 19 & 20

1. Who will inherit eternal life?
2. Why were some of the vineyard workers mad?



**Where did Jesus say the apostles would be seated in the new age?**  
(Hint: Matthew 20:28)

**Answer: On 12 thrones.**

### Puzzle

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

liwl      het      ristf      stal      eb

\_\_\_\_\_

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: will, the, first, last, be    The last will be first.


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## Priest recounts life of service to God and country

**New autobiography shares inspiring story of hope, perseverance and faith**

*Higher Power: My Life of Service*, by Father Michael D. Schmitz, softcover or e-book, 70 pages

Yankton, S.D.

Like many people, Father Michael D. Schmitz has made several mistakes in life.

In his autobiography, *Higher Power: My Life of Service*, published by iUniverse, he walks down memory lane to share some of his experiences — good and bad — to remind readers that there is still hope for everyone.

The book begins with the author's early years growing up on a farm near Currie, Minnesota, in the 1960s.

Here, Fr. Schmitz describes how alcoholism played a major role in his life.

It took him a lot of stubbornness and denial before he finally acknowledged his condition and admitted himself to the alcoholic outpatient program at the Omaha Veterans Administration Medical Center.

He also recounts his military career of 30 years and how fate, and faith, led him to a second career vocation: Priesthood.

He enlisted in the United

States Air Force on May 2, 1966. His assignments took him to Homestead, Florida; Vietnam; Bitburg Air Base, Germany; and Washington D.C.

While at these places, he worked as an office manager in the police force, and target intelligence, weather operations, and aircraft maintenance for Air Force One during President Nixon's and President Ford's administrations.

In 1978, he got discharged from active duty and went into the Air Force Reserve for 18 years.

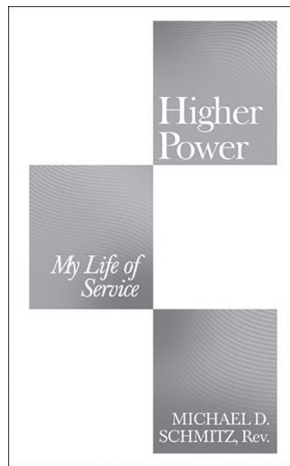
His jobs there included medical administration and human resources.

He entered the seminary at age 44 and was ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska, at age 50.

In 1982, he became a member of the Knights of Columbus and in 1991 established a clown ministry with the aim of bringing the smile of God to his people.

He served for 15 years in Cedar and Knox counties in Nebraska before retiring from active ministry.

He now resides at Majestic



Bluffs retirement home in Yankton, South Dakota, where he serves as a chaplain.

"God works in mysterious ways," the author reflects. "One must be open to His service at any age, whether one's previous life was spent in the

military or in any other career." By sharing his journey in *Higher Power: My Life of Service*, Fr. Schmitz hopes for readers to walk away with a renewed hope and wisdom that may apply in their own lives.

The book is available at Amazon, Barnes&Noble and at:

[iuniverse.com/en/bookstore/bookdetails/824876-higher-power](http://iuniverse.com/en/bookstore/bookdetails/824876-higher-power)

## Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Blue Beetle (PG-13)  
The Hill (PG)  
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (PG)



Adults

Gran Turismo (PG-13)  
Meg 2: The Trench (PG-13)  
My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

The Last Voyage of the Demeter (R)  
The Nun II (R)



Morally Offensive

The Equalizer 3 (R)  
Strays (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

## Priest who is popular podcaster urges Catholics to 'get back in the game'

Plymouth, Michigan

The greatest basketball players of all time aren't remembered because they never committed a foul, but because of how they played the game, Father Mike Schmitz told an estimated 1,000 Catholics at a seminar in Plymouth.

Likewise, the greatest saints of the Catholic Church aren't remembered because they never sinned, but because they

played to win, he said.

"Father Mike," as he is known from his wildly successful podcasts, including "The Bible in a Year" and "The Catechism in a Year," kicked off the third season of a monthly speaker series in the Detroit archdiocese with his address Aug. 8.

He stressed how, all too often, Christians dwell too much on the times when they have fallen or might fall, and not enough on the end goal.

"So many times we Christians act like we don't know what it's like to play to win," said Fr. Schmitz, a priest of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota.

