

## A growing bridge between cultures

Bishop McKnight blessed the expanded El Puente-Hispanic Ministry headquarters in J.C., and the communities it serves.  
Page 12



Attacks on Israel. . . . . Page 3  
Helias Catholic president . . Page 4  
Unconditional trust, love . . Page 5  
Christian teacher award . . Page 6  
MCC Messenger . . . Pages 13-16  
Fr. McGrath and Missy. . . Page 25

# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

October 13, 2023 • Vol. 67 No. 8

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Pope requests 'fast' from public words during Synod



Pope Francis is seen on a monitor as he speaks to participants in the assembly of the Synod of Bishops during their first working session in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican Oct 4.  
— CNS photo/Lola Gomez

**Synod on Synodality, taking place at the Vatican, is not about changing doctrine but giving effective witness to eternal truth**

**Bishop McKnight urges all in diocese to pray for the synod and continue carrying on the Church's good work**

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

"The Church is taking a break," Pope Francis said. "It is a break for the whole Church, as we engage in listening," he told members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops — and journalists.

Addressing the opening working session of the assembly, the pope may have exaggerated a bit, yet for participants his words certainly rang true.

For the duration of the assembly Oct. 4-29, all the heads of Vatican dicasteries and hundreds of cardinals, archbishops, bishops, religious superiors, professors, students and parents were scheduled to be away from their homes and their desks.

For Paolo Ruffini, prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, that is the "news" of the synod.

"An institution as large as the Church is giving itself a moment for common discernment in silence, listening, faith and prayer," he told reporters Oct. 5.

As this global discussion continued, priests in the Diocese of Jefferson City were also away from their home parishes this week as they came together for the annual Priests' Institute retreat.

While the synod was not officially on the agenda, it was a topic of conversation.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight urged

See SYNOD, page 27

## Stewardship Renewal an opportunity to stop, pray and recommit to "living the good Catholic life"

*All parishes in the Jefferson City diocese will take part in the annual Catholic Stewardship Renewal this year on the weekend of Oct. 21-22.*

By Jay Nies

God doing powerful things here and now, and people participating integrally in that great work.

That is the essence of Catholic stewardship, and it is in constant need of renewal.

"As Catholic stewards, we are cooperators — collaborators! — with God in the salvation of souls," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. "This is about getting to heaven and doing so together with as many people as possible."

This month, for the first time, every parish in the Jefferson City diocese is participating in the Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR) process.

"We're asking God to show us how we can be more en-

gaged in the life and mission of the Church," said Bishop McKnight.

Every Catholic in the diocese is being invited to take part in this process, which includes committing to participate fully in the worship and sacramental life of the Church and in the building up of the parish community, and to give sacrificially to support the work of the parish.

"It is a time for us to think, to pray, to discern what God is asking of us right here, right now, in light of the many gifts and blessings he has bestowed upon us, especially the time and the talents we possess, as well as our treasure," the bishop stated.

By renewing the commitment to stewardship each year, prayerfully and in fellowship with fellow parishioners, Catholics throughout the diocese reaffirm their support of

See RENEWAL, page 21

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

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OLD PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

10/13/23

### Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau seeks qualified applicants to fill the position of diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The Director develops and implements diocesan policies and programs related to Youth and Young Adult Ministry that will promote the three priorities of the diocesan mutually shared vision: "Growing in Holiness, Forming Intentional Disciples, and Being Sent Forth to Witness."

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Recent employment or volunteer experience as a ministry leader with high school youth and/or young adults in parishes, schools, universities, or diocese is required. Minimum of a Bachelor Degree in Pastoral Ministry, Theology, Catholic Education, or Catechesis is required.

This is a full-time, exempt position. Some evening and weekend hours, as well as periodic travel, driving across the diocese will be required to accomplish the work. Compensation includes competitive salary, excellent health benefits and retirement plan based on diocesan guidelines.

To view a detailed job description, or to apply for the position, please consult the diocesan website at <https://dioscg.org/employment/>. For questions answered, please email Lynn Melendez at [lmelendez@dioscg.org](mailto:lmelendez@dioscg.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](https://indeed.com) or send resume to [HRDir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:HRDir@diojeffcity.org).

## National Shrine in Laurie to honor deceased mothers throughout November

November is the month in which Catholics remember and pray for their departed loved ones in a special way.

This year, The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church in Laurie will provide an opportunity for everyone to share their memories and prayers for their deceased mothers, women who have nourished and supported them in their life journey.

All are invited to upload photos and memories, prayers and tributes, which will be posted on a page devoted to honoring departed mothers on the Mothers' Shrine website.

The community of the Mothers' Shrine will also remember deceased loved ones and families in a special way this November.

There is no cost to participate in this program.

Those who would like their mother's photo to be printed and placed in the chapel overlooking the Mothers' Shrine during November can provide a small donation, which will also guarantee that fresh flowers will be kept before the mothers' photos.

All are welcome to visit the chapel from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, throughout November, to pray and remember their mothers in this holy place at 176 Marian Drive in Laurie.

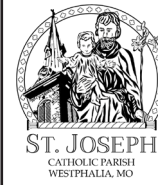
The Shrine will be closed Nov. 23 and 24 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

To submit a mother to be remembered in faith this No-

vember, please visit: [thenationalshrineofmary.com](https://thenationalshrineofmary.com)

[motherofthechurch.com/november-memorial](https://motherofthechurch.com/november-memorial)

### Secretary/Bookkeeper Position



St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia is seeking a parish secretary and bookkeeper, to begin fully in January 2024, with training to begin in the final months of 2023. This could be a 30-hour-a-week position with potential for 40 hours. It could also be two part-time positions, depending on applicants. There is some potential for flexibility of hours. For more information, visit [www.stjosephwestphalia.org/parish-secretary.html](https://www.stjosephwestphalia.org/parish-secretary.html). If you are interested in this position, please send a resume to Fr. Dylan Schrader at [dschrader@diojeffcity.org](mailto:dschrader@diojeffcity.org)

### Controller



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a Controller to manage the accounting department. Duties include managing personnel, Sage accounting and investment portfolio platforms, cash flow, accounts payable, billing, accounts receivable, PP&E, GL level and general accounting platforms. Specific duties include monthly accounting period closings and reconciliations, preparing monthly trial balances, preparing monthly financial analysis and quarterly financial statements. This individual will also manage the annual financial audit process and oversee all Chancery bank accounts and supervise maintenance of budgets.

Requirements include Bachelor's degree in accounting; minimum of 10 years of job-related experience including 501(c)(3) fund accounting and/or public accounting preferred, but not required; strong computer skills and ability to easily work in Sage, MS Excel and Word. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience will be considered.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply on [Indeed.com](https://indeed.com) or send resume to [hrrdir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:hrrdir@diojeffcity.org).

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS HIRING

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri is looking to fill several openings. Candidates must possess a strong commitment to the mission of Catholic Charities, understand Catholic Social Teaching and demonstrate its philosophy and values. Catholic Charities adheres to the social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

**Welcome Center Specialist** (Jefferson City) — answer phones, welcome/provide client intake or referrals, administrative support and volunteer coordination

**Director of Community Services** (Jefferson City) — oversee strategic planning and program management, develop budgets, staffing needs, monitor program objectives and policies/procedures, evaluate outcomes

**Director of Counseling Services** (Jefferson City) — liaison with agency leadership, program staff, therapeutic service providers, local and regional service partners and regional/national agencies to ensure quality services for clients

**Director of Refugee Services** (Columbia) — oversees strategic planning and program management for resettlement efforts, submit grant requests, financial reports, data tracking, oversee staff orientation, training and ongoing supervision

More information is available through our job postings on [Indeed.com](https://indeed.com).



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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

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# Church leaders in Jerusalem call for peace following deadly Hamas attack

**Pope Francis:**  
“Every war is a defeat!”

By Judith Sudilovsky  
OSV News

Jerusalem

Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem united in a call for peace and justice amid unfolding violence, following a surprise attack by Hamas in southern Israel.

The attack has left over 700 Israelis dead, among them civilians and dozens of soldiers and police who were killed battling the Hamas fighters.

Over 2,000 people were injured.

Israeli media said that more than 250 bodies had been recovered from the site of the music festival that was attacked by Hamas fighters on Oct. 7 in southern Israel.

Fears of a ground invasion of Gaza were growing after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened to turn the besieged Palestinian en-

clave into a “deserted island,” while the latest reported death toll of Palestinians is 511.

Thousands of people in Palestinian territories are injured in Israeli airstrikes, which began hours following the Hamas attack.

## “In solidarity”

During the Angelus prayer on Oct. 8, Pope Francis said he was “following apprehensively and sorrowfully what is happening in Israel where the violence has exploded even more ferociously, causing hundreds of deaths and casualties.”

He appealed: “May the attacks and weaponry cease. Please!” crying out that “terrorism and war do not lead to any resolutions, but only to the death and suffering of so many innocent people.”

The Holy Father stressed that “War is a defeat! Every war is a defeat!” He also asked for



**Israeli soldiers carry a body in Kfar Aza, a kibbutz in southern Israel, Oct. 10, 2023. The dead were victims of a massacre carried out on the community by Hamas infiltrators. Israel Defense Forces worked to remove the bodies from the homes where they were murdered. In retaliation for the bloody incursion by Hamas militants, Israel increased airstrikes on the Gaza Strip and sealed it off from food, fuel and other supplies Oct. 9.**

— OSV News photo/Ronen Zvulun, Reuters

prayers for peace in Israel and Palestine.

“The Holy Land, a place sacred to countless millions around the world, is currently mired in violence and suffering due to the prolonged political conflict and the lamentable absence of justice and respect for human rights,” The Patriarchs and Head of the Churches in Jerusalem said in an Oct. 7 joint statement.

As custodians of the Christian faith, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches said they “stand in solidarity with the people of this region, who are enduring the devastating consequences of continued strife.”

“We unequivocally condemn any acts that target civilians, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity or faith,” said the Patriarchs, among them Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

## “Vicious cycle”

Cardinal Pizzaballa expressed “condemnation” and great concern in an Oct. 7 interview with the Italian Catholic daily newspaper *Avvenire*.

“We need to stop the violence and then apply diplomatic pressure to prevent the game of retaliation from becoming a vicious cycle from which it is difficult to escape,” said Pizzaballa, who became the first

resident cardinal in Jerusalem’s history during a Sept. 30 consistory in Rome.

“So (we must) try to bring back a minimum of reasonableness between the parties. Even if it seems difficult right now,” he stated.

The Latin Patriarchate announced the postponement of all ceremonies to honor the newly created cardinal due to the current situation.

The patriarchate also called for all Oct. 8 Masses to be offered for the intention of a ceasefire and an end to the “ongoing war in the Holy Land to prevent further bloodshed, shattering of lives and burial of hopes.”

“May all religious leaders work to calm the situation and calm down the spirits,” Cardi-

## Shocking reports

Shocked by the unhindered breakthrough of hundreds of Hamas gunmen through the fence barrier, Israelis hunkered down in safe rooms and called to relatives and radio programs whispering terrified messages as they heard the militants breaking into their homes.

The attack included the takeover of the police station in the city of Sderot, which was later reclaimed.

The attack took place under the barrage of thousands of rocket attacks, which were largely intercepted by the Israeli Iron Dome defense system.

Hamas breached Israel’s security gate in the early morning Oct. 7 and infiltrated dozens of Israel border communities, killing people in their cars and homes and taking others hostage, including several elderly people, a mother with her two preschool-aged daughters, young people and foreign workers. Soldiers were also taken hostage.

Social media videos showed captives and bodies of dead Israelis paraded through the streets of Gaza.

One video showed a terrified young woman being pulled by

See ATTACK, page 17

## Pray for deceased priests

Oct. 17 — Fr. Richard L. Kaiser, St. Thomas Seminary, Hannibal (1970)

Oct. 19 — Fr. Terence J. Mullins, St. Joseph, Edina (1964)

Oct. 20 — Fr. John P. Cowan, Immaculate Conception, Owensville (1979)

Oct. 22 — Fr. Adolph H. Puetter, St. Francis Carraciola, Bourbon (1957); Fr. Michael E. McHugh, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1978)

Oct. 26 — Fr. John J. Hans, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1965); Msgr. Joseph A. Vogelweid, St. Peter, Jefferson City (1981); Fr. Edwin N. Sturm, St. Joseph, Martinsburg (1983)

Oct. 27 — Fr. Patrick H. Hoffmann, St. Joseph, Canton (1990)



## Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

### OCTOBER

**Oct 14** St. Bernadette Parish 50th Anniversary Mass, 4 pm, Hermitage

**Oct 18** Helias Catholic High School Presidential Medal Mass, 10:20 am, Jefferson City

**Oct 22** St. Jude Church Rededication Mass, 2 pm, Mokane

**Oct 23-30** 2023 Catholic Korea Peace Forum, hosted by the Catholic Bishops’ Conferences of Korea and Japan; Paju, Korea and Hiroshima, Japan

## Bishop McKnight’s October prayer intention for our Local Church

For those who have experienced trauma in their lives; may the Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal their wounds and may the Church, like a loving mother, show the way to justice and wholeness.

## Intención del mes de octubre del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por aquellos que han experimentado trauma en sus vidas, para que el Espíritu Santo, consolador de los corazones, sane sus heridas, y para que la Iglesia, como madre amorosa, muestre el camino hacia la justicia y la plenitud.



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



# Ron Vossen appointed president of Helias Catholic High School

By Jacob Luecke

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, of Jefferson City, has

appointed Ron Vossen as president of Helias Catholic High School.

The appointment comes with the support of the school's advisory council and at the rec-

ommendation of its board of directors.

Mr. Vossen had been serving as interim president since May. He was previously the Helias Catholic director of alumni relations, a role he assumed following a 43-year career in teaching and administration at the school.

"I thank Bishop McKnight and our school community for placing their trust in my leadership at this exciting time in our school's history," said Mr. Vossen.

"As we move forward together,

I want to invite our students, teachers, staff, families, alumni and partner parishes and schools to unite in spirit as we build on Helias Catholic's traditions of faith and pursuit of excellence."

Mr. Vossen is a 1974 graduate of Helias Catholic. He holds a master's degree from Lincoln University in secondary school administration and a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in industrial arts education.

Since beginning his career at Helias Catholic in 1979, he has served the school as a teacher, assistant principal, director of campus ministry, Fine Arts/Practical Arts Department chairman, spring musical production manager and coach.

He has served as director of alumni relations since fall 2022.

Ron and his wife, Carol, live in Jefferson City and are parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish. They have four

children, all of whom have graduated from Helias Catholic, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Vossen's leadership as president comes at an important time as Helias Catholic continues to work toward the final phases of its campus master plan, including major

enhancements to the school's performing arts, academic and extracurricular facilities.

Bishop McKnight thanked Mr. Vossen for accepting this great responsibility, and asked everyone to join in

praying for him as he begins this next stage of his service to the school.

"Helias Catholic has long benefited from the leadership and dedication of Ron Vossen," said Bishop McKnight. "With his installment as president, I look forward to his continued service as the school embarks on an ambitious path of development and growth."

Helias Catholic High School, founded in 1956 on the traditions of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the De La Salle Christian Brothers, serves about 700 students in grades 9-12 from throughout Central Missouri.

It is one of three high schools under the direction of the Diocese of Jefferson City.

Helias Catholic began a strategic growth planning process in 2019 to strengthen and enhance the school's Catholic identity, academic excellence



Ron Vossen



## St. Jude Thaddeus Rededication Open House

Sunday, October 29, 2023

EVERYONE WELCOME

2:00 - 5:00 pm

The parishioners of St. Jude Thaddeus invite you to visit our newly renovated parish home. Take a tour, explore the beautifully renovated historic building, and walk through 113 years of parish history.

After your tour, join us in the Parish Hall for snacks with the parish community.



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THIS NOVEMBER, THE MOTHERS' SHRINE INVITES YOU TO JOIN IN

## Remembering Our Mothers in Faith



All Saints Day and All Souls Day begin November, a time when we traditionally remember all who have gone before us in faith.

