

“For the least of these”

Jefferson City volunteer Carolyn Saucier ministers to prison residents, the unsheltered.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

March 15, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 19

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Retired priests, religious put greater focus on being



The Easter Special Collection that will be taken up in parishes throughout the diocese will benefit retired priests and retired members of religious orders and congregations.

A special envelope for this collection is inserted in this edition of The Catholic Missourian.

By Jay Nies and Annie Williams

Mornings are far less rushed and the days less hectic since Sister Kathleen Wegman retired for the second and final time.

Gone are endless deadlines and to-do lists, but she’ll never give up being a School Sister of Notre Dame.

“I have not retired from my vocation at all,” she said. “In fact, I find that it is deepening.”

Sr. Kathleen, a former chancellor of the Jefferson City diocese and former interim director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, continues to serve as the bishop’s delegate to religious sisters.

She also spends time each week volunteering at Catholic Charities in Jefferson City.

But her main focus during this latest time of transition for her is prayer and presence.

“I’m moving from being very active and doing, to being,” she stated.

Sr. Kathleen is one of numerous religious sisters and diocesan priests who benefit from the Jefferson City diocese’s annual Easter Collection.

Fifty-three years after entering religious life, Sr. Kathleen is relishing her slow mornings and more-deliberate interaction with God.

“I sip the coffee — taste God, taste

Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, Father Donald Antweiler, priests of the Jefferson City diocese and some of the religious sisters now living and serving in the diocese are featured in this illustration for the Easter Special Collection to benefit retired priests and religious.

— Photo illustration by Annie Williams

Mother to speak at Stewardship Conference, says families are the foundation of stewardship

DATE: April 13
TIME: 8 am - 3:30 pm

By Jay Nies

Lisa McArdle says her children have taught her more about the Stewardship Way of Life than she’s taught them.

“A lot of people assume when you talk about stewardship that it’s just something you do within the walls of church,” said Mrs. McArdle, vice president of client services for Catholic Stewardship Consultants, and author of a book called *Stewardship Starts At Home*.

“So, it’s reading at Mass, planting flowers in the churchyard, helping to lead a Bible study — and these things are all, in fact, tangible ways to live out our call to stewardship,” she noted.

“But you don’t take that hat off when you leave church

and put it back on when you come back,” she said. “You’re a steward, 24/7. You live it day-in, day-out, every day of your life.”

Mrs. McArdle will give a presentation on “Stewardship in the Family” during the Diocesan Stewardship Conference on Saturday, April 13, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

The daylong event will include a series of discussions and fellowship opportunities for people throughout the diocese to become more familiar with the stewardship way of life.

Presenters will include Bishop W. Shawn McKnight; Mrs. McArdle and her husband, Eric, who is president of Catholic Stewardship Consultants; Father John Lanzrath, a priest of

See STEWARDSHIP, page 15

See EASTER COLLECTION, page 12

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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 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or complete the online form at diojeffcity.org/update-information. Allow two weeks.

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OLD PARISH _____

03/15/24

Pray for deceased priests

Mar. 18 — Fr. Joseph T. Nolan, St. Patrick, Sedalia (1965)

Mar. 19 — Fr. Fred J. Barnett, St. Patrick, Laurie; and St. Philip Benizi, Versailles (2011)

Mar. 27 — Fr. Patrick L. Pierceall, St. Joseph, Palmyra (2016)

Administrative Assistant



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking an experienced administrative assistant to support the Director of Religious Education & Youth/Young Adult Ministry and the Coordinator of Women's Ministry. Requirements include: at least 5 years' experience; intermediate to advanced skills in Word and Excel; experience with website content management (preferred); ability to prioritize tasks and support more than one director; and willingness to assist with events.

This is a full-time position offering a competitive wage with comprehensive benefits which include life insurance, long-term disability, medical, dental, vision and a matching 403(b) retirement plan.

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

Principal Opening — Loose Creek

Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek, Mo. is currently accepting applications for a principal for the 2024-2025 school year. We are a Catholic elementary school, serving kindergarten through 8th grade, with a current enrollment of approximately 104 children. This position will involve day-to-day interactions with parents and students in an ongoing effort to provide our community with a strong Catholic faith and a healthy and challenging academic environment. The principal reports directly to the pastor, and should lead an exemplary Catholic life in addition to continuing educational and professional growth. A job description and application can be found on the diocesan web page at diojeffcity.org/school-office. Questions can be directed to Dr. Erin Vader, Superintendent of Catholic Schools at evader@diojeffcity.org.

Principal Needed



Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville, Mo., is accepting applications for a principal for the 2024-2025 school year. We are a Catholic elementary school, serving pre-k through 8th grade, with a current enrollment of 92 students. This position requires a strong Catholic identity, commitment to growth, collaborative spirit and strategic vision that embraces a strong partnership with parents and the parish community. The principal reports directly to the pastor, and would lead staff by example in the areas of continuing educational and professional growth. A job description and application can be found at diojeffcity.org/school-office. Questions can be directed to Dr. Erin Vader, Superintendent of Catholic Schools at evader@diojeffcity.org.