"We know what it's like to play not to lose, and there is a huge difference. Players who play not to lose, play scared. As opposed to those who play to win, who make an error and think, 'OK, on to the next thing.' Tonight, let's have a radical mind shift to have the life of a Christian who plays to win."

Fr. Schmitz said the goal in life isn't to be perfect, but to fulfill the meaning God in-

tends for each and every one of his creations.


"Why did God make you? To know him and love him and serve him in this life, so as to live with him forever in the next."

To reach this goal, Fr. Schmitz proposed an exercise: When a person dies and stands before the gates of heaven, and the angels ask the person why they should be let in, what should a person say?

"I ask middle schoolers this all the time, and the answers are what you expect," Fr. Schmitz said. "Well, I'm a good person. I'm nice. I serve people. I went to Mass every single Sunday. Didn't lie, cheat, steal. I'm not the worst person I know."

"But there really is only one right answer," he continued. "There are two versions of it. The one-word answer, 'Jesus.' That's it. It's impossible to work our way into heaven. It's impossible to be good enough for heaven. It's impossible to white-knuckle your way to heaven. The long answer, by the way, is, 'Because Jesus died for me, and now I live for him.'"

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K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

## ‘God of All Creation’

Father César Anicama, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, offers Sunday Mass on the stage of one of the large tent venues at this year’s Missouri State Fair the morning of Aug. 13. Deacon Turf Martin of the parish assisted him.



## MONGOLIA

From page 8

from dozens of countries and trying to form one Catholic community with Mongolian Catholics, Pope Francis insisted “unity in the Church is not about order and respect, nor is it simply a good strategy for teamwork.”

Communion, he said, is “about faith and love for the Lord, about fidelity to him. Consequently, it is important for all ecclesial elements to remain firmly united around the bishop, who represents Christ alive in the midst of his people, and to build up the synodal fellowship that we preach and that greatly assists the inculturation of the faith.”

Pope Francis listened to the “testimonies” of three people: a member of the Missionaries of Charity, a lay catechist and one of only two Mongolia-born

priests.

Sister Salvia Mary Vandana-kara told the pope about arriving in 1998 and living among the poorest of the poor, as St. Teresa of Kolkata taught her sisters. An early activity was organizing classes for children who risked not finishing school, she said. One of those boys is now a priest.

The priest, Father Peter Sanjaajav, told the pope his visit tells Mongolians that God “is by people’s side, by the side of us Mongolians. It is wonderful to understand that God is so close to our daily life.”

And Rufina Chamingere, a lay pastoral worker, told the pope the young Church in Mongolia — which opened to missionaries only in the 1990s after decades of communist repression — “is in that phase

typical of children who constantly ask their parents questions.”

Mongolian Catholics rejoiced last year when Pope Francis made their apostolic prefect, Bishop Marengo, a cardinal, she said. But they didn’t know what a cardinal was.

She thanked Pope Francis for the current process for the Synod on Synodality, which, she said, is giving local Catholics, especially catechists and other pastoral workers, a chance to discover “the true nature of the Church.”

Chamingere also told the pope she thinks Mongolian Catholics “are very lucky” that there are not many catechisms or other Catholic educational materials in their local language, “but we have many missionaries who are living books.”

## MARTHA JANE

From page 15

“God is choosing us to be the champions of today, to go out in his name and bring many souls to him,” Fr. Luzindana proclaimed.

“Nothing is going to stop us!” he said. “We want you to go and shout! We want you to light up your schools, your families. Make the Sign of the Cross and let everybody know: We are saluting God!”

Fr. Luzindana told them to keep their eyes fixed on God.

“The world is so crazy today, and our eyes are too often fixed on other things,” he said.

He urged the campers not to go home without kneeling down and asking God to show them the way and give them the strength to live their faith confidently out in the world.

“Ask today for the power from above!” he advised. “Pray that God gives you the grace, so that you can be his witnesses to this world.

“God is calling you!” he assured them. “God is going to use you mightily!”

### Speaking Truth

Portraying Martha Jane Tolton is a great fit

for Mrs. Morris, who grew up loving God and loving music.

“And those spirituals are my roots,” she noted. “It comes pretty easily to me.”

Her grandmother sang in a Gospel choir in church.

“When I was a little girl, she would set me on her knee and we would sing together,” Mrs. Morris recalled.