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church offers a place for all to share their memories and prayers for their deceased mothers, and other women who have nourished and supported us in our life journey.

Visit our website to upload your photos, memories, prayers and/or tributes, to be posted on our digital memorial wall. The Mothers' Shrine will remember your deceased loved ones and your families in prayer in a special way this November.



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See VOSSEN, page 21



# Catholic couple gives unconditional witness to parenthood, life

By Jay Nies

Gemma DeWitt is preparing to give birth to twins this month, which happens to be when Catholics celebrate Respect Life Month and the Month of the Rosary.

“We definitely believe in the power of prayers and blessings,” said Mrs. DeWitt, who lives near Martinsburg with her husband Aaron and their children.

“When you are faithfully praying for something, God grants your prayer if it’s for the best,” she stated. “We believed that quite a bit before, and I think that belief has now been cemented in our hearts.”

The DeWitts already had four children, ages 13 to 5, two of whom have special needs.

Mrs. DeWitt carries an extremely rare genetic mutation called Allan-Herndon-Dudley Syndrome (AHDS), which has a 1 in 4 chance of affecting any boy she gives birth to.

“The mutation basically prevents the thyroid hormone from passing through the baby’s blood-brain barrier during the first trimester in the womb,” the children’s father noted.

This leads to varying degrees of physical and developmental disabilities after the child is born.

“It severely limits their ability to move around and talk and basically be independent,” said Mrs. DeWitt.

The couple’s two children who have the condition cannot walk or speak.

Testing in the womb indicated that both twins — their names are Joseph Maximilian and Benjamin Pius — also have AHDS.

Dr. Roy E. Weiss, MD Ph.D., an endocrinologist and Chief Medical Officer for Ambulatory Services at the University of Miami Health System, treated Mrs. DeWitt with experimental medication throughout her pregnancy, hoping to reduce AHDS’s effects and allow the babies’ brains to develop in a healthy way.

This the first *in utero* application of this treatment.

Each Monday, the DeWitts pray their Family Rosary for the babies, their brothers and all children who have AHDS.

They also call upon the intercession of St. Joseph, St.

Michael the Archangel and the Holy Guardian Angels.

They would love to witness a miraculous outcome, “but whatever God has in store for me and my family, that’s good enough,” said Mrs. DeWitt.

“There isn’t a thing that God hasn’t taken care of for me and my family,” she stated. “Every twist and turn, God has been right there in it.”

## Being Catholic

The DeWitts have made a conscious decision to cooperate fully with God’s grace.

“I think God put us in this situation because we are a very pro-life family and we’ve always wanted to influence people toward being pro-life,” said Mrs. DeWitt.

“This might be a way for us to really do pro-life work for God,” she stated.

Radical faith is at the center the couple’s lives.

Mrs. DeWitt grew up Catholic but had become lukewarm in her belief and practice.

Mr. DeWitt was raised in a faith tradition that regarded Catholicism as “the devil’s church.”

They met while serving in the U.S. Army, at the Army’s LVN nursing school at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. DeWitt was in a serious dating relationship when he caught site of his future wife walking through the barracks.

“I heard a voice tell me, ‘That’s your wife, go marry her,’” he recalled.

The voice wouldn’t stop hounding him. The next week, he walked up to Gemma, introduced himself and told her what he had been hearing.

“We started dating,” he recalled. “And all of eight weeks later, we got married.”

That was 14 years ago.

“And because of Catholicism, our marriage is stronger than it could have ever been otherwise,” he said.

Mr. DeWitt originally figured that he would go with his wife to her church and then have her come to church with him.

“I didn’t think I’d have any trouble converting her,” he said.

“I must admit that I was a very lukewarm Catholic at that time,” Mrs. DeWitt noted. “I



Gemma and Aaron DeWitt and their four children gather for a photo. Mrs. DeWitt was to give birth to twins on Oct. 11.

basically attended church because I was told it’s what I’m supposed to do.”

So, they went to Mass together.

“And there, before the Eucharist, I felt this indescribable, powerful presence,” said Mr. DeWitt. “It was very clear to me that ‘this isn’t Satan’s church.’”

He decided to become Catholic, enrolling in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in their local parish.

They took part in the classes together, which awakened Mrs. DeWitt’s spiritual fervor.

She would later say to her husband, “I didn’t know what it was to be Catholic until I met you.”

## “In God’s hands”

The DeWitts brought their first and only daughter into the world 13 years ago, followed by a son two years later.

Their second son just turned 8, and a third is now 5. Both of these boys have AHDS. They can do little for themselves, and their life expectancy is severely limited.

“We found a geneticist who had seen another case [of AHDS],” Mr. DeWitt recalled.

“When she saw our boy after two or three years of his life,

she said, ‘I think I know what it is.’”

She tested him, and the results came back positive.

Only about 500 people in the world have been diagnosed with AHDS. Few doctors are aware of it.

For Mrs. DeWitt, finding out that she carries this mutation was hard to accept.

“I was angry,” she recalled. “I was mad at God and mad at myself. All those negative emotions that I think the devil tries to play you with — they were all present in me.”

“I almost felt like telling Aaron, ‘You should go find yourself a better person, because I’m defective,’” she said.

For a while, they decided to live as brother and sister, forgoing marital relations entirely.

“We were afraid of what would happen,” said Mrs. DeWitt.

They later discerned that being parents and bringing children into the world is the greatest gift they could receive in this life.

“We realized that we’re called to be parents and to have babies, and we agreed that that’s what we’re going to do,” said Mr. DeWitt.

“It’s part of the Sacrament of Marriage, and we were just going to leave it in God’s hands after that,” he stated.

What followed were three miscarriages, each about a year apart.

After each, the couple

See FAMILY, page 19



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# Tanya Dallmeyer receives Christian Teacher of the Year Award

**Has been teaching second grade at St. Peter School in Jefferson City for 27 years**

By Jay Nies

One way Tanya Dallmeyer stays connected to Christ is by helping children encounter him and his mercy in the Sacraments.

"I remember my own First Reconciliation and First Communion, and I get to relive it every year with my students," said Ms. Dallmeyer, a second grade teacher at St. Peter School in Jefferson City.

"It's very, very exciting — probably the biggest honor I could ever have," she said.

A close second is the award she received last month in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Dallmeyer and 11 other educators from throughout the United States were presented the Christian Teacher of the Year Award from the Stanley M. Herzog Charitable Foundation.

The foundation promotes quality, Christ-centered K-12 education to help families and the culture flourish.

Gayle Trachsel, principal of St. Peter School, nominated Ms. Dallmeyer for the honor.

"Tanya Dallmeyer embodies excellence in herself, which transpires into the children that she serves," Mrs. Trachsel wrote.

Ms. Dallmeyer is an active member of the school's sunshine committee, "where she sprinkles kindness, love and

faith-filled prayers to our staff and community throughout the year," Mrs. Trachsel stated in the nomination letter.

This includes delivering prayer notes to people who are experiencing hardship or grief, as well as to those who are celebrating.

"Such a simple gesture lets our staff know Jesus's love," Mrs. Trachsel stated.

The principal also highlighted Ms. Dallmeyer's propensity for kindness to people in need.

"She goes out of her way to help people who need it the most," Mrs. Trachsel wrote.

"I have seen her deliver breakfast to homeless people on our campus benches. She has been known to give rides to the grocery store for the sick and elderly."

Whenever a student comes to school in need of something, Ms. Dallmeyer makes sure he or she gets it, "whether it's a coat, gloves or a snack."

She and her students make care bags for people who are homeless or who are forgotten in hospitals and nursing homes.

"She does these things because she knows that God calls all of us to be his hands and feet in the world," Mrs. Trachsel stated.

Ms. Dallmeyer said she learned such kindness by watching her family.

"My parents and my grandparents both played a big role in helping people and seeing the face of Jesus in others," she

recalled.

"When you see somebody who's in need, the right thing to do is to help them if you're capable," she stated.

Ms. Dallmeyer's father was fond of saying: "If you think you've got it bad, someone else has got it worse."

"So, you need to figure out how you're going to work through it by helping someone else," he would tell her.

## Extended family

Ms. Dallmeyer grew up in Eldon and enjoyed going to daily Mass with her Dad before school.

"I was so excited when I was actually able to receive Holy Communion," she said. "I remember my pastor saying, 'You finally get to do it, Tanya!'"

She attended Helias Catholic High School and later studied education at Lincoln University, both in Jefferson City.

She was fascinated by her Catholic faith but knew she had a lot of unanswered questions.

"I hadn't really planned on being a Catholic school teacher," she acknowledged.

But she received several job interviews at Catholic schools, including one with Barbara Swanson, now deceased, who was associate diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools.

"I found her to be the sweetest woman," Ms. Dallmeyer recalled. "After that, I said, 'I want to be a part of this!'"

Her first year teaching, Ms. Dallmeyer car-pooled 36 miles each way from Jefferson City to St. Andrew School in Tipton.

The children, families and pastor at St. Andrew melted her heart.

"They were absolutely amazing," she said. "That was my introduction into Catholic education as far as being part of the family."

The next year, while preparing to start a family, she sought employment closer to home.

She got hired to teach second grade at St. Peter, "and I've been here ever since," she said.

All three of her children



**Tanya Dallmeyer, a second grade teacher at St. Peter School in Jefferson City, displays the Christian Teacher of the Year Award from the Stanley M. Herzog Charitable Foundation in Washington, D.C.**

went to St. Peter and graduated.

"The people I work with are all an extension of my family," she said. "I couldn't do it without all the people here. They have been the most amazing support system I could ever ask for."

## One step at a time

The Herzog Foundation award included a \$2,500 honorarium for Ms. Dallmeyer, and the same for St. Peter School.

The foundation also flew Ms. Dallmeyer and Mrs. Trachsel to the Nation's Capital for the award ceremony.

Ms. Dallmeyer acknowledged feeling a little out of place.

"The other recipients of the award were talking about theology classes and how they share their faith with middle and high school students," she noted.

"And I'm saying, 'I teach 7- and 8-year-olds,'" she said. "'We don't get that deep.'"

She and her students are accustomed to learning by watching and doing.

After praying for their Guardian Angels to protect them throughout the day, they start their morning routine with a fun activity from one of the "STEM boxes."

STEM stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math."

"The students and their creativity are ignited with domino blocks, interlocking building discs, magnetic building sticks, magnetic blocks and more," she said.

This creative interlude also gives her an opportunity to move around the room, see what the students are creating and listen to their conversations with peers.

"It allows them to ease into their day and helps me see where they are emotionally," she noted.

Ms. Dallmeyer also gets them involved in charitable activities that help them feel connected to God and humanity. Her favorite times of the year are

when her students make their first Confession and receive First Holy Communion.

"They're so excited!" she said of when they emerge from the confessional. "It's like they have shiny little halos. My co-teachers and I like to joke about how long it's going to stay on them."

A few months later, they're thrilled to join in the procession to receive Holy Communion.

"I keep reminding them: It's not just their First Communion, it's the first of thousands of Communion!" she said.

She's quick to remind them that they're receiving the fullness of Jesus Christ: body, soul, spirit and divinity.

"I tell them that every week, every day they receive Holy Communion, it brings them closer to God and gives them a moment to be one with him."

She knows it's hard for adults, let alone 7- and 8-year-olds, to wrap their minds around all of this.

"They still have a lot of questions," she noted. "I just try to reassure them that the more they participate at Mass, the more their faith and understanding will grow."

## God willing

Ms. Dallmeyer and her family have made sacrifices for her

See DALLMEYER, page 21



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# St. Luke Masses for healthcare personnel, to be celebrated Oct. 18 in three Columbia locations

## Hospital chaplains, volunteers, faith communities play important roles in healing

By Jay Nies

Sometimes, those who help God provide healing need a taste of their own medicine.

That's why three Masses will be offered in Columbia on Wednesday, Oct. 18, for people who are involved in healthcare and the lifesaving professions, including caregivers and hospital chaplains.

"Even Jesus needed someone to help him carry the cross, so it's okay to let people help you carry your cross," said Deacon Michael Berendzen, the diocese's coordinator for Columbia Catholic Hospital Ministry.

St. Luke Masses will be offered at 6:15 a.m. in the chapel of University Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive; at 7 a.m. in the chapel of Boone Hospital Center, 1600 E. Broadway; and at noon in the St. Thomas More Newman Center, 602 Turner Ave.

Personnel at both hospitals are invited to the early-morning Masses. All are invited to the Mass at Newman, to pray for healthcare professionals and the people they serve.

The noon Mass will be livestreamed on the St. Thomas More Newman Center Facebook page.

It will be the Feast of St. Luke, patron saint of healthcare workers.

The following week, Oct. 22-29, Pastoral Care Week will be observed, recognizing chaplains and others who provide pastoral and spiritual care in hospitals.

This ministry has particular reach in Columbia, where several hospitals draw patients from a large area.

"Wherever they're from, it's nice to be able to provide a Catholic sense of home to them," Deacon Berendzen noted.

That often makes a clear difference to patients and their families, whether they practice their faith or are somehow separated from it.

"I've walked into patients' rooms and had someone say, 'Are you the doctor?'" said

Deacon Berendzen. "And I respond, 'No, they take care of the physical side. I'm here to take care of the other side.'

"Because we're more than just a body," he noted. "And because of an injury to the body, there might also be injury to the spirit and to faith.

"I absolutely believe that if we are at peace with God, at peace spiritually, if we have a strong faith and a strong spiritual background, it greatly impacts any physical ailment we're going through," the deacon stated.

Sometimes, an agent of the Church can initiate healing for wounds a patient or family didn't even realize they had.

"Suffering is part of the picture, and our faith helps us deal with that," said Deacon Berendzen. "Our Catholic faith encourages us to offer that up to Christ on the cross."

### Helping the helpers

Deacon Berendzen is in his fourth year as coordinator of Columbia Catholic Hospital Ministry.

He also serves part-time in the diocesan Diaconate Office and assists the pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos.

As a chaplain, he ministers not only to patients but also families and hospital personnel.

"In some cases, the patient may not be awake or alert, but the family is there holding vigil or accompanying them or trying to support them," he noted.

"We come in to try to help and support them, as well," he said. "We pray for them, provide for any needs they may have from a spiritual sense, such as pointing them in the direction of a local church."

Hospital staff members often also need to be ministered to.

"I get asked by nurses and techs and others to pray for them," said Deacon Berendzen. "They'll share with me something that's troubling them, so I'll sit with them and listen to them and pray for them if they like.

"They're wonderful, amazing people," he said.

### A time for everything

Deacon Berendzen urges

anyone who's staying in a hospital to ask for a chaplain and for someone to bring them Holy Communion.

He recommended that people who are homebound or living in a nursing home do the same.

He lauded the volunteers who bring Holy Communion to patients in hospitals all over the diocese, and to local priests who provide support and the sacramental care as part of their priestly ministry.

"They're willing to come at all hours to give Anointing of the Sick in an emergency, and that can be at 10 o'clock at night or 2 in the morning or 2 in the afternoon," he said. "And if one can't be there, others jump in."

These include the pastors and associate pastors of Columbia's three parishes, as well as Father Mark Porterfield, who serves in hospital and prison ministry in Jefferson City and Columbia, and Father Patrick Adejoh, Chief of Chaplain Services at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Columbia.

Deacon Berendzen noted that the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is best when the patient can fully participate in it.

"Which is why we encourage people to receive Anointing of the Sick in their home parish before coming to the hospital whenever possible," he said.

"If the situation is serious, I urge people not to wait until the very last minute," he stated.

People who have been away from the sacraments, no matter how long, are welcome and encouraged to seek pastoral care when they're in the hospital.

"We take people where they are and we minister to them," he said. "And if we're talking and they say they're thinking about getting back to church, I'm glad to help point them in that direction."

Sometimes, the chaplain is the first contact a patient has had with Catholic clergy in decades. Deacon Berendzen



Deacon Michael Berendzen is diocesan coordinator for Columbia Catholic Hospital Ministry.

emphasizes that neither he nor anyone else on the pastoral team judges people who are struggling with aspects of their faith.