Official Notice of Appointments

The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, STD, Bishop of Jefferson City, has recently made the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:

PRIESTS

Very Reverend Christopher L. Cordes, appointed as a Trustee of the Priests' Mutual Benefit Society for a three-year term, effective Feb. 13, 2024.

DEACONS

Deacon Enrique Castro, appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council for a term of three years, effective July 1, 2024.

LAITY

Mrs. Cristhia Castro-Guzman, appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council for a term of three years, effective July 1, 2024.

Mrs. Sarah Robinson, reappointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council for a term of three years, effective Feb. 24, 2024.

Chancery Closing

The chancery offices in the Alphonse J. Schwarze Memorial Catholic Center will be closed on **Good Friday, March 29**, and on **April 1, the Monday of Easter Week**.

Way of the Cross on Good Friday on sidewalk outside P.P. Columbia

A Way of the Cross for Victims of Abortion will be held at 10 a.m. on Good Friday, March 29, on the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 711 N. Providence Road in Columbia.

Thousands of abortions took place at the facility, and abortion referrals continue to be given there.

All are welcome to participate in this Lenten prayer service, with volunteers holding large color Stations of the Cross.

Participants will prayerfully remember all the victims of abortion — the children lost, the mothers wounded, the communities blighted — in a solemn, ecumenical prayer service.

"Join us as we pray for healing for the victims of abortion and for an end to this injustice in our land," the event's organizers stated.

For information, contact Kathy Forck at 573-821-5130.

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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St. Peter J.C. new Mass times

St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City will have new Mass times, effective Sunday, April 7.

Sunday Masses will be at 8 and 10 a.m. and in Spanish at noon.

Weekday Masses will be at 12:03 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, and at 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

J.C. women day of recollection

DATE: March 23
TIME: 8 am - noon

Women of all ages are invited to join together from 8 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 23, for a morning of faith enrichment and quiet reflection journeying into the heart of God during this Lenten Season.

The morning will begin with Mass at 8 a.m., followed by a reflection led by Father Matthew Flatley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

"Come listen, learn and reflect on our individual and shared journeys to (w)holiness," the day's organizers stated.

"Together, we will explore scriptures around Martha and Mary. Are you one or the other? Perhaps a bit of both? How can we challenge and nurture all the parts of ourselves ... all while striving to give our all to God?"

diojeffcity.org

Teaching Positions — Tipton, Mo.

St. Andrew Catholic School in Tipton, Mo. has multiple junior high teaching positions. We are departmentalized in the junior high; subjects available are Science, Social Studies, ELA and Religion. 7th or 8th grade homeroom and content taught is dependent on experience and qualifications.

A successful candidate is a practicing Catholic in good standing or a teacher who, consistent with the mission of St. Andrew School, promotes and teaches the Catholic faith. Applicants should hold the appropriate Missouri teaching certification or its equivalent. All interested persons should contact the Principal, Kara Higgins, at khiggins@saintandrewpirates.com.

All are invited to the Chrism Mass, March 26 in the Cathedral

By Jay Nies

For the first time in three years, the Chrism Mass will be back in the renovated Cathedral of St. Joseph this year.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight invites the faithful to join him and the priests of the diocese at the Chrism Mass, to be celebrated at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26.

“Once a year, in anticipation of the Sacred Triduum, clergy and laity from parishes near and far come together in our beautiful Cathedral to celebrate the eternal bonds we share as members of one communion,” Bishop McKnight stated.

“I invite all the faithful to come and pray with and for

our priests and for all who will receive sacraments of our Church in the upcoming year, with the oils we will bless and the Sacred Chrism I will consecrate,” he said.

Refreshments will be available in Cana Hall in the lower level of the Cathedral after the Mass.

Reservations are requested to provide an approximate count for the reception.

Visit diojeffcity.org/chrism-mass-rsvp to make a reservation.

“A special Mass”

Offered each year in this diocese on the Tuesday of Holy Week, the Chrism Mass high-

lights and solidifies the bonds between the bishop, priests, the sacraments and all the faithful who receive them.

Surrounded by the priests of this diocese and missionary priests serving here from other dioceses, Bishop McKnight will bless the oils and consecrate the Sacred Chrism that will be used for sacraments in every parish in the diocese throughout the upcoming year.

They will also observe the 70th priestly anniversary of Father C. Duane Ryan, a retired priest of the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese who served for many years in our diocese and currently lives in Sunrise Beach; the 60th priestly anniversary of Father Kevin Gormley, a retired priest of the diocese; the 50th priestly anniversary of Father Brendan Griffey, a retired priest of the diocese; and the 25th priestly anniversary of Father Henry Ussher, a missionary priest from the Diocese of Wiaenso, Ghana currently serving in our diocese.

The bishop will use the Oil of Chrism in administering Confirmation and in the ordination of priests and the consecrating of churches and altars.

Rev. Christopher Hoffmann, a transitional deacon who hopes to be ordained a priest of this diocese this year, said he’s looking forward to the Chrism Mass.

“It will be a special Mass for me, since it will be at this Mass where I will assist with the preparation of the very Chrism which I will be sealed with, God willing, for a third time — after Baptism and Confirmation — in Priestly Ordination,” he said.

He noted that his time as a transitional deacon has been a time of preparation, moving closer and closer to full priestly ministry.