She moved to Quincy with her husband in 1999 and shortly thereafter began working on her historical interpretation of Sojourner Truth, a formerly enslaved woman in the 1800s who became an ardent opponent of slavery and advocate for women’s rights.

Impressed with Mrs. Morris’s portrayal, several friends encouraged her also to begin sharing the story of Martha Jane Tolton.

“What I try to get across is that she loved God and had a loving heart and was obedient him, and that she trusted him to guide her,” said Mrs. Morris.

“That’s where she got her tremendous strength,” she added.

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Sep 17

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Sir. 27:30-28:7  
Ps. 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12  
Rom. 14:7-9  
Mt. 18:21-35

### Monday, Sep 18

1 Tm. 2:1-8  
Ps. 28:2, 7, 8-9  
Lk. 7:1-10

### Tuesday, Sep 19

St. Januarius, bishop and martyr  
1 Tm. 3:1-13  
Ps. 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6  
Lk. 7:11-17

### Wednesday, Sep 20

Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and companions, martyrs  
1 Tm. 3:14-16  
Ps. 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
Lk. 7:31-35

### Thursday, Sep 21

St. Matthew, apostle and evangelist  
Eph. 4:1-7, 11-13  
Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5  
Mt. 9:9-13

### Friday, Sep 22

1 Tm. 6:2c-12  
Ps. 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20  
Lk. 8:1-3

### Saturday, Sep 23

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, priest  
1 Tm. 6:13-16  
Ps. 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5  
Lk. 8:4-15

### Sunday, Sep 24

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Is. 55:6-9  
Ps. 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18  
Phil. 1:20c-24, 27a  
Mt. 20:1-16a

### Monday, Sep 25

Ezr. 1:1-6  
Ps. 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6  
Lk. 8:16-18

### Tuesday, Sep 26

Ss. Cosmas and Damian, martyrs  
Ezr. 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20  
Ps. 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5  
Lk. 8:19-21

### Wednesday, Sep 27

St. Vincent de Paul, priest  
Ezr. 9:5-9  
(Ps.) Tb. 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8  
Lk. 9:1-6

### Thursday, Sep 28

St. Wenceslaus, martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs  
Hg. 1:1-8  
Ps. 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b  
Lk. 9:7-9

### Friday, Sep 29

Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels  
Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv. 12:7-12a  
Ps. 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5  
Jn. 1:47-51

### Saturday, Sep 30

St. Jerome, priest and doctor of the Church  
Zec. 2:5-9, 14-15a  
(Ps.) Jer. 31:10, 11-12ab, 13  
Lk. 9:43b-45

### The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for September:

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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# Rally to kick off 40 Days for Life fall campaign in Columbia

A Sept. 26 rally will mark the beginning of the Fall 2023 40 Days for Life Columbia campaign.

The rally will be held at 6 p.m. in Msgr. Flanagan Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive, near Stadium Boulevard and I-70 in Columbia.

It will conclude with a 7:10 p.m. candlelight vigil on the public right-of-way outside Columbia Planned Parenthood, 711 N. Providence Road.

Columbia is one of 561 cities from coast-to-coast that will hold simultaneous 40 Days for Life campaigns from Sept. 27

to Nov. 4, 2023.

The campaign includes 40 days of prayer and fasting, with special attention to prayer in the public right-of-way outside the abortion referral facility at Columbia Planned Parenthood, as well as various types of community outreach.

“We start this effort by drawing members of the community together to share the vision of 40 Days for Life and to pray for God’s blessings on this effort,” stated 40 Days for

Life Columbia Campaign Coordinator Kathy Forck.

All prayer vigil participants are asked to sign a statement of peace, pledging to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times.

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, intensive campaign that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and 40 days of grassroots educational outreach.

The 40-day timeframe is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history where God brought about a world-changing transformation in 40-day periods.

Abortions no longer take place at Columbia Planned Parenthood, but abortion referrals do.

“We truly pray that this 40 Days for Life campaign will mark the beginning of the end of abortion referrals in Columbia,” Mrs. Forck said.

For information about 40 Days for Life in Columbia or to sign up to take part in a sidewalk vigil, visit [40daysforlife.com/columbiamo](http://40daysforlife.com/columbiamo).

For more information, contact Mrs. Forck at 573-821-5130.