"Being in a hospital often gives you time for reflection," he noted. "Sometimes, you realize that at this point in your life, you want to make changes and get back to practicing your faith."

### A voice crying out

By disposition and training, Deacon Berendzen's default approach is to be quiet and listen.

"A large part of pastoral work, spiritual work, is just listening," he said. "Just being there, being a presence for them and letting them talk or vent or yell at God or whatever they need to do at that time.

"Sometimes, as they talk things out, you try to help them recognize things that could prove comforting or helpful to them," he stated.

He frequently reminds family members that they can't help their loved ones recover without taking care of themselves.

He often talks with patients and families about what kind of support network they have back home, what kind of relationship they have with family members, and if they have the support of a church.

"And we talk about how faith factors into all of that," he said. "How does their faith support them? How is it supporting them now?"

He spoke of ways a faith community can help people recover from serious injury or illness.

First comes prayer.

"People are lifted up when they know they have a lot of people praying for them and supporting them back home," he noted. "That can be incredibly helpful."

Then there's presence.

"Coming to the hospital room and being with them and praying with them, or just sitting and being nearby — it makes a huge difference when a person has that kind of support," he said.

Then there's concrete assistance.

"When they know their family has a hot meal waiting for them back home, or that a neighbor is mowing their lawn, or a prayer group is praying the Rosary for them as they walk as a group, that goes a long way toward helping people heal on all levels," he said.

Deacon Berendzen asked for prayers for all hospital chaplains and spiritual-care volunteers to be led by the Holy Spirit, to recognize Christ in every person they minister to and to help reveal Christ's presence to them.

"It all goes back to understanding that we're more than flesh and bones," he said. "So much more than that."

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## QUESTION CORNER

## Does insufficient faith keep us from being healed?

By Jenna Marie Cooper  
OSV News



**Q: When I was Evangelical, we were told Jesus wanted to heal us, every time; we need only ask “in his name.” If we weren’t healed it was because we lacked sufficient faith to “claim it.” I remember my Catholic Grandma saying though, that sometimes God heals and sometimes not, and that the best thing to do is “offer it up” to God, just asking for the strength to bear it. What does the Catholic Church actually say about all this, especially “healings?” (St. John’s, KY)**

**A:** While your question involves many layers, the short answer is no, Catholics don’t believe that a lack of physical healing is due to some fault in the faith of the one suffering, nor can it be attributed to a lack of faith on the part of that person’s loved ones.

For millennia, philosophers and theologians have reflected on the “problem of evil,” or how a good and loving God could create a world with so much suffering in it. Looking through the eyes of faith, though, we know that physical illness, infirmity and death were not part of God’s original plan; as we read in Wisdom: “God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. For he fashioned all things that they might have being” (Wis. 1:13-14). Suffering entered the world because of original sin, when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, and in doing so set the world on a course that was not in harmony with God’s will.

Jesus came into this world to accept suffering and death on the cross in order to free us from the ultimate consequences of original sin. Because of Christ’s sacrifice, we are able to enter into eternal life in heaven. Still, we are all stuck living in a fallen world in the meantime, and physical illness and pain are unavoidable parts of this — for everyone, eventually.

To be sure, Catholicism certainly recognizes the possibility of miraculous healings. Jesus is recorded in all four Gospels as having healed a great many people from their illness as a sign of his redeeming mission. At the same time, Jesus also makes it clear that he wasn’t just a “miracle dispenser.” For example, in Mark’s Gospel, when “the Pharisees came forward and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him,” Jesus “sighed from the depth of his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation” (Mk. 8:11-12).

God is still at work in the world today, and so miraculous healings can still happen. But miracles, by definition, are extraordinary and not to be counted on in a presumptuous way. So an illness taking its natural course despite our prayers is not a sign of God’s indifference towards us — and it certainly doesn’t indicate a defect in anyone’s faith. Many of our most beloved saints, like St. Therese the “Little Flower,” and St. Francis of Assisi, endured tremendous bodily sufferings even amidst their heroic faith and trust in God.

Your grandmother’s expression “offer it up” is a very traditional Catholic phrase that often gets a bad reputation for sounding flippant or dismissive but references a real truth: that we can join our sufferings to Christ’s on the cross, “offering them up” for the sake of others just as Paul teaches in 1 Col. 1:24, when he writes: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church.” We also believe — again thanks to Paul, “God works all things for the good of those who love him” (Rom 8:28).

We can trust that whatever suffering God permits to befall us — because God will only ever allow suffering to happen; he does not actively will it — will ultimately be for our good, even if we never clearly see how in this life.

## Papal Audience

October 11, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our 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 once more to Africa and to the powerful witness of St. Josephine Bakhita. Born in Darfur in Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery. Despite the violence and terrible sufferings she endured, she never despaired. In the cross of Christ she discovered the source of a merciful love that affirms our innate dignity as God’s children, brings true freedom and enables us to forgive and indeed love those who wrong us. The experience of God’s mercy and forgiveness inspired Josephine to devote herself to Christ as a religious and to serve others humbly and selflessly in Italy, her new country. The life of St. Josephine Bakhita reveals the power of God’s grace to transform lives, to resolve conflicts and to bring about the justice, reconciliation and peace so greatly needed in our time. Let us entrust ourselves to her prayers and ask especially for the gift of peace for our brothers and sisters in war-torn Sudan and in so many other parts of our world.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially the groups from England, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Canada and the United States of America. I also welcome the distinguished delegation from the NATO Defense College, with prayerful good wishes for their service to the cause of peace. Upon all of you I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!



## Pope’s ‘Laudate Deum’ document: Planet mirrors a deeply flawed view of human life and activity

By Gina Christian  
OSV News

Pope Francis warns the clock is ticking on the dangers of climate change — and both a paradigm shift and practical action are critically needed to avert looming disasters in nature and human society.

The pope released his new apostolic exhortation “*Laudate Deum*” (“Praise God”) Oct. 4 as a follow-up to his 2015 encyclical “*Laudato Si’*, On Care for Our Common Home.” The exhortation’s publication coincided with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of ecology, whose famous canticle inspired the title of “*Laudato Si’*.”

Though only about one-fifth the length of “*Laudato Si’*” (which it references extensively), the exhortation’s message is even more urgent, since “the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point,” wrote Pope Francis. “Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community.”

The text reiterates key messages that have resonated throughout Pope Francis’ papacy — among them, concern

**“... The world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.”**  
— Pope Francis

for the marginalized, care for creation, human ecology and a “synodal” approach to resolving global problems.

With “the effects ... borne by the most vulnerable people,” the issue of climate change is “one intimately related to the dignity of human life,” he said.

Addressed to “all people of good will,” the exhortation declares that “it is no longer possible to doubt the human ... origin of climate change,” citing data from sources such as the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

While noting that “not every concrete catastrophe” is due to global climate change, humans

bear responsibility for specific changes that have led to “extreme phenomena” — such as storms, heat waves and flooding — that are “increasingly frequent and intense,” said the pope.

He pointed to rapid, human-driven upticks in greenhouse gas emissions, which

trap radiation from the sun in earth’s atmosphere and warm the planet. The global average temperature — a metric that tracks changes in the earth’s surface temperature against long-term averages for a given location and date — has risen over the past 50 years in particular, at a rate that could approach the recommended ceiling of 1.5 degrees Celsius in just 10 years, said the pope.

That acceleration has a profound impact, causing dangerous shifts in climate and weather with effects ultimately felt “in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing (and) forced migrations,” Pope Francis said.

See LAUDATE DEUM, page 17



## An October garden dedicated to the Holy Angels

By Margaret Rose Realy  
OSV News



"I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand and serve before the Glory of the Lord," announced Raphael to Tobiah (Tb. 12:15).

Our Blessed Mother is Our Lady of the Rosary and the Queen of Angels. October is devoted to the Holy Rosary and, less formally, the Holy Angels that guard and guide us on earth and into our eternity.

Angels are a significant part of God's arsenal for us against evil. Not only can we petition the Archangels for help but we also each have our own personal

guardians and all we need to do is be prayerfully mindful of their gentle but always attentive nudges.

There are seven archangels in our history; Roman Catholics name and honor three — St. Michael (God's power), St. Gabriel (God's voice) St. Raphael (God's healing) — and recognize the other four whose names and spellings vary within traditions yet emphasize additional qualities of the Almighty — God's light, beauty, righteousness and peace.

You can easily create a prayer garden dedicated to the archangels, whose feast day we celebrate on Sept. 29, or to your own guardian angel who we celebrate on Oct. 2.

The three archangels have their own symbolism and colors in Christian iconography:

St. Michael, hero of God, is often symbolized by a spear, and the colors gold, orange or red.

St. Gabriel, messenger of God, is depicted with lilies or a scroll, and his colors are often white, silver or blue.

St. Raphael, healer of God, is represented with a fish and the colors of green, yellow or gray.

Our gardens are beginning to wind down in most regions, but now is a good time to think about next year; why not plant flowers that represent the archangels? The Michaelmas daisy, "Aster novae-angliae," flowers when daylight hours are shorter, usually near these feast days depending on which zone you live in. In the States, one of its common names is the New England Aster; it is a sturdy perennial running from pale pinks to saturated purples and growing 3'-5' tall.

St. Michael is the hero and defender of God and as much as the iris and the gladiolus are both known as sword lilies both are appropriate symbols for this

archangel. There are over 300 species of iris growing in a wide range of environments and hardiness zones, and just as many gladioli to choose from. The shield fern genus "Polystichum" — also called a "shield fern" — would also be appropriate in this garden.

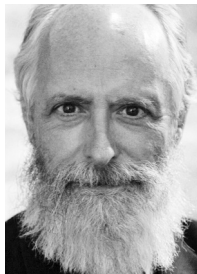
For St. Gabriel, who sought Mary's fiat at the Annunciation, plant the Madonna lily ("Lilium candidum"), or any white Asiatic or Oriental style trumpet lily. As Gabriel, our Blessed Mother shared the color blue in their symbolism, any flowers in this hue can be used.

St. Raphael is known as "God's Healing" or "God's Remedy." The healing herb Garden Angelica, "Angelica archangelica," is an appropriate plant though it grows quite large for a home garden. Its healing nature was revealed during the terrible Black Death of the Middle Ages. The legend goes that one of the archangels, probably Raphael, revealed the cura-

See REALY, page 23

## If you're bored, it's really your own fault

By David Mills  
OSV News



Cherston would have agreed with me. If you're bored, it's your own fault. "There is no such thing on earth as an uninteresting subject," he wrote in his early book, *Heretics*. "The only thing that can exist is an uninterested person."

Who is, I'd add, not only bored but boring.

When our children were small, they would sometimes tell their mother and me, in that whining, keening "I can't bear another second of life" voice, that they were bored. This bothered my wife more than me. I would tell them that if they were bored, it was their own fault, then go back to whatever I was doing.

They'd eventually find something to do. They'd read, or draw, or build forts in the woods, or create complicated Lego structures, or bike and scooter round the neighborhood. We sometimes had to drag them away from what they were doing to get them to dinner.

Sometimes I'd promise that we'd take the dogs to the park or get ice cream, and if it was the weekend we might go to the science center or the museum of natural history. But those were not to be taken as cures for boredom.

Because the usual state of life should interest us. The world is an interesting place. Everyone we meet is an interesting person. Not always on the surface, of course. On the surface, many things and people are as dull as dishwater.

But if you look more closely, with more patience and attention, you will find things to interest and even fasci-

nate you. Even dishwater would interest you, if you knew about all the interesting germs, and what they'll do to you if you don't clean your dishes, and the chemical reactions, and how dish detergent developed as a product and the way it affects the environment.

### Teaching the bored

On this subject, my friend the painter Timothy Jones once wrote that "as students, The Bored are practically impossible to teach." Very true, when it's a disposition, a cast of mind or character. And that's sad. Because they feel the subject is too boring to bother with, they can't learn. They can't see all the cool stuff there is to see in the world.

Fortunately, not everyone who acts bored is genuinely bored. Sometimes people act bored because they don't know anything or feel they're in over their heads, and cover that by acting like the subject's beneath them (i.e., boring). The teacher should be able to reach them, with care and effort.

But the ones who just can't be interested, can't be reached and taught. It's a mind I can't even comprehend. The world's such an interesting place, how can you find anything boring?

Maybe too hard, but that's just an interesting subject you're not ready for. Maybe it seems odd or weird, but that's just an interesting subject you may have to twist yourself around to understand. Maybe not aligned with the way your interests, gifts, and mind are wired, but that's just an interesting subject for which you're not suited, but one that, if you try, will give you what pleasure you can get from it.

And if you really do find something

See MILLS, page 23

## REFLECTION

### A shady deal

By Mark Saucier

It is the most unmistakable sign of autumn.

More than changing leaves, shortened days or cooler nights, it's the falling locust pods that tell me that summer is past and winter is fast approaching.

We have a huge honey locust in our yard. Every year, it summons me to clean up the mess it has made, dropping thousands of its dried seed pods onto the roof and across the lawn.

I dutifully respond, spending hours raking, bagging and filling a pickup for my contribution to the compost site.

The biggest question I face is whether the load is brush or yard waste.

Somehow, that task was different this year. I still got out the rake and ladder, but as I worked, I spent more time pondering the tree than cursing its produce.

Over the years, we have enjoyed the magic of its shade. An August day might have hit triple digits, but it was always singularly cool under the sprawling branches and feathery pinnate leaves.

One of the thick lower arms anchored a tire swing until shearing winds one day ended that fun.

Then it was a shelter for a trampoline where the kids propelled themselves into near-orbit trying to touch the lowest leaves.

The locust is so named because the sound of its pods shaking in the wind resembles the song of the cicada. To me, sitting in solitude, it is the peaceful pulse of soft maracas.

The realm of that tree remains our venue for picnics, grandchildren games and lingering visits.

Considering all that, the seasonal downpour of pods, as my Spanish-speaking friends would say, "vale la pena." They are "worth the pain."

As I rake, I am amazed at the sheer abundance of them. Each pod contains multiple seeds, but for one of those seeds to naturally sprout, it must first pass through the digestive tract of an animal.

It is an inspired design that works quite well. The honey locust has been around since the Pleistocene Epoch, fighting off mammoths and giant sloths with thorn clusters, and then feeding them once the pods matured and dropped.

Today, the clientele is smaller, with rabbits and squirrels feeding on the pods and deer getting their fill before heading to the flower beds for dessert.

We've lived here for nearly half a century and, before now, I never really saw that tree as a source of history and mystery, of awe and revelation.

I wonder what else I've missed.



# Encounter

## AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### Pumpkin leaves: The overshadowed vegetable



By Judith Mutamba

October is a special month for those of us in Missouri.

As the weather changes from warm to cool to cold, we look ahead to winter months.

The month seems to be shrouded in mysteries and surprises.

It is a time when children, and even adults, expect some tricks or treats (most hoping for treats!).

It is the pumpkin season, and the pumpkin, which is a proud member of the squash family, can hold more treats than most people realize.

Here in Missouri, we picture pumpkins as the bearer of Halloween treats or the most important ingredient for our Thanksgiving pies.

Surprisingly, for many who live here the pumpkin plant is a diverse and nutritional fruit — one that the people of my home country, Zimbabwe, have known and enjoyed for a long while now.

As gardeners, grocery shoppers and people who must eat to live — we are blessed with an abundance of availability and knowledge of plants and plant-based foods.

Not only do plants provide important nutrients to keep us healthy, their roots, stems, leaves, fruits and seeds hold within them a variety of uses — some plants are edible from roots to seeds.

The pumpkin plant almost fits that description. It is full of treats!

While we may not consume the roots as food, in certain cultures they are considered medicinal.

Remarkably, every part of the pumpkin plant above the ground is edible.

Growing pumpkins originated in this very region in Central America and Mexico.

Interestingly, the American diet focuses primarily on consuming the pumpkin fruit,



Dorothy and Judith visit while harvesting pumpkin leaves at Dorothy's home in Jefferson City.

quite in line with the Indigenous North Americans who also grew pumpkins for thousands of years.