As part of the Chrism Mass, the priests will renew together their priestly promises — “promises I hope to make at my own ordination this summer,” said Rev. Mr. Hoffmann.

That they may be one

The Chrism Mass recalls the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood so his sacred work could continue to be carried out until the end of this age.

Since only bishops may consecrate Chrism, the Chrism Mass highlights the bishop’s ministry and the union of the priests with him.

It also symbolizes the unity among the priests and the people to whom they are sent to minister.

Father Derek Hooper — pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, Sacred Heart Parish in Vandalia and the Mission of St. John in Laddonia — is keenly aware of these connections.

“The Chrism Mass is an exciting time to get together as a group of priests to renew our priestly promises — as we are all ordained and have had our hands consecrated with the Sacred Chrism,” he said.

For him, it’s awe-inspiring to participate in the Mass

where he will receive the oils to be used for the sacraments this year — “especially at the Easter Vigil to bring people into the flock of God.”

Using the oils and being with people who desire to enter the Church brings joy to his heart.

“Every time I anoint someone or baptize someone, I am reminded of my priestly authority to heal and bring people into the flock of the Church,” said Fr. Hooper.

In the beginning

The annual blessing of the sacramental oils dates from the early Church.

It originally was part of the Holy Thursday Liturgy, since the Last Supper was not only the origin of the Eucharist but also the Holy Priesthood.

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

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

The Oil of the Sick is used in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Sacred Chrism is used in Baptism, as well as Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops and the anointing of churches and altars.

See CHRISM MASS, page 14

Bishop McKnight's Calendar

MARCH

- Mar 17** Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, Immaculate Conception Parish, St. James, and St. Anthony Parish, Rosati, 10:30 am, St. Patrick Church, Rolla
- Mar 18** Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board of Directors Meeting, 11 am, Virtual
- Mar 20** Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Parish, Freeburg and Sacred Heart Parish, Rich Fountain, 6:30 pm, Holy Family Church, Freeburg
- Mar 22** Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee Meeting, 10 am, Virtual; Josephinum Seminary Board of Trustees Academic Committee Meeting, 1 pm, Virtual
- Mar 24** Palm Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 10 am, Jefferson City; Bishops of Missouri Provincial Meeting, 7 pm, St. Louis
- Mar 25** Missouri Catholic Conference Board Meeting, 9 am, St. Louis
- Mar 26** Priests' Jubilarian Luncheon, noon, Cana Hall; Joint Meeting of the Corporations for the Parishes, 1 pm, Cana Hall; Chrism Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 3 pm, Jefferson City
- Mar 28** Mass of the Lord's Supper, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 7 pm, Jefferson City
- Mar 29** Good Friday Service, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 7 pm, Jefferson City
- Mar 30** Easter Vigil, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 8:10 pm, Jefferson City

APRIL

- Apr 2** Council of Deans Meeting, 11 am; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery
- Apr 3** Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Parish, Loose Creek and St. Louis of France Parish, Bonnots Mill, 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, Loose Creek
- Apr 4** Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, St. Thomas and St. Cecilia Parish, Meta, 6:30 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, St. Thomas

Bishop McKnight's March prayer intention for our Local Church

For those preparing for reception of the Easter sacraments this year; may our whole Church be renewed and invigorated by the celebrations of baptism, confirmation and First Holy Communion.

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

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

Para aquellos que se preparan para recibir los sacramentos pascuales este año. Que toda nuestra Iglesia sea renovada y vigorizada por las celebraciones del bautismo, la confirmación y la Primera Comunión.



Communal reconciliation services for Lent

Lent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter. Here is a partial list of Lenten communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. The listings will be updated in upcoming issues of *The Catholic Missourian*. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out.

Brookfield — Tues., March 19 at 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Brunswick — Thur., March 21, 6 pm at St. Boniface Church

Columbia — Tues., March 19 at 7 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center

Edina — Fri., March 22 at 6 pm, St. Joseph Church

Hannibal — Wed., March 20 at 6 pm, Holy Family Church

Indian Creek — Wed., March 20 at 6:30 pm, St. Stephen Church

Jefferson City — Sun., March 17 at 2 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Ladsonia — Thur., March 21 at 6 pm, St. John Church

Marceline — Wed., March 20 at 6:30 pm, St. Bonaventure Church

Mexico — Thur., March 21 at 6:30 pm, St. Brendan Church

Montgomery City — Thur., March 21 at 6 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Palmyra — Thur., March 21 at 6 pm, St. Joseph Church

Perry — Mon., March 25 at 6:30 pm, St. William Church

St. Clement — Mon., March 18 at 6:30 pm, St. Clement Church

St. Martins — Thur., March 21 at 6 pm, St. Martin Church

Salisbury — Tues., March 19 at 6 pm, St. Joseph Church

Vandalia — Fri., March 29 at 6 pm, Sacred Heart Church

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary to be focus of Women's Ministry Spring Pilgrimage in Shelbina

DATE: April 6
TIME: 9 am - 4 pm

By Jay Nies

The calling of a Christian is both universal and unique to each individual.

The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary shed light on that calling through specific moments when Jesus embraced, shared and responded to his own purpose in this life.