Nowadays, pumpkin fruit is used as a vegetable, best sliced, and roasted with its skin or steamed and mashed like potatoes.

It is also pureed and baked into pies or blended into puddings.

Some snackers have wisely selected roasted seeds as a part of their diet, and get healthy fats and nutrients for heart and bone health.

However, a part of the plant that has been neglected especially in this region, is the pumpkin leaf, which I often call “the overshadowed vegetable.”

A colleague of mine here at Catholic Charities asked me an interesting question as I was preparing this reflection — she wondered at what age I knew pumpkin leaves were edible and when it was that pumpkin leaves were introduced into my diet.

I did not have a ready answer!

It was like being asked when first I was aware there was air to breathe. When I was born, I instantly breathed. I didn't have to think about it.

In the same way, when I started eating solid foods, pumpkin leaves were part of my meals as a toddler, for as long as pumpkin leaves were in season.

Pumpkin leaves are so central and so traditional to the African diet, it has been for me, like breathing.

In Zimbabwe, and in most African countries, pumpkin leaves are part of the diet just as spinach or lettuce is to the typical American diet.

Even though pumpkins are produced profusely in this region, the pumpkin leaf is overshadowed by the Halloween pumpkin mysteries and treats.

Recently I came across Cindy Ott's *Pumpkin: The Curious History of an American Icon*.

It was amazing to read about pumpkin in a historical context (I recommend it!), but to my dismay, again there was no mention of the pumpkin leaf vegetable — confirming my assessment that it has been utterly overshadowed.

Pumpkin leaves are an edible, nutritious vegetable added as a relish or side dish to meals.

The vegetable provides protein and minerals such as iron, calcium, phosphorus, potassium and Vitamins A, B and C.

Noteworthy to remember,

pumpkin leaves contain higher levels of these vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, compared to the usual vegetables such as spinach, kale or broccoli.

The high phenolic levels and beta-carotene in the vegetable provide antioxidant protection against chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes mellitus, arthritis and cardiovascular diseases.

What better way to boost the immune system as fall and winter weather roll in, than to take advantage of the high nutrients in pumpkin leaves!

Beyond the nutritional value, embracing pumpkin leaves in recipes could have positive economic impact — income — as some organic farmers now produce pumpkin leaves for the farmers' market.

In my own life, it has been known to build friendships and bring neighbors together as they garden and share their customs and special recipes.

This, of course, happened to me recently as I met a neighbor after driving by her home, where I noticed this pumpkin plant growing in her garden.

I was so excited to see such a healthy pumpkin plant with full leaves, that I parked my car and knocked on the door — wondering if anyone would harvest them.

The woman who answered, Dorothy, was very welcoming as she invited me to pick the pumpkin leaves. To this day, we keep in touch!

To practice what I preach, today I will share with you a simple but delicious recipe — Pumpkin Leaves in Peanut Butter Sauce.

This recipe, in its variations, has been handed over in our families for generations, not in written form, but through observation, cooking and eating together.

That tradition continues as our children and their families add this dish as part of the sea-

October 16 is World Food Day! Celebrate by trying out this unique recipe!

#### PUMPKIN LEAVES IN PEANUT BUTTER SAUCE

##### Ingredients:

- Pumpkin leaves (Muboora or Mutikiti in Shona)
- Peanut butter (preferably organic peanut butter with no additives)
- Tomatoes
- Curry powder (optional)
- Salt to taste

##### Directions:

Choose the youngest tender leaves on the front of the vine, make sure you leave every other leaf, especially a leaf where a pumpkin fruit is growing.

Wash and peel off the wiry tendrils and “glass-like thorns.”

Cut the pumpkin leaves into thin long slices, cross-width.

Boil/steam the pumpkin leaves in just enough water for 5-10 minutes until soft through the skin. (Do not use too much water since we do not want to throw out any water with nutrients. We need just enough water for the peanut butter sauce.)

When pumpkin leaves are cooked, to retain their nice green color, remove into a bowl, leaving the cooking water in the pot.

Return onto the stove on medium heat, add cut tomatoes and simmer for 2 minutes and add peanut butter (1-2 Tbs.) per cup of cooked pumpkin leaves to a thick consistency.

Add back the cooked pumpkin leaves and simmer for 5-10 minutes until the peanut butter is well cooked in with the pumpkin leaves.

Add curry and salt to taste.

Serve as a vegetable side dish with rice or Sadza (Zimbabwean traditional staple made from cornmeal).



# What Did Pope Francis say about blessings for persons with same-sex attraction?

By Father Dylan Schrader

You may have seen a headline or news story that Pope Francis recently made a statement about blessings for persons with same-sex attraction.

He did make a statement in response to a question that was submitted to him. His response is published in Spanish on the Vatican's website.

A provisional English-language translation can be found at: [vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-10/pope-francis-responds-to-dubia-of-five-cardinals.html](http://vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-10/pope-francis-responds-to-dubia-of-five-cardinals.html).

This is not the first time that a similar question has been posed and answered. In 2021, the Holy See stated that the Church does not have the power to bless same-sex romantic relationships.

Pope Francis approved that response, which can be found online by searching "Responsum of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to a dubium regarding the blessing of the unions of persons of the same sex."

Unfortunately, many media reports are distorting what Pope Francis has recently said. I would encourage everyone to read the Holy Father's actual words.

In response to the recent question, Pope Francis repeated Catholic teaching on marriage as being between a man and a woman.

He added: "The Church avoids every kind of rite or sacramental that could contradict this conviction [that marriage is between a man and a woman] and give the impression that she recognizes something as marriage that isn't."

The Pope then reminded us that blessings are one way the Church offers spiritual help to people. There are different kinds of blessings. Some set things aside for sacred use; others ask for God's help in certain areas; etc. A blessing does not have to be understood as a "seal of approval."

In fact, in Catholic practice, many prayers and blessings are requests to God for the strength to change. For example, the Book of Blessings contains blessings for those struggling with drug addic-

tion. This does not mean that the Church approves of drug abuse but instead that she has a prayer meant to ask for God's help for those who are struggling in this area.

Similarly, we often begin making our confession by saying, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned." This does not mean that we expect the priest to approve of our sins. It means just the opposite — that we are coming to the sacrament because we recognize

our weakness and want the strength from God to do better.

Thus, Pope Francis said in his recent response: "Pastoral prudence has to discern adequately if there are forms of blessing, requested for one or several persons, that do not give the wrong idea of marriage. Because when someone asks for a blessing, he is expressing a request for God's help, a prayer for the power to live better, a confidence in a Father who can

help us live better."

Pope Francis did not endorse the idea of blessing *romantic relationships* between two persons of the same sex.

Instead, he talked about the possibility of blessing *people* with same-sex attraction.

In fact, the Church already

does this, since the Church has many general blessings that are offered to anyone who requests them. For instance, the priest blesses everyone at the end of Mass.

This kind of blessing is not

See BLESSINGS, page 21



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**DIOCESE OF Jefferson City**



# Expanded El Puente-Hispanic Ministry J.C. headquarters blessed

**Is a hub for new and time-honored services**

By Jay Nies

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight reaffirmed the mission of El Puente-Hispanic Ministry before giving its newly-expanded headquarters in Jefferson City a thorough blessing.

He pointed out that the Catholic faith is El Puente's founding motivation, "but we serve people of all faiths, and we're confident that anyone would find a welcome here."

"Our prayer and our desire is that we pull together more strongly as a community and that our differences in culture can be our strength, rather than our division," he said.

Joining Bishop McKnight at the interfaith celebration were clients, members of El Puente's board of directors, benefactors, representatives of organizations that cooperate with El Puente, and the staff and some of the volunteers who carry-out its mission.

Deacon Enrique Castro, diocesan executive director of faith formation, which included Hispanic and intercultural ministries, who also assists the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, helped administer the blessing.

Bishop McKnight spoke of the expanded facility as a crossroads of culture and faith, of welcome and relief, of people from many backgrounds.



**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight opens a prayer service to bless El Puente-Hispanic Ministry's expanded headquarters in Jefferson City.**  
— Photo by Jay Nies

"It will be a center for our community activities and a place where we may come to know one another and give witness to our faith in Christ," the bishop said.

## Place of welcome

El Puente Executive Director Cristhia Castro believes everyone who attended the dedication felt welcome and "right at home."

"People from different denominations and many different backgrounds were here because they wanted to be a part of the blessing, because they recognize how important our ministry is," she said.

El Puente is Spanish for "The Bridge."

Founded in 1999 and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, the Diocese of Jefferson City and local parishes, El Puente is a separate, nonprofit agency offering an array of services to the Hispanic communities primarily in and near Jefferson City and California.

It serves as a link between cultures and between immigrants and the communities they're joining.

The ministry moved in 2020

from its longtime location on East McCarty Street to half of the current location at 2709 Industrial Drive.

Since then, El Puente has been expanding its services in response to needs that have become apparent.

"The vision all along was to serve as many people as we can in the space we have, and eventually to expand that space," Mrs. Castro stated.

The El Puente staff and board were convinced all along that additional room would become available, because God meant for them to be able to use it.

"It's such a blessing that God keeps leading the way in providing what we need through all these people who believe in our ministry and the work we're doing to welcome new people into the community," said Mrs. Castro.

## In word and work

At the dedication, Bishop McKnight prayed to God of Mercy and Truth to bless the facility and everyone who uses it.

"May all who come here know the presence of Christ, experience the joy of his friendship and grow in his love," he prayed.

The bishop then walked through each room of the facility, sprinkling holy water onto the walls and floors.

The aroma of candles and fresh roses filled the room where the people were gathered.

The bishop strode past a

large, framed reproduction of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Jesus's mother, whose apparitions in 1531 in present-day Mexico have helped lead millions of people to faith in Christ.

At the end of the service, Bishop McKnight called down a blessing upon everyone present:

"May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts," he prayed. "May the word of Christ dwell in you,

so that all that you do in word and in work, you will do in the name of the Lord."

Visitors then shared fellowship over a meal of Venezuelan *arepas* and *tequeños* from the COMO Arepas Restaurant in Columbia.

Deacon Castro prayed the blessing before meals in Spanish, and the people responded by praying it in English.

"Whenever we can, we like to introduce food from different countries," said Mrs. Castro. "It's always good to help the wider community learn about the backgrounds of various Hispanic communities."

## "Know your neighbor"

El Puente's mission is "to make present the healing love of Jesus, the Incarnate Word, promoting human dignity through a ministry of presence and outreach to the Hispanic community."

This, according to Mrs. Castro, includes helping connect Hispanic immigrants and their families with even more of the people and resources they need in order to become engaged, successful and faith-filled members of society.

El Puente staff members serve as bilingual, bicultural liaisons between Spanish-speaking immigrants from Mexico, Central and South America and the neighborhoods and faith communities they are eager to become a part of.

As of last month, the agency

had 1,270 regular clients.

In addition to accompanying people to doctor's appointments and providing language-interpretation services, the staff and volunteers help individuals and families overcome obstacles to fulfilling the dreams that brought them here.

They provide support to individuals in meeting their basic needs through direct services and referrals to support the well-being of families.

"We're not just serving a need but a community with needs," Mrs. Castro said.

The ministry's staff also gives cultural presentations to non-Hispanic groups.

"It goes back to the belief of if you know your neighbor, you tend to be more family-like," she said. "But if you don't know how to approach them, you don't know how to welcome them."

## Bridge work

Volunteers now use part of the expanded El Puente facility to tutor children who need help keeping up with school.

"Some of the students we have now are still learning English," Mrs. Castro noted. "If they're having trouble understanding the concepts and their parents can't help them, they can easily fall behind and start wanting to quit."

"This program gives them the help they need to stay in school and finish their education," she said.

Jim and Barb Kemna anchor the agency's popular Welcome Program, which distributes donated necessities such as shoes, clothing, beds, bedding and household items to asylum-seekers who arrive with little more than what fits in their suitcase.

"They come to this country legally, but there's nobody waiting to welcome them when they get here," Mrs. Castro noted. "So once they find out about us, we can help them with finding clothes, shoes, signing their kids up for school, signing up for the food pantry at Catholic Charities and other food pantries."

Volunteers sort the donated items in storage space provided free of charge by Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

See EL PUENTE, page 19

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## The Eucharist: The Real & True Presence of Jesus Christ on Earth



The Catholic Mass sets itself apart from other Christian worship services through the sacrament of the Eucharist. Though many Protestant gatherings feature a “Lord’s Supper,” the Mass contrasts all Protestant sects through the Church’s teaching on the Real Presence of Christ’s Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity present in the Holy Eucharist under the form of bread and wine. Throughout the Church’s 2000-year history this teaching has remained constant. With the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress just around the corner, now is an excellent time to acquaint oneself with the Church Fathers’ writings on the Eucharist and the Real Presence.

Christ explained the nature of the Eucharist while speaking to the Israelites, saying “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world... Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.” Catholic theologians throughout history have reinforced Our Lord’s teaching that He is truly present in the Eucharist.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, a disciple of the Apostle, St. John the Evangelist, was consecrated a bishop by St. Peter, the first Pope. He was a child at the time of Christ’s crucifixion and grew to the age of maturity as the 12 Apostles were preaching the gospel. In AD 110, he wrote:

“I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ... and for drink I desire his blood, which is love incorruptible... Take note of those who hold heterodox opinions on the grace of Jesus Christ which has come to us, and see how contrary their opinions are to the mind of God... They abstain from the Eucharist and

*Bishop W. Shawn McKnight elevates our Eucharistic Lord during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.  
Photo courtesy of The Catholic Missourian.*



from prayer because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes.” (Letters to the Romans, Smyrnaeans.)

Another successor of St. John was St. Irenaeus, who wrote extensively about the Real Presence in the Eucharist in a series of letters to confront the errors of the Gnostic heresy. Gnosticism promoted the belief that there were two Gods: a higher God of pure essence and love which was the true God, and a lower God, who was the creator. Gnostics also believed that physical matter (i.e. the human body) was evil. Therefore, Jesus was not incarnated into a human body, but only had the appearance of a human body in order to communicate with humanity. As a result, in Gnosticism, since Jesus did not have a real human body, He could not have been crucified and died on the cross. During his time as the bishop of Lyon in Roman Gaul, Irenaeus wrote that the Real Presence in the Eucharist demonstrates Christ’s Divine Nature.

“He has declared the cup, a part of creation, to be his own blood, from which he causes our blood to flow; and the bread, a part of creation, he has established as his own body, from which he gives increase unto our bodies. When, therefore, the mixed cup [wine and water] and the baked bread receives the Word of God and becomes the Eucharist, the body

of Christ, and from these the substance of our flesh is increased and supported, how can they say that the flesh is not capable of receiving the gift of God, which is eternal life—flesh which is nourished by the body and blood of the Lord, and is in fact a member of him?” (Against Heresies, AD 189.)

Moving beyond individual Church theologians, the Church ecumenical councils have time and again affirmed the Real Presence of the Eucharist. In its refutation of the Nestorian heresy which believes that Christ was simply a man inspired by God but not God incarnate, the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD clarified that at every Mass, the faithful receive the Eucharist, “not merely common flesh... but as truly the life-giving and very flesh of the Word himself.”

In response to the onset of the Lutheran Heresy, the 1551 Council of Trent affirmed the true nature of Holy Communion, restating that within the sacrament, “the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.” The Catholic Church of today has taken that passage from Trent and recorded it within the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Section 1374), thus maintaining the link the Church has held from its outset to the present day.

Despite consistently teaching belief in the Real Presence of the Eucharist for millennia, the

Church has seen a steady decline in belief in the Real Presence among its Catholic faithful. A 2019 Pew Research poll found that among self-identified Catholics, only 31% believe that the Holy Eucharist is transubstantiated—that it is actually Christ’s body, blood, soul, and divinity under the forms of bread and wine. In addition to asking Catholics what they believe about the Eucharist, the survey also included a question that tested whether Catholics actually had knowledge of what the Church teaches on the subject. Most Catholics who believe that the bread and wine are symbolic do not know that the Church holds that transubstantiation occurs. Overall, 43% of Catholics believe both that the bread and wine are symbolic and that this is the position of the Church. A further one-in-five Catholics (22%) reject the idea of transubstantiation, even though they know the Church’s teaching. Even among Catholics who attended weekly Mass, only 67% responded that they believed in the Real Presence.

To help explain and meditate upon the mysteries of the Holy Eucharist, the Church plans to bring the National Eucharistic Congress back to the United States for the first time in 83 years. The first International Eucharistic Congress owed its inspiration to Bishop Gaston de Ségur, and was held at Lille, France on June 21, 1881. From that event and its subsequent International Eucharistic Conferences sprang forth the National Eucharistic Congress, which has met in the United States a total of nine times.



Fr. Dylan Schrader leads a Eucharistic procession on the feast of Corpus Christi at St. Brendan Parish in Mexico, Missouri. Photo courtesy of The Catholic Missourian.



To facilitate ease of travel, most of America's National Eucharistic Conferences have been hosted by cities in the Midwest, including the 1901 conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The last Eucharistic Congress held in the United States was the International Eucharistic Congress in 1976 which took place in Philadelphia. The upcoming 2024 conference is scheduled to take place in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Despite the frequency of these conferences near the beginning of its history, the 2024 National Eucharistic Conference will be America's first Eucharistic Conference in 83 years, and will

culminate in a five-day event at Lucas Oil Stadium where organizers expect tens of thousands of pilgrims to be in attendance. After the commencement ceremony on the evening of the first day, each subsequent day of the conference will begin with morning Mass and catechetical sessions, leading into afternoon breakout sessions, followed by dinner and general session speakers in the evening.

Event organizers have stated they want Catholics from all walks of life present at the conference in order to demonstrate the true universality of our Church community. Though the Lucas

Oil venue is large, tickets are selling fast, so the Eucharistic Congress recommends purchasing individual or group tickets at their website, [eucharisticcongress.org](http://eucharisticcongress.org), well in advance. Looking beyond the Eucharistic Congress, if you want to be involved in promulgating belief in the Real Presence, you can discuss both the sacrament and the Church's history among your friends, family, or religious peers. Even simple conversations can cause others to understand the sacraments in a way they never have before.



# NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

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*Fr. Jeremy Secrist distributes the Holy Eucharist to parishioner, Joe Jones during Mass at St. Peter Cemetery on All Souls Day. Photo courtesy of Kathleen Lavery.*



## “This Is My Body”

### THE SHOCKING TRUTH

Jesus said, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.” This teaching was so shocking that many of his followers left at that moment! Jesus did not call them back to clarify, because he knew they understood correctly. He was actually telling them to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

As Catholics, we believe Jesus' words literally, not symbolically. The substance of the bread and wine transform into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ at every Mass. We call this miracle the Eucharist.



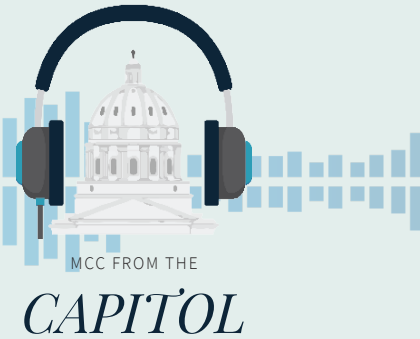
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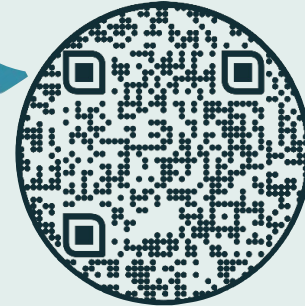
## MCC 2023 Virtual Annual Assembly

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The Missouri Catholic Conference is once again preparing to release a collection of podcasts this fall as part of its Virtual Annual Assembly. MCC hosts will sit down with speakers from across our state and nation to produce a collection of episodes focused on issues of interest and concern to Catholics. We hope you find these podcasts enlightening, challenging, and informative, and we encourage you to share your favorite episodes with family, friends, and fellow parish members. We are pleased to begin with a video message from Archbishop Rozanski of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, who reflects on these ideas and the call for us to engage in them.

SCAN TO  
LISTEN!



### MCC Welcomes (Back!) New Communications Director



Kathleen Lavery returns to the Missouri Catholic Conference as the Communications Director beginning October 2, 2023. She previously was the MCC's Communications Director from 2004 - 2009. Since that time, she served as the Publications Manager at the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association and was the Communications/Outreach Coordinator at the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter in Jefferson City, Missouri. She has more than 25 years of experience in Communications and Marketing. She holds an M.F.A. from Yale University School of Drama in Stage Management. Any questions, collaborative opportunities or ideas for MCC's publications can be sent to [communications@mocatholic.org](mailto:communications@mocatholic.org).



### Join the Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network! (MOCAN)

Join the 10,000 + Catholic Missourians who make up the team of advocates who help the Catholic voice ring through the halls of the Missouri State Capitol. If you want to stay updated on pro-life legislation — or any of the many other legislative priorities the MCC advocates for — you will not want to miss the opportunity to join MOCAN.

If you're already a member, encourage your family, friends, and fellow parishioners to join! As MOCAN grows, so does the Catholic voice in Missouri's Capitol. Again: Visit [mocatholic.org](http://mocatholic.org), send us an email at [mocatholic@mocatholic.org](mailto:mocatholic@mocatholic.org), or text MOCAN to 50457 to join.



## LAUDATE DEUM

From page 8

He challenged “resistance and confusion” regarding climate change, “even within the Catholic Church,” stressing that “the overwhelming majority of scientists specializing in the climate” support the correlation between global climate phenomena and spikes in greenhouse gas emissions.

Pope Francis said the planet itself has become a mirror of a deeply flawed view of human life and activity. Such a “technocratic paradigm” (as the pope described it in “*Laudato Si*”) exalts technological and economic power as sources of reality, goodness and truth, promising unlimited potential if methodically developed.

In recent years, that paradigm has advanced still further, with a goal of “(increasing) human power beyond anything imaginable, before which nonhuman reality is a mere resource at its disposal,” he said.

Yet “not every increase in power represents progress for humanity,” said the pope, especially since (as he wrote in “*Laudato Si*”) “we cannot claim to have a sound ethics, a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear-minded self-restraint.”

The poor pay the highest price while inflicting the least damage on the planet, said Pope Francis, citing the United Nations Environment Programme’s 2022 Emissions Gap Report, which found that per capita greenhouse gas emissions of richer countries far exceed those of poorer ones.

The question of human power itself must be reexamined, and “human beings must be recognized as a part of nature,” the pope said, stressing that “everything is connected” and “no one is saved alone.”

Lamenting the “weakness of international politics” in addressing climate change, Pope Francis drew on his 2020 encyclical “*Fratelli Tutti*” to call for a “reconfigured multilateralism” — one “not dependent on changing political conditions or the interests of a few,” but possessing a “stable

efficacy” that can resolve “the real problems of humanity” by placing “the dignity of persons” before all.

International climate conferences held over the past several decades have had mixed results, said Pope Francis, labeling some as “failures” and others, such as the U.N.’s 1997 COP3 (Conference of the Parties 3) in Kyoto — which sought to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 5% by 2012 — as noteworthy. While the Kyoto goal was not met, the 2015 COP21 in Paris marked “a new beginning,” said the pope, as it aimed to hold the increase of average global temperatures to under 2 and, eventually, 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s war in Ukraine both hindered progress in tackling global warming, said Pope Francis.

He said COP28, set to take place Nov. 30-Dec. 12 in Dubai, will either prove to be a turning point for decisive action or “a great disappointment” that imperils any progress made so far.

“Binding forms of energy transition” that are “efficient, obligatory and readily monitored” are essential, said Pope Francis, as “the necessary transition towards clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy, and the abandonment of fossil fuels, is not progressing at the necessary speed.”

The pope invited Catholics and those of other faiths to recall their “spiritual motivations” for addressing the climate crisis, asking “everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful, because that commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values.”

Humility is essential in this journey, he said, “for when human beings claim to take God’s place they become their own worst enemies.”

*Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.*

## Reaping what they sew



Lucille Akeman, Regina Eufinger and Juanita Klein, members of the St. John the Evangelist Altar Society of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, work on a quilt for next year’s St. John the Evangelist ice cream social in Bahner. “We are very proud of our ladies who gather on the third Sunday of each month to create beautiful quilts,” said fellow parishioner Mary Bahner. The St. John Chapel in Bahner was destroyed by lightning and fire on Aug. 1.

— Photo by Donita Shipman

## ATTACK

From page 3

the hair and transferred from one jeep into another by armed Hamas gunmen.

In another video, the body of a young man in shorts taken from a kibbutz, a Jewish communal settlement, was paraded through the streets on the back of a motorcycle.

Thousands of young Israelis and foreigners had been celebrating at a nature dance party next to one of the kibbutz, and dozens were murdered by the gunmen as they fled in panic through the desert.

Many of the captives had been at the party.

### Fears for the worst

The attack took place on the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, which marks the completion of the annual cycle of reading the Torah scroll.

The attack also fell a day after the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the 1973 War, which began with a surprise attack on Israel by a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria on Yom Kippur, Judaism’s holiest day of the year.

The attack follows a year of increasing violence from both settlers and the Israel Defense Forces after the election of Israel’s far-right nationalist government.

After the Israeli army and police gathered forces and responded to the attack, the Associated Press reported that Israeli Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told reporters “hundreds of terrorists” have been

killed and dozens captured.

In the Italian newspaper interview, the reporter noted Cardinal Pizzaballa’s pain at the violence and concern that it would escalate because of the captive Israelis.

“The extension of the attack” he said. “And the fact that there are many Israelis kidnapped — civilians, too. These are decidedly new elements, also taking into account the context of great mistrust that exists.

“Of course, I hope I’m wrong, but I fear that the situation will get even worse,” he said.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces also exchanged fire with Hezbollah over the weekend as Lebanon’s militant group fired dozens of rockets and shells at Israeli positions in a disputed area along the country’s northern border.

In a TV broadcast, Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant vowed Oct. 7 that retaliation against Hamas would be swift and harsh.

An Oct. 7 U.S. Depart-

ment of Defense press release said U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III had spoken with Gallant by phone and had conveyed his condolences “for the victims of this appalling, abhorrent terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel,” and emphasized his “ironclad support for the Israeli Defense Forces and the Israeli people.”

“He also reaffirmed that the Department’s commitment to Israel’s security and its absolute right to defend itself from acts of terrorism is unwavering,” the release said.

The Patriarchs and Head of the Churches said that it is their “fervent hope and prayer” that all parties involved “will heed this call for an immediate cessation of violence.”

They also called for dialogue “seeking lasting solutions that promote justice, peace, and reconciliation for the people of this land, who have endured the burdens of conflict for far too long.”

*Judith Sudilovsky writes for OSV News from Jerusalem.*

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## EL PUENTE

From page 12

“The Welcome Program is a great opportunity for people in the community to participate in this important work,” said Mrs. Castro. “We couldn’t do it without volunteers and people in the wider community, and donations of money and the items we distribute.”

El Puente participates with other community agencies in offering an array of social programs such as food assistance, legal assistance, counseling, educational programs, and faith and cultural-integration services.

The primary service area includes Cole, Moniteau and Callaway counties, but people call or drive from as far as Buchanan, Boone, Christian, Morgan and Osage counties, seeking help.

“Sometimes, people are willing to drive an hour-and-a-half or more from where they live, especially for the legal assistance we offer,” Mrs. Castro noted.



**Bishop McKnight gathers with members of the El Puente-Hispanic Ministry staff.** — Photo by Jay Nies

New clients contact El Puente almost every week in search of at least one service the agency provides or can refer them to.

Lately, many of the new clients are asylum-seekers from Nicaragua, where political and social instability threatens their lives.

Mrs. Castro asked for prayers for God to bless El Puente’s newly expanded headquarters and give wisdom and insight to everyone who seeks and does His work there.

“And pray for more people to come along in our journey, to help us accomplish our mission,” she suggested.

## FAMILY

From page 5

their babies and commended them to the hands of an all-loving God, in anticipation of being reunited with them in heaven.

“I thought for sure I was probably done having kids,” said Mrs. DeWitt.

Their priest offered to give her a special blessing.

“A couple of days later, I took the test, and it came out positive for pregnancy!” she stated.

They found out at their first OB/GYN appointment that they were having twins.

“I jokingly said to Father, ‘You weren’t supposed to use the plural in the blessing!’” said Mr. DeWitt. “He told me, ‘If I’d have used the plural, you’d be having quadruplets!’”

### “A few tears”

The doctor tested to see whether either or both of the babies are male, and if so, whether they’re being affected by AHDS.

Mom and Dad were deeply shaken when the tests came back positive.

“We simply had to put all our trust in God,” said Mrs. DeWitt. “He loves us all and even though he gives us trials that seem to be overwhelming, if we rely on him, he can and will get us through.”

They looked to their fellow AHDS support group members and saw that each time there was a positive diagnosis in the womb, an abortion followed.

“The doctor couldn’t do any research, because he had no-

body to help in this process,” Mr. DeWitt noted. “So, I can’t help but think that maybe this is one reason. Maybe it’s about saving babies.”

Specifically, if the experimental treatment in the womb is successful, it could help other babies who are diagnosed with the condition early enough in pregnancy.

It’s also about giving witness.

When a pro-life website posted a story about the DeWitts, several commenters attacked the couple’s good judgment.

Mr. DeWitt set about defending his family, beginning with excerpts from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

“For us, every baby, every pregnancy we have, whether we’re talking about a child who’s very gifted or those who have difficulties to bear, we are taking part in the act of co-creating with God,” he insisted.

“And if we get to heaven, we can live with our boys who couldn’t talk and couldn’t walk in this life,” he said. “And maybe that day, we’ll walk with them and talk with them, and that will be a glorious day.”

Until then, some days are hard.

“I can tell you, it hasn’t been all pink balloons and roses,” said Mrs. DeWitt. “There have been quite a few tears and angry feelings every now and then.”

That’s when she turns to God and says, “Please Lord! Help me through this!”

She also asks the Blessed

Mother, who also gave an unconditional “yes” to motherhood, to join her in supplication.

The whole family gathers each morning and evening for prayers and devotions, including a Family Rosary for various intentions.

### Toward heaven

Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt have learned so much from their children — the ones who have special needs and the ones who do not.

“Until we had our first child who has a disability, we didn’t know how to accept the kind of pure love God has in store for us,” said Mrs. DeWitt.

“I learned how to love, with them showing me what pure love is,” she said.

Their daughter has been like a second mother to her brothers with special needs, especially during Mrs. DeWitt’s pregnancy.

Their son who does not have AHDS plays with his brothers “and is probably the No. 1 source of laughter for them,” Mr. DeWitt noted. “He seems to know exactly how they want to play.”

The boys with AHDS have taught their parents a master

course in being thankful and living in the moment.

“You learn to appreciate the very least of the things that God gives us — things you would otherwise likely take for granted,” said Mrs. DeWitt.

“The gift of having breath every day is amazing to me, now that I see them,” she stated. “Their lives, every day, one more day when we wake up, it’s a gift. I used to take all of that for granted, but not anymore.”

She talked about the elevated spirituality she recognizes in her sons with special needs.

“We believe that their souls are so pure,” she said. “We

hope that we, too, can achieve that ultimate union with God in heaven with them someday.”

Both parents see God’s grace hard at work in their lives and in the lives of their children.

“Whenever we go down to St. Joseph in Westphalia for Mass, our older boy who has the syndrome, he really enjoys listening to the Gregorian chant and the choir,” said Mrs. DeWitt. “He looks up toward heaven and he smiles. It’s almost like he’s seeing angels.

“I wish I could see what they’re both looking at, because they seem so happy,” she said.