"So, we'll be talking about the Luminous Mysteries and what they show us about the kind of life Christ is inviting us to live," said Jill Simons, key-

note presenter at the Diocese of Jefferson City's 2024 Women's Ministry Spring Pilgrimage.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in St. Mary Church, 309 E. Chestnut St. in Shelbina.

The theme will be "Light Our Path."

All women of the diocese are invited to attend.

Registration will be from 9 to 9:45 a.m. in the St. Mary parish center.

Talks, activities and discussions will focus on each of the Luminous Mysteries of the

Rosary, which Pope St. John Paul II encouraged Catholics to pray and meditate on, especially on Thursdays.

Lunch will be served between morning and afternoon sessions.

Mrs. Simons is executive director of Many Parts Ministries (manypartsministries.com), which helps Catholics around the world discover their unique calling from God, based on the gifts and talents he has given each of them.

The Luminous Mysteries include important moments in the life of Jesus in which his identity and mission were made clear: his Baptism in the River Jordan; his changing of water to wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana; his Proclamation of the Kingdom of God and call to conversion; his Transfiguration on Mount Tabor; and the Last Supper.

"Throughout Lent, we're focused on the cross and the resurrection, as we should be, because it's so vital, so instrumental to the Christian life,"



Jill Simons, executive director of Many Parts Ministries, will be the keynote presenter at the Diocese of Jefferson City's 2024 Women's Ministry Spring Pilgrimage, April 6 in Shelbina.

— Photo from the Many Parts Ministries webpage

Mrs. Simons noted.

"But, I think a big part that often gets sidestepped is how Christ's life on earth shows us the kind of life that we are to live, here and now," she said.

By their fruits

Mrs. Simons's presentations will be on Jesus's Baptism and his Proclamation of the Kingdom.

"When we look at what happened at the Baptism of Christ, that's the same thing that happened at our own Baptism!" she stated.

"Understanding that lays the foundation for the Christian life and allows you to flourish from a really stable, safe sense of your relationship with God," she said.

That understanding, in turn,

sheds light on what each person who's been baptized is called to do, and what the active parts of the Christian life look like.

Jesus's Proclamation of the Kingdom of God gives clear guidance about Christianity in action, said Mrs. Simons.

She'll speak of these things in the context of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and each person's unique charism.

St. Paul lists the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in his Letter to the Galatians (5:22-23) — "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness

(and) self-control."

"Most of us at least at some point in our lives could name the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, because they were taught to us," said Mrs. Simons.

"But I recognize a sizable gap in most people's actual experience of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in their own lives," she said.

That deficit often comes from a lack of understanding of where each person's identity really comes from.

"We can close that gap," said Mrs. Simons, "when we invite Jesus to minister to us, bringing us from where we are to where he wants us to be, and when we truly experience the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, regardless of

See PILGRIMAGE, page 19

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Eucharistic Revival's 'Invite One Back' initiative helps parishes reach lapsed Catholics

By Laretta Brown
OSV News

What would happen if clergy and parish leaders personally reached out to Catholics who have stopped attending Mass to invite them to come back, telling them they are missed and wanted in the parish community?

This is the question and challenge the U.S. bishops are posing as their National Eucharistic Revival initiative focuses on parish efforts this year.

The bishops launched resources in early March as part of the "Invite One Back" initiative, equipping clergy and parish leaders to invite those who have stopped attending Sunday Mass to fill the pews once again.

Many people simply didn't return to the pews after the COVID-19 pandemic restricted in-person Mass attendance in 2020. One 2022 study from Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate showed a 7% decline in adult Catholics attending Sunday Mass compared with pre-COVID data.

The revival website notes that in 2020 a "significant portion of Catholics lost connection with their local parish during the shutdowns, and just never came back. It's time to bring them home." The website also points to Pew data from 2014, which found that 13% of all U.S. adults are former Catholics.

"The goal of this initiative is to fill the pews again," the website says. "To do that, we all need to invite back everyone who has left in a way that makes sure they feel seen and desired as an individual member of your parish family. Whom are you called to invite home?"

In his introductory letter to parish leaders, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, wrote, "Our efforts in evangelization and inviting Catholics back to Mass are not just about increasing numbers or filling pews.

Rather, our efforts are about guiding people to intimate encounters with Jesus

Christ and leading souls to salvation, allowing them to experience God's love, mercy, and goodness."

"It is important to invite these people back because it is a great act of love! It is also one of the simplest and most effective ways to evangelize," he emphasized. "Love desires to be shared once it is received. The source and summit of the Christian life is participation in the Eucharistic sacrifice, where we encounter the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament."

The initiative stresses the unique power of invitation, saying that for those who have left parishes, "an invitation reminds them that they belong within our community and that their presence is missing."

The website encourages clergy and parish leadership to "make a list of parishioners you haven't seen in a while or people who used to be members of your parish" to immediately begin praying for them and start discerning "how you can best reach each member of that group, and make a plan



People gather for Lenten Wednesday night Adoration and Benediction in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. — Photo by Jay Nies

to contact each one of them in whatever way would be most meaningful."

When it comes to tools for reaching those who've stopped attending Mass, resources include letter and postcard templates as well as scripts for starting phone calls with former parishioners.

Creativity and personalization are encouraged in these conversations with the goal of listening to the individual and meeting them where they are.

as well as for parish groups to dedicate rosaries and Holy Hours for the effort.

"Let us pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit's guidance and fortitude to carry out this sacred mission," urged Bishop Cozzens, chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc. "Let us embrace each soul with open arms, rejoicing as they return to the embrace of the Church and our parish communities through the gift of the Eucharist."

Resources for National Eucharistic Revival's "Invite One Back" initiative can be found in English and Spanish at:

eucharisticrevival.org/invite-one-back

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Have you already remembered your parish or school in your estate plans? Please let us know!

Sacred music, the Divine Office, the Eucharist draw couple toward confessing the Catholic faith

By Jay Nies

Nicholas and Sharon Liese realized on the Solemnity of St. Joseph that they needed more than the faith of their upbringing.

They needed the Eucharist. They needed the Sacraments, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the unbroken line of Apostolic Succession leading back to Jesus and the men he ordained to carry on his work.

They needed to confess the Catholic Faith.

"We have found in the Catholic Church the fullness of truth that we were not able to find elsewhere," declared Mr. Liese, Director of Sacred Music at St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City.

The couple moved to the Capital City in 2022.

Nicholas was initiated into the Catholic Church last August.

Sharon is preparing to do so at the Easter Vigil.

"I just suddenly felt like I was being called," said Sharon. "I had discovered the truth, and I realized that this is where I need to be."

On this rock

Nicholas's father, a pastor in

the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, took a strong interest in what his children grew up believing.

"One thing that my Dad drilled into me was that it is an injustice to be a 'cradle Lutheran' — and not be convinced that what you believe is right," said Nicholas.

"I had learned a lot, but I wasn't convinced that I believed it all," the son conceded. "I had a lot of questions."

He took those with him to Concordia University near Milwaukee, upon beginning his studies there in organ and church music.

He took up lots of heavy reading that brought more concern than comfort.

"I felt like I was getting washed up onto the shore every few months, and I had to wade back in and dive into theology and doctrine and get back into what I believed," he recalled.

Along the way, he discovered a Lutheran adaptation of what Catholics call the Divine Office or the Liturgy of the Hours — a cycle of prayers and readings to be taken up alone or in community at various times each day.

He and some friends started praying the prayers together once a week, and then more often as time permitted.

"For the first time, I felt I was able to really pray," he said. "The simplicity of the Psalms and the readings and the prayers associated with what I now know as the Divine Office — it brought me a tremendous

amount of stability."

Nicholas continued his studies at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

That's where he met Sharon. They got married and moved to Lawrence, Kansas, when Nicholas became associate director of music and principal organist at the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center — often known as "KU Catholic."

He was quickly called upon to become the center's interim director of music for the rest of that school year and into the following year.

Working one-on-one with students in the St. Lawrence choir, he set out to serve as a teacher and mentor.

"They were all longing to know their faith better," Nicholas recalled.

He shared one to two hours each week with each of the seven choral scholars — all of them Catholic — in the center's choral scholarship program.

In addition to music lessons, they explored and discussed the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the writings of several saints and mystics.

He kept up with the Divine Office and invited people to come to the center each Sunday for sung Evening Prayer.

A couple of friends in the organ program at the University ribbed him about being Catholic in everything but name.

"They were kidding, but even in jest, there's always a little truth," Nicholas noted.

Sharon, whose father grew up Catholic, also felt pulled in that direction.

Family events, Confirmations and the weddings of several cousins had brought her to Mass many times.

"But it wasn't until we moved to Kansas and I started singing in the choirs Nicho-



Nicholas and Sharon Liese stand outside the doors of the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter in Jefferson City, where Mr. Liese serves as Director of Sacred Music.

— Photo by Jay Nies

las was directing that I started truly witnessing the Mass," she noted.

Sharon became friends with devout Catholics with whom she could discuss her faith and have her questions answered.

"That's when Nicholas and I started talking about being interested in coming to the Catholic Church," she said.

The couple moved to Mishawaka, Indiana, where Nicholas served as director of music for a Catholic parish.

There, he got to know the school's music teacher and her fiancé — both faithful and knowledgeable Catholics.

"We got to be good friends," said Nicholas. "We would have conversations and banter with theology."

"They were the kind of people who would offer to teach and discuss rather than just argue, and they would answer questions sincerely," he noted.

Nicholas and Sharon felt ever-more drawn to being Catholic, but the timing didn't seem right.

In the meantime, Nicholas was put into contact with

Father Jeremy Secrist through a mutual friend, to discuss the possibility of his consulting on an organ project at the parish Nicholas served.

Fr. Secrist was pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City at that time.

Lisa Fender, the parish's longtime music director, was retiring, and the pastor was looking for someone to succeed her.

"He and I spoke over the course of a couple months. Eventually, I came down for an interview and he made me an offer," said Nicholas.

He now selects appropriate music for each Mass, directs the Schola Cantorum and serves as organist for the parish.

Sharon accepted a position doing imaging work in the Missouri Secretary of State's office.