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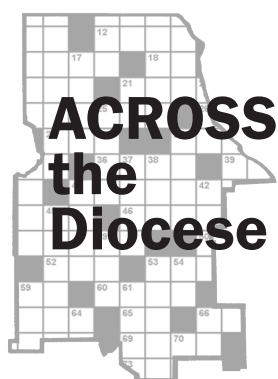
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By Father Don Antweiler

### ACROSS

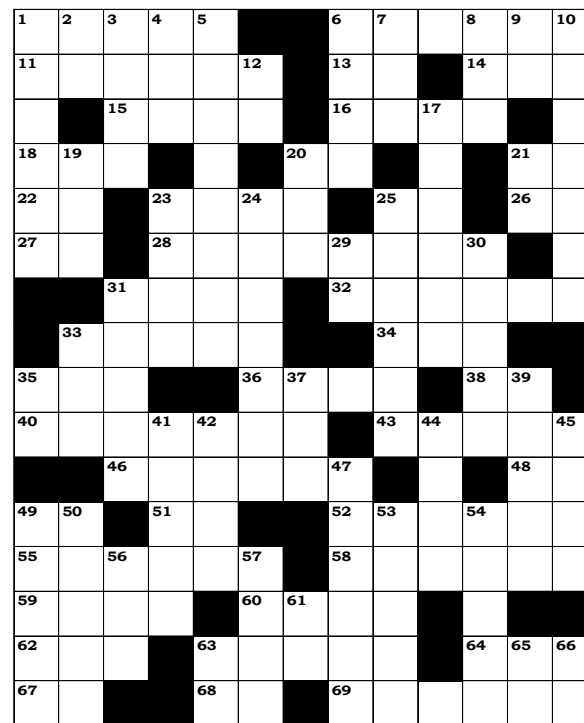
1. It all started with a movie, which starred an up-and-coming star with Mo. \_\_\_\_\_, which was based on a violent robbery in St. Louis.
6. "When you go across the Jordan into the land of \_\_\_\_\_...destroy all their stone figures and molten images..." (Nm. 33:51-52).
11. After the first great prophet Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind, this successor received, as requested, a double portion of Elijah's power (see 2 Kgs. 2:9-12).
13. This State hosts the Jimmy Carter Pres. Library (abbr.).
14. \_\_\_\_\_ *missa est*; last words of the Latin Mass, meaning Go, the Mass is ended.
15. Southeastern Asia country bordering Vietnam.
16. "Habitat for Humanity is a cause that is \_\_\_\_\_ and dear to my heart," —Reba McEntire.
18. Distress letters.
20. The official State Sport of this State is surfing (abbr.).
21. Letters for audio/visual.
22. It's either this \_\_\_\_\_ that.
23. A type of sign.
25. Yale Univ. in this State was the 1st school in the U.S. to offer a PhD degree (abbr.).
26. Moon of Jupiter.
27. Chemical ltrs. for sodium.
28. "The Great St. Louis Bank Robbery" movie starring Steve McQueen was shot on \_\_\_\_\_ at the bank near Tower Grove park and The Hill in St. Louis. The bank is still there and operating as a bank on that site.
31. I had a \_\_\_\_\_ with the flu last week that really set me back.
32. After the 7th inning, no hits, no runs, no \_\_\_\_\_.
33. Boy Scout \_\_\_\_\_: Be prepared.
34. Forensic TV series.
35. Future Farmers of America (\_\_\_\_\_) remains committed to the individual student not only for developing needed production farmers

- but for all the opportunities and career pathways bea- coning in the agricultural industry, the biggest industry in Mo.
36. *Sacre \_\_\_\_\_!* A French expression of surprise or dismay. It literally means Holy Blue! It's a phrase used to avoid cussing, used instead of *Sacre Dieu*, meaning Holy God.
38. Country code for Singapore.
40. After leaving his home in Mo., McQueen drifted through jobs, joined the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ for 3 years, and finally got a bit part in a play in NYC which rather amazingly led to his career in movies and TV.
43. Arab leader.
46. Part of the family of sabers, cutlasses or epees.
48. Pope Paul \_\_\_\_\_ was the Pope that did the heavy lifting of leading the Church through Vatican II and its implementation.
49. Letters of the original 12-step program.
51. Prefix for them or other.
52. "I had neither kith nor kin in England, therefore I was free as air — or as free as an income of \_\_\_\_\_ shillings and sixpence will allow a man to be," —Dr. John Watson in *A Study in Scarlet*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
55. When the boss announced the salary increases, there were \_\_\_\_\_ all around.
58. Japan is known as the Land of the \_\_\_\_\_ Sun.
59. She had everything in her purse but the kitchen \_\_\_\_\_!
60. "In \_\_\_\_\_, the garden of God..." (Ez. 28:13).
62. "I have myself been rushed by big antlered \_\_\_\_\_ males, which is something like being charged by a tractor carrying a dead tree in its bucket," —*Switchbacks, True Stories from the Canadian Rockies*, Sid Marty.
63. Paris's river.
64. Washing clothes in Shakespeare's time was a nasty chore. "Urine (from chamber pots) was a proven strategy for whitening cloths and getting out stains. After soaking the linen in the urine, it was placed in a large \_\_\_\_\_ where lye and potash would be poured over it several times to clean it," —Did Shakespeare Wash His Laundry?; blog

- by C. Cash.
67. Dir. from St. Francis Xavier parish in Taos, Mo. to Holy Cross parish in Cuba, Mo.
68. State that borders as many States as Mo.—8 (abbr.).
69. Some of the movies McQueen starred in were "Bullitt," "The Thomas Crown Affair," "The Great \_\_\_\_\_," "The Magnificent Seven," etc. etc. He also starred as a bounty hunter in the TV series "Wanted: Dead or Alive."

### DOWN

1. "...there can never be any real discrepancy between faith and \_\_\_\_\_," —*Catechism of the Cath. Ch.*, #159.
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ Man River"; moving song by Paul Robeson expressing a slave's perspective of life on the levee; from the musical "Showboat."
3. There are three Holy \_\_\_\_\_ consecrated by the bishop used in Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, and Sacrament of the Sick.
4. Agency responsible for airport security.
5. The movie, "The Great St. Louis Bank Robbery" (1959), was based on a real 1953 \_\_\_\_\_ at Southwest Bank involving a hostage, tear gas, dozens of police, dead robbers and a suicide.
6. Site of Jesus's first miracle in John's gospel.
7. "There \_\_\_\_\_ compelling historical reasons to conclude that the Gospels were written well within the lifetimes of the apostles and eyewitnesses to Jesus," —*The Case for Jesus*, Dr. Brant Pitre.
8. "Oscar Wilde's calculated and measured \_\_\_\_\_ of worldly cynicism epitomized the 'naughty nineties.' Astonishingly, on his deathbed, he was received into the Catholic Church," —*Wilde Through the Looking Glass, Literary Converts*, Joseph Pearce.
9. "Cajuns are devout Roman Catholics, up to a point. They believe in God, but they also believe God winks \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of little things," —New Orleans; Charles Kuralt's America.
10. Because of all her anxieties about everything, we called her a \_\_\_\_\_ Nellie.
12. "Even on earth the sacraments existed \_\_\_\_\_ a permanent reminder that the division of soul and body was neither wholesome nor final," —*Perelandra*, C.S. Lewis.
17. One of the lead \_\_\_\_\_ in "The Great St. Louis Bank Robbery" movie was the coming-up star Steve McQueen.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ *pro nobis*; pray for us.
20. Some would say it's helpful for your tax preparer to be a \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Artificial intelligence (\_\_\_\_\_) is said to be the next leap forward in technology.
23. At the casino, I only play the \_\_\_\_\_ machines, not the card games.
24. Halloween month.
25. Steve McQueen, abandoned by his parents, spent most of his childhood with his grandparents on a farm raising hogs near Slater, Mo. (in our diocese). At age 14, he ran away to join a \_\_\_\_\_.
29. Tea in Madrid.
30. "...you shall be visited by the Lord of hosts, with thunder, earthquake and great \_\_\_\_\_..." (Isaiah 29:6).
31. Male hogs.
33. \_\_\_\_\_, Inc. is a co-op started in Brunswick, Mo. in 1914. It now has sales of over one billion dollars annually. As a co-op, it has 45,000 members with corporate offices in Columbia.



35. As a kid, I had no internet or cable TV or streaming, etc. I considered myself very lucky to have my AM/\_\_\_\_\_ transistor radio.
37. 1960s hallucinogenic drug.
39. "To the one who has, more will be \_\_\_\_\_..." (Mark 4:25).
41. "Even when \_\_\_\_\_ through a dark valley..." —Psalms 23:4 (2 wds.).
42. "\_\_\_\_\_ among the gods can equal you, O Lord..." (Psalms 86:8).
44. "Lucia stared hard at the Lady. The form was transparent in varied \_\_\_\_\_ of yellow, white, and blue," —*The Third Secret*, Steve Berry.
45. By the 1960s, Steve McQueen was nicknamed "The \_\_\_\_\_ of Cool." Eventually he would star in over 30 movies.
47. "Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a \_\_\_\_\_ and kindly countenance..." —from Eucharistic Prayer #1 in the Mass.
49. Donkeys.
50. "Don't judge a man until you have walked \_\_\_\_\_ in his moccasins," —quote arguably attributed to an old Cherokee saying (2 wds.).
53. The actress embarrassingly forgot her \_\_\_\_\_.
54. "Washington rode up close to the rear entryway (of Mt. Vernon), glanced out past the house to the stunning \_\_\_\_\_ of the Potomac..." —*The Glorious Cause*, Jeff Shaara.
56. My jokester brother would always write out his checks in red \_\_\_\_\_.
57. What will happen in the future remains to be \_\_\_\_\_.
61. 501 in Caesar's Rome.
63. Abbr. before a saint's name.
65. "Welcome, in the Lion's name. Come further \_\_\_\_\_ and further in," —*The Last Battle*, C.S. Lewis.
66. "Sometime, \_\_\_\_\_ Aquila thought, a man needed to just \_\_\_\_\_ with other men for a little while, to talk about things as casual as fishing or as serious as the Law," —*Priscilla and Aquila*, Lois Henderson and Harold Smith.

ANSWERS on page 23



## DALLMEYER

From page 6

to teach in a Catholic school.

Sometimes along the way, she questioned whether she was doing the right thing.

“But everything seems work out,” she said.

She goes out of her way to identify and help children who learn differently from their peers.

“I struggled through school and faced many academic challenges,” she stated. “When I got into college, it was suggested that I may have a learning disability. After going through the

testing process myself, I try to be more aware of students that may struggle.”

She now holds a master’s degree from Lincoln University.

She told the reporter about a student she once had who started the year hating school, but at the end of the year, he wrote her a note of appreciation.

“It stayed on my refrigerator all summer, to remind me of my ‘why,’” she said.

## RENEWAL

From page 1

the mission and ministries of their parish and of the whole Church.

This annual stewardship renewal strengthens the ministry of each parish by calling everyone into a deeper level of discipleship and relationship with the Lord Jesus.

“We don’t give back to God because he needs it,” said Bishop McKnight. “We give back because it’s what we need to do.”

All 100 parishes and missions in the diocese have now made the transition to the stewardship model of supporting their ministries, ranging from worship to formation to charitable outreach.

The diocese no longer takes up a diocesan Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA), which was conducted apart from the parishes each year in order to sustain diocesan ministries that benefit all the parishes.

The stewardship model replaces the CSA and a labyrinthian annual assessment to parishes, known as the *Cathedraticum*, with a simple tithe from each parish to fund functions of the diocese.

As such, parishioners are now encouraged to add to their parish commitment what they would have pledged to the CSA.

“The one thing that I like to point out over and over again: the diocese is nothing more than the bishop and the sister parishes,” said Bishop McKnight.

“So when you’re talking about the diocese, you’re talking about your fellow Catholics in parishes throughout these 38 counties, led and united by a bishop who is sent here to serve,” he stated.

### “I believe”

In anticipation of the CSR, every registered Catholic household in the diocese has received or will receive a letter and a packet of information from the local parish.

It will include a detailed overview of the ministries the parish offers and invites parishioners to take part in, along with a commitment form for parishioners to study and act upon.

Fr. Jones suggested reviewing the CSR materials prayerfully, with an open heart and with each member of the family.

“As yourselves, ‘How am I doing?’ ‘How are we doing?’ ‘Are we living as effective stewards, supporting the mission, the

‘why,’ of our parish church?’ and ‘What more can we do?’” he suggested.

Fr. Jones said the CSR is a spiritual process, with God at the center.

He likened it to how Catholics spend 40 days in prayer and preparation to renew their Baptismal Promises on Easter Sunday.

“The CSR process gives us the opportunity to say, very concretely through our participation, that ‘I believe in the mission and vision of my parish, and I’m willing to support it with everything that I am and everything that I have,’” he said.

### “What more?”

Bishop McKnight looked back on reviewing the parish stewardship renewal information as a boy in his home parish in Wichita.

“I first had to stop and think about what I was already doing for the Church,” he recalled. “And you know, when I was comparing the other activities I had throughout the week at school, with the sports that I was doing, I realized I was doing so little!”

Realizing that he could and should do more, he went through the list of activities that children could help with at church.

He saw that many of the activities would fit well into his already busy schedule.

“The Church is simply asking us all to consider, in the light of God’s grace, ‘What more we could be doing?’” the bishop stated. “And there are ways of doing more without exhausting yourself.”

His suggestion for reviewing the CSR materials: “Look at where you are now in your relationship with God and in your participation in your local parish, and then ask, ‘Is there one more thing — something you could add to that, and just over time grow in the life of stewardship?’

“And if there is a little bit more you can do this time during the renewal, go ahead and commit to it,” he said.

But don’t overcommit.

“That’s not what the Church is asking of us,” the bishop cautioned. “Take little steps and reevaluate each year.”

### “Something new”

Bishop McKnight said the Catholic

## VOSSEN

From page 4

and organizational vitality as it works toward the vision of building a community of saints and scholars for Christ.

Recent developments at the school have included expansion of academic space through addition of the Science Center, enhancing the school’s Catholic mission by adding a new

chapel, and construction of the Crusader Athletic Complex, with the future goal of completing the campus master plan with a performing arts center and additional facilities.

## BLESSINGS

From page 11

an endorsement of the particular sins or disordered tendencies that the people present for Mass undoubtedly have, but is instead asking for the gift of God’s grace for them.

The Church teaches that homosexual acts are sinful, as are other sexual acts outside of marriage. This means that a desire for such acts is disordered.

This is true of any desire for what is sinful experienced by anyone. For instance, the desire to overeat, to gossip, to envy, to excess anger, etc., are all disordered because they incline us to sinful actions.

Disordered desires are not sins, but they do incline us to sin, so we need to work against them under the power of God’s grace.

This is a long process for most people, and can even be a great struggle and a special cross.

In his recent response, Pope Francis has reminded us of the need to pray for God’s transforming grace in this process. We do not come to God because we are perfectly good but because only God can make us good. One form of blessing is the Church’s asking God for strength and conversion of heart.

Regarding the specific question of people with same-sex attractions, Pope Francis has reminded us that, they too, can benefit from prayers and blessings, just like anyone else.

He did *not* approve the idea of blessing same-sex romantic relationships. The Church does not bless sin, but she certainly does bless sinners, which is all of us!

As always, I caution everyone about relying on media reports for information about the Church. Such reports are often misleading.

*Fr. Schrader is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk.*

Stewardship Renewal is also a time for each parish to think about what it’s doing, what it’s not doing, and what it should be doing.

“Sometimes, we get kind of stuck in ruts of what we’ve always been doing, and it’s the same old people doing the same old thing,” he stated. “So really, it’s about breaking down some barriers to allow people to try something new.”

Bishop McKnight said he’s grateful to see Catholics throughout the diocese respond to the call to live as intentional disciples and good stewards of the faith.

“It’s such an exciting thing to see people getting to know what it means to live in the Church beyond just going to Mass on Sunday,” he said.

He pointed to ministries and activities that take place throughout the week, such as helping new Catholics learn about the faith, pray more effectively and participate more fully in the life of the Church.