All creation echoing

Nicholas said his role as music director, under the direction of his pastor, is "to help guide the minds and souls of people in the pews while the reality of the foretaste of the Heavenly Liturgy comes true at each Mass."

He said that truth must outweigh all appeals to emotion or personal taste.

"Whether or not we understand the language or appreciate the style of the music, the goal of the Liturgy is to raise up the mind and soul to God," he stated.

"Liturgical musicians, sacred musicians, should always strive to only put the goodness, the truth and the beauty of those things confessed by the Sacred Tradition of the Church — both ancient and recent, good things from all time and history — before the people," he said.

The Liturgy of the Mass, first and foremost, shapes the

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J.C. volunteer Carolyn Saucier shares compassion with the unhoused and people in prison

By Cameron Gerber

Reaching out to those in need is as big a blessing to Carolyn Saucier as it is to those with whom she interacts.

Mrs. Saucier has spent years volunteering with unhoused residents in Jefferson City and ministering to inmates in prison, extending a hand to those who often have nowhere else to turn.

She serves on the board of Housing the Community Jefferson City (HCJC) and volunteers with Jefferson City Room at the Inn, an overnight shelter that runs through the winter where she sees the effects of the services on those who need them.

For Mrs. Saucier, who is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, the call to care for others comes from her faith and the Old Testament's call to "take care of your widows, your orphans and your poor."

"When you talk with someone in the shelter, when you listen to them and hug them — you're holding the body of Christ," she said. "That's a gift, to you and to them."

Mrs. Saucier noted an example of the impact reaching out to the homeless can have on them: A man in Jefferson City approached her at the shelter in recent years recalling a time 20 years before, when she had visited him while he was living in a tent outside of the Sacred Heart Church in Eldon. She was there to participate in a teaching workshop and said she often brought banana bread and other treats to share.

"It's one of my favorite stories, because it shows how one small gift of kindness means so much to the unhoused," she said. "That was the second night I volunteered at the shelter that year, and we've since become great friends."

Another man she's gotten to know at the shelter said he was caught in a creek during a storm one day. Despite him flashing his light, no one came to help him, and he had to untangle himself from some vines to survive. The accident nearly cost him his foot, she said.

The image of someone shining a light for help and no one helping resonated with her, she said.

"He told me, 'I put out my little light, and no one came.' What did that teach me?" she said. "Compassion is the only way. It must be."

She said she has seen suffering in those who stay at the shelter, but she's also seen hope.

In her prison ministry work over nearly 40 years, Mrs. Saucier said she's worked with residents of the Jefferson City Correctional Center who may be serving life sentences, but still manage to find hope for others' future, whether it be their children on the outside or their efforts to support their fellow detainees.

She said some residents tell her and other volunteers that their outreach is the only thing that makes them feel human again.

Mrs. Saucier said people's stories continue to astound her, as people of all backgrounds and histories find themselves homeless or in prison.

"There are so many stories that you hear when you interact with them, stories that move your heart," she said. "They talk about these transformational gifts that you seldom hear about from other people."

And Mrs. Saucier has a story of her own.

Originally from Virginia, Mrs. Saucier began learning at St. Mary's College before joining the convent. After several more years studying chemistry and theology at Notre Dame in Indiana and after leaving the convent, she came to realize religious studies were her true passion.

Around the same time, her roommate introduced her to a man named Mark at the same school. A Taos-born "Vietnam radical" who had spent time doing missionary work in Peru, his heart for service instantly drew Mrs. Saucier to him.

Just shy of 50 years later, the couple share six adult children, 15 grandchildren and a



Carolyn Saucier, who volunteers to help the area's homeless population and provides ministry in local prisons, poses outside of Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Cameron Gerber, courtesy of the Jefferson City News Tribune

lifetime of memories.

"It was a fire in his soul, a fire for service," said Mrs. Saucier. "The fire in his soul took me in, and we've been together ever since."

But there were stops on the way before the Sauciers put down permanent roots in the Capital City. They spent time in Taos and then, after their first child was born, headed to Cupertino, California, for two years before the Diocese of Jefferson City offered Mark a communications job.

Mrs. Saucier said the couple intended to stay in Jefferson City for a short time, but it quickly became their home.

She began teaching chemistry and religious classes in the

area — at Lincoln University and Helias Catholic High School.

Her involvement with the homeless population and prison ministry was spurred by her mentor, the late Benedictine Sister Ruth Haney of Our Lady of Peace Monastery in Columbia, who reminded her of a Bible verse instructing readers to "act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Following 24 years working for the diocese, Mrs. Saucier is still involved in groups and discussions around housing in the area, and hopes to continue bringing people's struggles and stories to light and to

show compassion to those in need.

Her priorities include working with other stakeholders interested in making a dent in a lack of housing stock exacerbated by the 2019 tornado that struck Mid-Missouri. She's also working with advocates to start a day center to provide additional services to unhoused residents in the area.

Mrs. Saucier said the drive to help others also came from a traffic accident that occurred while she was pregnant with her first child, an experience that shaped her passion to reach out to people who don't have the family or blessings she does in life.

"I look back at six children and 15 grandchildren, and I say, 'God, thank you' — but it also makes me realize I must reach out to those who do not have this family, who do not have a home, who are stuck in prison because they made a mistake," she said.

"We need to see them as unique creations of God who are searching for the same things we are — we're all hungry for wholeness."

Mr. Gerber is the business reporter for the Jefferson City News Tribune (newstribune.com), which published a version of this story on Feb. 19. This version is published here with permission.

Pope: Jesus showed acts of mercy to inspire others to follow suit

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

When it comes to inspiring people's actions, Jesus knew that being an example to others is more important than "a flood of words," Pope Francis said.

Jesus washing his disciples' feet at the Last Supper "is undoubtedly an eloquent symbol of the Beatitudes proclaimed by the Lord in the Sermon on the Mount and of their concrete expression in works of mercy," the pope said in a written message March 7.

"With this gesture, the Lord wanted to leave us 'an example so that you may do as I have done,'" he wrote in the message to experts and scholars taking part in a workshop organized by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

To mark the 750th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas' death, the academy organized a meeting March 7-8 to discuss the saint's work on natural law and social ontology.

St. Aquinas "resolutely upholds the priority of works of mercy," he wrote.

"In these years of my Pontificate I have sought to privilege the gesture of foot washing, following the example of Jesus who at the Last Supper took off his cloak and washed his disciples' feet one by one," the pope wrote.

"Indeed, as Aquinas teaches, with such an extraordinary action, Christ 'showed all the works of mercy,'" he wrote. "Jesus knew that when it comes to inspiring human action, examples are more important than a flood of words."

QUESTION CORNER

Are you relieved of the duty to attend Mass on Sunday at a certain age?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: My older sister told me that after age 80, you are relieved of the duty to attend Sunday Mass. I didn't believe her until a friend who is 86 told me the same thing. I have never heard of this. Is it true? (Ocean View, Del.)



A: I have never heard of this either! The relevant citation in Code of Canon Law, Canon 1247, indicates: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass." But canon law never mentions an upper age limit for this obligation.

There are some obligations for Catholics which do have stated age parameters. For example, Canon 1252 tells us that the obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday "binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year," meaning that once a Catholic turns 60 they are no longer required to keep the fast. The fact that our law demonstrates its willingness to set upper age limits for some obligations makes the lack of a stated age limit for the Sunday obligation all the more striking.

That being said, nobody is bound to an obligation that is impossible or gravely difficult to fulfill. It can happen that by the time a person reaches 80, various age-related issues could prevent them from attending Mass in person. For example, health issues might leave them too ill to go out to church, and transportation might become an issue if an elderly person is no longer able to drive. In colder climates, winter weather conditions might also present more of a concern for a senior citizen than they would for someone a few decades younger.

But if an octogenarian thereby found themselves to be no longer bound by the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays, this lack of an obligation would be directly attributable to one of these kinds of above-mentioned reasons, and not simply due to the year they were born. An 80-something Catholic in good health who was capable of physically traveling to Mass would be just as bound to observe the Sunday obligation as their younger counterparts. And, by the same token, a 20-something Catholic who was legitimately impeded from attending Mass due to reasons of health or logistics would be likewise excused from the Sunday obligation.

At the end of the day, our discernment of whether or not we are excused from the duty to attend Mass is a matter of conscience. That is, the Church trusts us to make this determination in good faith; we're not asked to provide "proof" to anyone that attending Mass is prohibitively difficult for us.

But if an older adult is having a hard time weighing whether their circumstances truly excuse them from the Sunday obligation, it might be helpful for them to ask for advice from one's confessor or parish priest.

And although it would not be strictly necessary, if it helps to bring clarity or ease the conscience of a Catholic who is on the fence about whether or not they should stay home from Mass, it is possible to request a formal dispensation from the Sunday obligation. Such a dispensation can be granted by either the local bishop or — as would likely be more convenient for most people — from the pastor of one's territorial parish. (See Canons 87 and 1245.)

As per Canon 1245, a bishop or pastor can also "commute" the Sunday obligation to "some other pious work." This means that the proper authority can essentially set some other prayerful activity as a substitution for the Sunday obligation for a specific person in a particular case. So, for example, if a senior citizen

See QUESTION, page 19



Papal Audience March 13, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters:
In our catechesis on the virtues and the vices, we now consider the nature of virtue, which the *Catechism* defines as "a habitual and firm disposition to do the good." Created in the image and likeness of

God, we were made for goodness, yet in our fallen world the pursuit of virtue and detachment from vice require discipline and perseverance. Growth in virtue is in fact the noblest expression of our human freedom, but must necessarily be sustained by God's prior gift of grace. For this reason, the Scriptures counsel us to pray for the Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom, in order to know the Lord's will and to let it shape our every decision as we strive to conform our lives ever more fully to his gracious and loving plan for our human family.

I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from the Netherlands and the United States of America. With prayerful good wishes that this Lenten season will be a time of grace and spiritual renewal for you and your families, I invoke upon all of you joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Pope says eliminating differences with gender ideology is terrible danger

Vatican City
Catholic News Service

The gifts of men and women are "fruitful" together, and to erase the difference between men and women "is to erase humanity," Pope Francis said.

"Today the worst danger is gender ideology, which erases differences," he said, underlining that he has asked for studies to be done "about this ugly ideology of our time, which erases differences and makes everything equal."