“That’s what this is all about, really — our Lord’s desire is that more people join us at the Eucharistic table, and living the good Catholic life is what does that,” the bishop stated.

### The “why”

Fr. Jones said the CSR process presents an important annual reminder: “Namely, that our lives don’t belong to us. They belong to the Lord! And when we recognize that, we begin to live differently.”

“We live it out in our relationship with our time, we live it out in our relationship with our talents, with our treasure, with our children,” he said.

All of this affects the vitality of parishes, the raising-up of vocations and the discipleship of every parishioner.

“And if you have parishes that are vital, healthy, calling people to vocations, whatever that vocation may be, and filled with intentional disciples, guess what! The Church is gonna’ grow,” he said.

That’s been the model for the Church since Jesus summoned his first followers.

“The ‘why’ of the Church is to save souls, through worshipping God, through evangelizing the nations and through serving the poor,” Fr. Jones noted.

“And really, that’s the focus of what our diocese is trying to do.”



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[diojeffcity.org/event-listing](https://diojeffcity.org/event-listing).

## Fundraisers & Social Events

**Oct. 13**

**Columbia**, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School homecoming, pre-game festivities 5:30 pm, football kick-off 7 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

**Oct. 15**

**Westphalia**, St. Joseph Parish fall festival, 11 am-6 pm

**Oct. 22**

**Rich Fountain**, Sacred Heart Parish fall festival, 11 am-6 pm

**Oct. 26**

**Jefferson City**, Pregnancy Help Center of Central Missouri banquet, 6:30-8:30 pm, for info or to register visit [friendsofphc.org](https://friendsofphc.org)

**Oct. 28**

**St. Anthony**, K of C Halloween dance, 8-11 pm, St. Anthony of Padua Parish hall

**Oct. 29**

**Mokane**, St. Jude Thaddeus Church rededication open house, 2-5 pm; **Monroe City**, Holy Rosary Parish fall dinner, 11 am-1 pm

**Oct. 31**

**Jefferson City**, Keep Warm clothing drive, sponsored by SSM Health St. Mary's and Helias Catholic High School, 8 am-5 pm, both locations

**Nov. 4**

**Columbia**, 12th Annual Blaze of Glory Gala, 6-10 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, for tickets email [jweimer@toltoncatholic.org](mailto:jweimer@toltoncatholic.org); **Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School open house, 9-11 am

**Nov. 5**

**Brookfield**, Immaculate Conception Parish annual turkey dinner, 10:30 am-1:30 pm; **Camdenton**, St. Anthony Parish annual turkey dinner, 11 am-2 pm; **St. James**, Immaculate Conception Parish fall dinner, 11 am-5 pm; **Starken- burg**, Church of the Risen

Savior Parish (Rhineland) fall dinner, 11 am-3 pm, Valentine Hall; **Taos**, St. Francis Xavier Parish fall supper, 11 am-6 pm

**Nov. 8**

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School vocal music concert, 7-8 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center

**Nov. 12**

**Glasgow**, St. Mary Parish fall dinner, 11 am-2:30 pm

## Meetings/ Workshops

**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)

**Oct. 16**

**Jefferson City/Macon/Mexico**, "How to Create a Tech-Ready Home" free workshop for parents, 6:30 pm, Jefferson City—Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center; **Macon**—Immaculate Conception School; **Mexico**—St. Brendan School; to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/pye-registration](https://diojeffcity.org/pye-registration)

**Oct. 17**

**Moberly/Monroe City**, "How to Create a Tech-Ready Home" free workshop for parents, 6:30 pm, Moberly—St. Pius X School; **Monroe City**—Holy Rosary School; to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/pye-registration](https://diojeffcity.org/pye-registration)

**Oct. 18**

**Westphalia**, "How to Create a Tech-Ready Home" free workshop for parents, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph School, to register, visit [diojeffcity.org/pye-registration](https://diojeffcity.org/pye-registration)

**Oct. 25**

**Jefferson City**, Mass Explained Part 2: The Eucharistic Prayer, 5:30-7:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall, to RSVP call 573-635-7991 or email [Julie.g@cathedraljc.org](mailto:Julie.g@cathedraljc.org)

**Oct. 28**

**Jefferson City**, Information session on the Permanent Diaconate, 9:30 am-noon, Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center

**Nov. 5**

**Edina**, Post-weekend Ultreya for Cursillo, 2-4 pm, St. Joseph Parish, for info contact [jeffcity.diocese.cursillo@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcity.diocese.cursillo@gmail.com)

**Nov. 7**

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

**Nov. 9**

**Jefferson City**, "Hot Topics: Current Moral Issues & the Catholic Church," presented by Jamie Morris and Fr. Louis Nelen, 7-9 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

**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

**octubre 20-22**

**Griswold IA**, Retiro para Diáconos Hispanos, Creighton University Retreat Center, 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)

**noviembre 10-12**

**Sedalia**, Retiro de Crecimiento para Hombres, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a [Comite DiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com](mailto:Comite DiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

**noviembre 17-19**

**Sedalia**, Retiro de Crecimiento para Mujeres, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a [Comite DiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com](mailto:Comite DiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

**noviembre 18**

**Marshall**, Noche de Alabanza, 6:30-9:30 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Liliana Ruano al 660-202-0317 o por correo electrónico a [nellymruanorn6@gmail.com](mailto:nellymruanorn6@gmail.com)

## 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

**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@cathedraljc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljc.org)

**Oct. 19-22**

**Edina**, Women's Cursillo Weekend #80, St. Joseph Parish Center, for info or to register contact [sander.becky@gmail.com](mailto:sander.becky@gmail.com) or call 573-808-3758

**Oct. 21**

**Columbia/Jefferson City/VIRTUAL**, "Living Flame 1" 7-session program on in-depth spiritual study and enrichment of centering prayer, 9 am-2 pm; participants may join via Zoom or in-person at Broadway Christian Church in Columbia or Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City; to register visit [cocemo.org](https://cocemo.org)

**Oct. 28**

**Columbia**, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd come and see event, 9 am-4:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, for info visit [diojeffcity.org/registration-workshops](https://diojeffcity.org/registration-workshops)

**Oct. 30**

**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@cathedraljc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljc.org)

**Nov. 13**

**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@cathedraljc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljc.org)

**Nov. 18**

**Columbia/Jefferson City/VIRTUAL**, "Living Flame 1" 7-session program on in-depth spiritual study and enrichment of centering prayer, 9 am-2 pm; participants may join via Zoom or in-person at Broadway Christian Church in Columbia or Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City; to register visit [cocemo.org](https://cocemo.org)

**Nov. 27**

**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@cathedraljc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljc.org)

**Nov. 28**

**Jefferson City**, "Seasons of Christmas" Spirit-filled evening presented by Arise Women's

Ministry, 6-8 pm, St. Peter Parish's Selinger Centre, for info call 573-690-2882, to register email [RegisterAriseEvent@gmail.com](mailto:RegisterAriseEvent@gmail.com)

## Liturgical

**Oct. 14**

**Linn**, America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally, noon-1 pm, in front of St. George Church; **Westphalia**, Public Square Rosary Crusade, noon-1 pm, Norton Room courtyard (across from St. Joseph Church)

**Oct. 18**

**Columbia**, St. Luke White Coat Masses, 6:15 am at MU Hospital Chapel; 7 am at Boone Hospital Chapel; noon at St. Thomas More Newman Center

**Nov. 14**

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

## Youth & Young Adults

**First Wednesdays each month**

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

**Third Sundays each month**

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

**Oct. 13**

**Columbia**, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School homecoming, pre-game festivities 5:30 pm, football kick-off 7 pm

**Nov. 1**

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

**Nov. 4**

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School open house, 9-11 am

**Nov. 16-19**

**Indianapolis, In.**, National Catholic Youth Conference, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/national-catholic-youth-conference](https://diojeffcity.org/national-catholic-youth-conference)

## Health & Wellness

**Nov. 30**

**Jefferson City**, Blood drive, 10 am-4 pm, Helias Catholic High School



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

Henry & Cyndi Hoeller, 45 years  
Tony & Krisa Welschmeyer, 25 years

### Bonnots Mill, St. Louis of France

James & Yvonne Hoerschgen, 50 years

### Brookfield, Immaculate Conception

Anthony & Susie Abeln, 50 years  
Doris & Eric Montegna, 20 years  
Dustin & Lindsay Neal, 15 years

### Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary

Bernie & Marian Forck, 45 years

### Columbia,

#### St. Thomas More Newman Center

Andrew & Valerie Zumwalt, 15 years

### Fayette, St. Joseph

Jay & Zim Bramblett, 25 years

### Holts Summit, St. Andrew

Tyler & Michelle Schwartze, 10 years

### Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Roger & Jolyne Dunn, 60 years

### Kirkville, Mary Immaculate

Larry & Beverly Howard, 45 years

### Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake

John & Susan Akscin, 50 years

### Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception

Jerry & Beverly Jansen, 40 years

### Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows

Chad & Colleen Abbott, 15 years

### Palmyra, St. Joseph

Robert & Donna Rupp, 70 years  
Jason & Bethany Wisheart, 15 years

### St. Martins, St. Martin

Terry & Marsha Libbert, 50 years

### St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle

Alfred & Margie Kaiser, 50 years  
Gilbert & Betty Schellman, 50 years

### Vandalia, Sacred Heart

Tex & Ann Williams, 40 years

### Wardsville, St. Stanislaus

Richard & Wendy Taube, 35 years

### Warsaw, St. Ann

Tom & Carol Layne, 55 years



## Baptisms

Hermann, St. George — **Tinley Jean Estella Bigelow**, daughter of Calista LeBrell; **Curtis Justin** and **Mack Austin Ruediger**, sons of Brady & Christin Ruediger

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Julie Mae Emmerich**, daughter of Tony & Claire Emmerich

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Louisa Blaise Baker**, daughter of Bryan & Adrienne Baker

## Marriages

Hermann, St. George — **Emily Engemann & Dalton Gillig**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Anna Kolb & Sam Giffos**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Kalie Massman & Matthew Hoskins; Margaret Morris & Austin Beazley**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Megan Werdehausen & John Berhorst**

## Birthdays

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Bernice Eichelberger**, her 91st on Oct. 2; **Dorothy Imhoff**, her 94th on Oct. 15; **Dean Oerly**, his 90th on Oct. 17; **Loretta Quinlan**, her 91st on Oct. 28

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Marjorie Ellison**, her 97th on Oct. 5

St. Clement, St. Clement — **Marcella Bunten**, her 104th on Oct. 11

## Deaths

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Larry Wattenbarger**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Mary Juettner; Amy Thro**

Hermann, St. George — **Richard Klott**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Mary Arnold-Kemper; Mary Buschjost; Richard Cook; Tom Schnieders**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Edmund Boillot; Margaret Elsea; Mary Bernice Pollard**

Rosati, St. Anthony — **Charles Van Dien; Michael Wurtz**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Shirley Stockman**

## ENCOUNTER

From page 10

son's treat.

I invite you to try it this fall! Enjoy the new experience, tastes and stories that blossom in your own kitchen as you bring this international treat with me into the heart of Missouri.

*Judith R. Mutamba (Bs MMSc, MS) is the Director of Health and Nutrition Services at Catholic Charities. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics — Food and Nutrition with emphasis in Dietetics from the University*

*of Missouri (MU), a Masters of Medical Sciences from University of Uppsalla (Sweden), and a second Masters in Nutrition Exercise & Physiology from MU. She is currently a doctoral student in health administration with the University of Phoenix, Arizona. Judith's passion is on addressing chronic diet-related diseases. She sees her role and mission as that of translating relevant research into action — addressing chronic health disparities and working with other partners in the under-served communities.*

## REALY

From page 9

tive properties of this plant to a Benedictine monk who began using it in preparations to heal the sick. Better choices for the smaller garden are St. John's Wort or any yellow flowering plants, or plants with silver leaves.

You could also create small shrines to add to your garden. Purchase unfinished birdhouses, disassemble them and discard the front and bottom. With the back panel, using outdoor paint (or seal acrylic paint with outdoor polyurethane) create an image of the angel with the tunic painted in its color; you could also decoupage a picture of the angel or archangel. Paint the other panels a solid color: light blue or soft yellow for the inside surfaces, brown or deep red on the outside. Reassemble the birdhouse (remember, no bottom or front) and attach it to tree trunks, fences, or posts in your garden, for a year-round shrine.

*Margaret Rose Realy is a Benedictine Oblate and the author of "A Garden Catechism: 100 Plants in Christian Tradition and How to Grow Them" (OSV, 2022).*

## MILLS

From page 9

that just doesn't interest you, you should know enough to say, "Not for me, I'm sorry to say," not "It's boring."

### Do it again!

This leads me to one of the loveliest passages in Chesterton. It comes in *Orthodoxy*, the book he wrote after *Heretics* as a kind of sequel. He's writing about the way things on earth repeat themselves, like the sun rising every morning. Modern materialists believe that means the world is mechanical, that is, dead.

Chesterton insists that things stay the same because they're alive, and that points us to the truth about the universe. "A child kicks his legs rhythmically through excess, not absence, of life," he writes. "Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, 'Do it again'; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony."

That's funny, but here's the lovely part: "But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, 'Do it again' to the sun; and every evening,

'Do it again' to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we."

*David Mills writes from Pennsylvania.*

## Crossword puzzle answers

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



# Going to the dogs



Fifth- and sixth-graders at St. Joseph School in Pilot Grove display the dog toys they made as part of their celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4. Third- and fourth-graders made bird feeders to celebrate St. Francis, who was known for his love of animals and all of creation.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Catholic School- Pilot Grove Facebook page

# Spending the day praying, connecting



Young people from St. Peter Parish in Marshall gather in the parish hall for a spiritual retreat on Sept. 10.

— Photo from the Rcc Iglesia San Pedro Facebook page

# “Take up your cross and follow me”



Mrs. Megan Markway’s fifth- and sixth-graders at Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain spend some extra time in prayer on Sept. 14, the feastday for the Exultation of the Holy Cross. They started the afternoon with a Rosary that incorporated some facts about the feastday. Then they visited the cemetery and spent time tracing different crucifixes and pictures from loved ones’ headstones.

— Photo from the Sacred Heart School Facebook page

# “See you at the pole”



Students of Fr. McCartan Memorial School in Marceline take part in the national “See You At the Pole” prayer event on Sept. 27. They prayed with the students around the flagpole at Marceline High School that morning and then had their own prayer service later on. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members were present to present Fr. McCartan School with a new flag made possible by the Krumpelman family in memory of John Krumpelman.

— Photo from the Fr. McCartan Memorial School Facebook page



# A hearty welcome

Students of St. Joseph School in Salisbury gather for a photo after a Mass and celebration on Sept. 25 to welcome their new pastor, Father Jeremy Secrist.

— Photo by Kelsey Emmerich



## Fr. McGrath gets “tough love” from Missy, his pet hound

By Jay Nies

According to Father Thomas McGrath, life is always better with a dog.

“It’s wonderful, especially if you live alone and don’t go out too much,” said Fr. McGrath, a retired priest of the diocese, who lives in Jefferson City.

He adopted Missy from the Jefferson City Animal Shelter a couple of months after Hunter, his dog of 17 years, passed away.

“Missy is a sweet dog and a very loving companion,” Fr. McGrath stated.

“She weighs about 50 pounds and she’s high-energy,” he said. “I think she’s part beagle, part hound. She’s very friendly and sweet.”

Does she know any tricks?

“She knows how to eat!” Fr. McGrath stated. “She knows how to sit. She knows how to lay down. She knows how to roll over. She knows how to speak without me giving her a command. When she wants to come inside, she barks.”

Fr. McGrath would sleep in his recliner at night while recovering from shoulder-replacement surgery.

“Every once in a while, she’d jump in my lap and scare the bejesus out of me!” he recalled.

“She’s just trying to give me some love,” he acknowledged. “Tough love, I guess you’d call it.”

### Great and small

Fr. McGrath grew up with a small toy Collie in his family home.

Since he’s been a priest, he’s had three Alaskan Malamutes — King, Prince and Duke — and Hunter, a part-beagle, part-terrier mix.

“King weighed 105 pounds,” Fr. McGrath recalled. “He was all muscle. And he liked to pull. I thought about getting a dog sled, but we never got enough snow here.”

The priest wound up giving King to a boy who was heart-broken because his own dog had gotten run over by a car.

Fr. McGrath had Prince when he was chaplain at the former St. Joseph Home for the Aged in Jefferson City.

“Prince didn’t want to live outside, and I really couldn’t keep him inside anymore,” said Fr. McGrath. “He got to be about 110 pounds. I was afraid he was going to run through the home and knock things over.”

The priest had to chase Prince quite a bit.

“He’d get outside and roam as far as the western city limits,” said Fr. McGrath. “He didn’t stay out of the street, either. I was afraid he’d get hit.”

So, Prince went to live with a woman Fr. McGrath had worked with at what is now Capital Region Medical Center.

“She had a big farm around

Dixon, about 300 or 400 acres,” he noted. “I figured he’d be safe there.”

Later on, Hunter, a much smaller dog, came to live with Fr. McGrath.

“He weighed about 12 pounds,” the priest recalled. “I had him for 17 years. That would have made him like 104 or 108 in human years!” Hunter was a fun, lovable dog.

“I still miss him,” Fr. McGrath acknowledged. “One day, he just stopped eating. He was in bed for about a week and finally

sometime on Christmas night, he died.”

### “1,000 times more”

Fr. McGrath was used to training dogs from when they were puppies, but Missy was beyond that stage when he got her.

“I sent her to obedience school,” he said. “She does pretty well.”

For him, having a female dog is different — “much less aggressive, at least from what I can see.”

Missy enjoys running in Fr. McGrath’s yard, which is en-

closed by a tall fence.

“I take her for a walk along the street where I live every day, and she just loves that,” he said.

Neighborhood children come by to play with her.

“I guess you could say she helps me evangelize,” said Fr. McGrath. “But she’s low-key about it.”

Keeping a pet does take some work, but he’s convinced it’s well worth it.

“The companionship is 1,000 times more than the work,” he said.

## Bringing in the sheaves



Father Joseph Luzindana, associate pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City and diocesan moderator for youth and young adult ministry, learns about harvesting in the United States on a recent trip to visit Steve and Sarah Friedrich and their daughter and son-in-law Aaron and Paige Schanzmeyer of Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville. Fr. Luzindana, a missionary priest from the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda, went there with Cathedral parishioner Colette Tellman.

— Photos by Paige Schanzmeyer

## Little Things make a Big Difference

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## K of C releases 'Into the Breach — The Mission of the Family' video series

**Will help Catholics increase their understanding of the nature, purpose of marriage**

The Knights of Columbus has released a new video series called "Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family."

This dynamic new series proclaims the truth and beauty of the Catholic vision of family life, and seeks to inspire and prepare viewers to live this vision in the modern world.

The series follows the Knights of Columbus' highly successful "Into the Breach" video series, which has been viewed nearly 1.5 million times.

Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said he's excited about the new

series, "because a relationship with Christ is the greatest gift we can offer to the next generation."

"The Mission of the Family' can help Catholics grow in their faith, increase their understanding of the nature and purpose of marriage, and strengthen and inspire them in living out their vocation as spouses and parents," Mr. Kelly said.

Each episode of "Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family" focuses on a different aspect of the reality of Catholic marriage and family life.

Each features expert interviews with well-known Catholic commentators, as well as the powerful personal story of a Catholic couple who has lived the theme of the episode in their own married lives.

Each episode runs approximately 12 minutes.

The five-part video series features dozens of speakers, including:

- Mr. Kelly;
- EWTN television host Dr. Ray Guarendi;
- Augustine Institute president Dr. Tim Gray;
- Sister Maris Stella of the

Sisters of Life;

•Speaker and author Sarah Swafford;

•Major League Baseball player Trevor Williams;

•former Major League Baseball player Mike Sweeney; and

•former Major League Baseball player Darrell Miller.

All five episodes can be viewed on the "Into the Breach" website: [kofc.org/misionofthefamily](http://kofc.org/misionofthefamily).

Founded in 1882 by Blessed Father Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus has grown into the world's premier lay Catholic men's organization, with more than 2 million members in over 16,600 local councils.

Knights around the world donated approximately 50 million service hours and nearly \$185 million for worthy causes in their communities in 2022.

Based on the founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus is committed to strengthening Catholic families and parishes, and to practicing faith in action through service to all in need.

## Movie Ratings



General Patronage

Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG)



Adults and Adolescents

The Hill (PG)  
A Million Miles Away (PG)



Adults

The Creator (PG-13)  
A Haunting in Venice (PG-13)  
My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Dumb Money (R)  
The Nun II (R)



Morally Offensive

Deliver Us (R)  
The Equalizer 3 (R)  
The Exorcist: Believer (R)  
Expend4bles (R)  
Saw X (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

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## 'The Exorcist: Believer' is 'misguided'

By John Mulderig  
OSV News

Although the horror sequel "The Exorcist: Believer" (Universal) gets off to a reasonably promising start, it degenerates quickly.

In fact, it ends up being a

muddle both dramatically and, more significantly, in its treatment of religion.

Director and co-writer David Gordon Green's take on the demonic possession theme follows the ordeal of widowed father Victor Fielding (Leslie Odom Jr.).

Although the current movie is intended as a direct sequel to the original and, in that respect, a reboot of the series, the approach of this script to its subject matter departs markedly from the earlier tale.

As adapted from his own fact-based novel by screenwriter William Peter Blatty, and directed by William Friedkin, the Watergate-era picture may have sensationalized matters but at its center was a fairly straightforward confrontation between Regan's tormentor and two Catholic priests.

The driving away of the devil here, by contrast, takes on the qualities of a circus.

In part, that's probably at-

tributable to the fact that the more-or-less church-friendly attitude of the earlier movie would jar on contemporary Hollywood sensibilities.

What's presented to the audience, as a result, is a spiritual free-for-all.

The production promotes a syncretist, humanistic and even vaguely anti-Catholic outlook that could be spiritually dangerous for anyone inclined to take it seriously.

On the whole, however, this half-a-century-later follow-up is best dismissed as a bit of chaotic schlock.

The film contains misguided spiritual ideas, brief gory images, mature references (including to abortion), a handful of mild oaths, a few rough terms and at least one crass expression.

The OSV News classification is morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association rating is R restricted.

John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News.

### On air

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## SYNOD

From page 1

all in the Jefferson City diocese to pray for the synod and to avoid divisive headlines and premature reactions about the discussions happening in Rome.

“Beyond offering our prayers, I think the most important thing we can do is simply carry on and live out the important work of our local Church as these discussions take place,” said Bishop McKnight.

“While we all have a curiosity about the synod, let’s respect the call for a pause and for quiet listening. Most of all, let us not allow early reactions to this exercise to sow division among us. Instead, let’s continue to find reasons to unite in our work as disciples of Christ and stewards of God’s gifts.”

The theme of the synod — “For a synodal Church: communion, participation, mission” — covers a vast gamut of topics dealing with the very life of the Church, its identity, its membership, its leadership, its outreach and its role in the world.

Bishop McKnight noted it’s important to understand what Pope Francis is seeking to accomplish with this work.

“While we are all called to be faithful to the Word of God as expressed in the doctrines of the Church, we are not called, however, to be correctors,” said Bishop McKnight.

“Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has drawn a lot of attention to this aspect of the Church’s mission,” the bishop continued. “The Holy Father is not inviting us to consider changing our doctrines to be more acceptable to the world around us, but rather, to consider the ways in which we witness the truth and beauty of the Church’s definitive teachings in an effective way.”

### Safeguarding the process

Journalists and others hoping to follow the synod assembly’s work may be frustrated not knowing what is going on inside the Vatican’s Paul VI Audience Hall where the pope, the 364 synod other members and 85 experts, facilitators and ecumenical representatives are meeting morning and after-



**Pope Francis shares a laugh with some of the women members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops, including Spanish theologian Cristina Inogés Sanz, left, at the assembly’s session Oct. 6, in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican.**

— CNS photo/Vatican Media

noon Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings as well. But Ruffini suggested the public silence is a big part of the story.

Pope Francis had told synod members at the beginning that participation required “a certain fasting from speaking in public” to “safeguard” the synod’s discernment process.

In societies filled with noise and people trying to shout over each other, Ruffini said, maybe the world should draw a lesson from what the Church is trying to do.

Making space for silence and for listening to others could help end wars or prompt real action to stem the climate crisis, he said, suggesting the synod’s process deserved to be understood and appreciated far beyond the Church.

The rules for synod members distributed to participants said, “In order to guarantee the freedom of expression of each and all regarding their thoughts and to ensure the serenity of the discernment in common, which is the main task entrusted to the Assembly, each of the participants is bound to confidentiality and discretion regarding both their own interventions and the interventions of other participants. This duty remains in force once the Synodal Assembly has ended.”

### “A refreshing experience”

The balance between “confidentiality” and “discretion” was not spelled out.

After the rules were distributed, some synod members canceled appointments for interviews they had made with reporters. Those most active on X, formerly Twitter, went mute or began sharing only prayers and photos of how the assembly

space was laid out.

However, Cardinal Gerhard Müller, former prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, went on EWTN Oct. 5 to talk about the synod. One question in his small group, he said, was “what is the nature and substance of this synod” given that “lay-people have the same vote” as bishops, unlike at previous synods.

Although the cardinal was critical of the process before the assembly began, he told EWTN that his experience in his small group “was very good, and I have, therefore, a certain form of optimism.” Other participants were less specific, but offered their own takes on synod proceedings.

Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna tweeted Oct. 5: “The beauty of such a synod is the experience of the universal Church widely sharing our challenges and our hopes.”

After the small groups began making their reports to the general assembly Oct. 6, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, tweeted: “The vision of Vatican II is the shared point of reference for the Synod starting from the catholicity of the People of God. Each individual part contributes through its special gifts to the good of the other parts and of the whole Church. Please pray for the Synod’s success.”

Ambushed as he left the synod for lunch the same day, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the work was going well and, “the Spirit is blowing.”

As the synod moved from small group discussions to listening to reports and speeches Oct. 6, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle said he was grateful for the pauses for silence and reflection that punctuated the morning session. But there were still a lot of speeches in many languages.

“It is a fascinating experience, I can tell you that,” he said, adding that he would encourage people “to keep praying for us, to invoke the Holy Spirit upon us because that’s the voice we’re listening for.”

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Oct 15

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
Is. 25:6-10a  
Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Phil. 4:12-14, 19-20  
Mt. 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

### Monday, Oct 16

*St. Hedwig, religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin*  
Rom. 1:1-7  
Ps. 98:1bcde, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
Lk. 11:29-32

### Tuesday, Oct 17

*St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr*  
Rom. 1:16-25  
Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5  
Lk. 11:37-41

### Wednesday, Oct 18

*St. Luke, evangelist*  
2 Tm. 4:10-17b  
Ps. 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18  
Lk. 10:1-9

### Thursday, Oct 19

*Ss. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, priests, and companions, martyrs (USA)*  
Rom. 3:21-30  
Ps. 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab  
Lk. 11:47-54

### Friday, Oct 20

*St. Paul of the Cross, priest (USA)*  
Rom. 4:1-8  
Ps. 32:1b-2, 5, 11  
Lk. 12:1-7

### Saturday, Oct 21

Rom. 4:13, 16-18  
Ps. 105:6-7, 8-9, 42-43  
Lk. 12:8-12

### Sunday, Oct 22

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
Is. 45:1, 4-6  
Ps. 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10  
1 Thes. 1:1-5b  
Mt. 22:15-21

### Monday, Oct 23

*St. John of Capistrano, priest*  
Rom. 4:20-25  
(Ps.) Lk. 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75  
Lk. 12:13-21

### Tuesday, Oct 24

*St. Anthony Mary Claret, bishop*  
Rom. 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21  
Ps. 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17  
Lk. 12:35-38

### Wednesday, Oct 25

Rom. 6:12-18  
Ps. 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8  
Lk. 12:39-48

### Thursday, Oct 26

Rom. 6:19-23  
Ps. 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6  
Lk. 12:49-53

### Friday, Oct 27

Rom. 7:18-25a  
Ps. 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94  
Lk. 12:54-59

### Saturday, Oct 28

*Ss. Simon and Jude, apostles*  
Eph. 2:19-22  
Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5  
Lk. 6:12-16

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

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

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# Sunday Mass in Chamois NPM sponsoring "St. Cecilia Sing," Nov. 19 in Cathedral

Effective Oct. 29, Sunday Mass in in Most Pure Heart of Mary Church will be offered at 9 a.m.

## Holy Rosary Fall Dinner

Turkey Dinner with trimmings. Drive-through, carry-out and home delivery as needed. Call 660-341-3696 for delivery. Prize drawings. Everyone invited!

**Where:** Knights of Columbus Hall  
424 S Locust St, Monroe City

**When:** Sunday, October 29  
drive-through/carry-out  
from 11:00 - 1:00

**Cost:** Adults \$15  
Children 5 & under are free  
for dine-in only

## Church of the Risen Savior FALL DINNER

**Valentine Hall — Starkenburg**  
197 Highway P, Rhineland  
*Handicapped accessible hall; paved parking spaces.*

### Sunday, November 5

11 am - 3 pm

**Dine-In or Carry-Out** Adults \$15 | Kids 6-12 \$5  
Kids 5 & under FREE | Adults 90 & over FREE

Country fried chicken, whole hog sausage, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, Missouri baked apples, dinner rolls, salads, pie & desserts

Country Store  
Quilt Prizes  
Religious Articles

## St. Francis Xavier FALL SUPPER

TAOS, MISSOURI

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

11am - 6pm

Games - Country Store  
Prizes - Muffin Pan  
Kids Games - Refreshments

### Music ministers throughout diocese invited to take part Public welcome to attend

The Jefferson City chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) will hold its annual St. Cecilia Sing event at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

All music ministers in the diocese are invited to participate. Choirs of all kinds (adult, youth, handbells, contemporary ensembles, praise choirs,) as well as instrumentalists (organ, piano, guitar, obbligato) and cantors are invited to submit the music they would like to share, and designate whether it will be an assembly piece for everyone in attendance to sing along with; a solo or choral piece; or an instrumental.

Participation and music can be sent to [JeffersonCityMO@npm.org](mailto:JeffersonCityMO@npm.org).

This is not a competition but a chance for music minis-

ters from across the diocese to gather together in prayer and fellowship, to share their gifts and support each other.

The public is invited to attend and enjoy the music and

fellowship.

Dioceses throughout the country will hold similar events on or near the feastday of St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians, to sing her praises.

## Sacred Heart Parish FALL FESTIVAL

### Rich Fountain SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

**GRILLED SAUSAGE & GERMAN POT ROAST DINNER — \$15**

Served 11am to 6pm  
Due to construction at our parish, we are serving drive-thru & carry-out  
Indoor & outdoor seating available

Shooting Match-11am  
Auction-3pm  
Drawing-5:30pm  
Country Store  
Refreshments  
Kids Games

Junction of Hwys. 50 & 63...  
South on Hwy. 63 for 9 mi., then East on Hwy. E for 3 mi.

## Rosary Rally

**DATE:** October 14  
**TIME:** noon

Annunciation Parish in California will hold a Rosary Rally at noon on Saturday, Oct. 14, in Proctor Park in California.

All are invited to bring a rosary and possibly a lawn chair and join in praying the Rosary publicly for peace and repentance throughout the world.

Turkey, sausage, mashed potatoes & gravy,  
Heritage dressing, green beans, fried apples, homemade breads & desserts

**BACK THIS YEAR: sweet potatoes & turnips**

Adults \$15 Kids 6-12 \$7  
5 & under free  
Dinners to go \$15

Mass at 8:00 & 10:00 am

## ST. JOSEPH PARISH, WESTPHALIA FALL FESTIVAL

### OCTOBER 15 - 11AM - 6PM

**SAUSAGE & ROAST BEEF DINNER**

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