"To erase difference is to erase humanity. Man

and woman, on the other hand, stand in fruitful 'tension'" with each other, he said March 1.

The pope made his remarks as he opened an international congress in the Vatican Synod Hall titled, "Man-Woman: Image of God. For an Anthropology of Vocations."

The congress March 1-2 was sponsored by the Center for Research and Anthropology of Vocations, which was founded in 2020 by Cardinal

See GENDER, page 14

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Looking for signs and Nineveh

By Effie Caldarola
OSV News



As a small child, I was a bit of a religious nerd.

I'm not sure why, but I was the oldest child, the only daughter, and our little Catholic mission parish in farm country was central

to our lives. From a young age, faith intrigued me.

Case in point: I remember taking a toy — probably not a treasured stuffed ani-

mal, more likely something of my brother's — and placing it behind a chair. Then I would talk to God. If you make this item disappear, I would tell the Almighty, then I will definitely believe in you.

Needless to say, the toy was always safely sitting behind the chair when I looked. I remained a tiny believer, albeit a disappointed one.

I chuckle when I recall this memory, and if this mystery we call God has a sense of humor, then the angels were chuckling too.

I was asking for a sign. And lately, we've been reading about Jesus' warnings about asking for signs. In Luke 11:29-32,

he is quite adamant: "This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah."

Jonah became a sign to the city of Nineveh; Jesus is telling the crowds that he, Jesus, is the sign, the only sign we need. And he, Jesus, is greater than Jonah, whose fabulous tale involves being swallowed by a large fish, and greater than Solomon.

Although probably not a historical character, Jonah's story carries lessons. God asked Jonah to perform a mission — go to the pagans in the vast city of Nineveh and proclaim the true God. Un-

derstandably, Jonah's terrified. Instead of heading for Nineveh, he boards a ship going the other direction. When the sailors on board decide that Jonah's rebellion against God is the cause of a devastating storm, they pitch him overboard. Hence, the fish, who eventually decides he doesn't want Jonah either and coughs him up on shore.

Jonah gets the point. He heads to Nineveh and proclaims the Lord. He becomes a sign of God.

A good deacon friend said this years ago: "You may be the only Gospel some-

See CALDAROLA, page 19

'You will never wash my feet!'

By Greg Erlandson
OSV News



Soon enough, we will be celebrating Holy Thursday, also known as the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The Gospel reading for that Mass is John 13:1-15,

which is not specifically about the Last Supper itself as it is in the other three Gospels. Rather, it is about the washing of the feet of the apostles by the Lord.

In dusty Palestine, the washing of one's feet was a necessary hospitality, but a humbling, even humiliating, task delegated to slaves. At this dramatic moment, the Master, the Teacher, the Son of God, is stooping to perform such a task. This explains why Peter resists so strenuously: "You will never wash my feet."

Peter, as was often the case, was slow to get the point. Jesus explains: "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Which brings me to the Superbowl.

In the midst of athletic prowess and celebrity ads, there was a 60-second spot that showed a series of images of individuals washing another person's feet. It was the images themselves that were so arresting: The pairings were intended to appear at first oppositional: A cop and a young black man. A young woman and an older woman outside an abortion clinic with pro-life protesters. A cleric and a young, apparently L.G.B.T.Q. man. A white woman and an immigrant. The message of the ad: "Jesus didn't teach hate. He washed feet." It was sponsored by a group called He Gets Us. (You can watch the ad on YouTube.)

This group has run similar ads, often involving social justice themes, but al-

ways stressing that "Jesus gets us."

According to the group's website: "With an upcoming election year that will be filled with division and derision, we decided to focus on one of the most important directives given by Jesus — Love Your Neighbor."

True to expectations in an election year, the ad was viewed as hugely controversial in some quarters. The left has criticized it, with Americans United for Separation of Church and State calling it "a front for Christian nationalism."

Daniel Walden writing in the Catholic magazine *Commonweal* lambastes the ads as "insufficiently revolutionary," criticizes the funders (which include the founder of Hobby Lobby), and said the messaging "fails to wound us."

This may come as news to some folks on the right who were equally offended by the ad, even calling it heretical. "Putting out an ad that invites narcissistic, prideful, unrepentant sinners to come and get their feet washed is bad...and also completely unbiblical," tweeted Matt Walsh.

Matt may have forgotten that Jesus washed Judas' feet. Jesus apparently forgot to add a footnote explaining that his example did not apply to the narcissistic and prideful.

So, insufficiently revolutionary or completely unbiblical — take your pick.

In fact, in our highly polarized society that has divided everyone into "us" and "them," the apparent incompatibility of the washer and the washee is exactly the point of the ad. Father Aaron Wessman, in his book *The Church's Mission in a Polarized World*, says discipleship means crossing over to the other, and that this is the challenge now facing us as Christians. We don't need more ideological debate. We need to reach out to the leper, the hypocrite, the tax collector — the other — just as Jesus did.

The *New York Times* columnist and conservative Christian David French summed up the ad's impact on himself

and others: "We asked ourselves if we were adequately loving and serving our neighbors."

And who is our neighbor? Well, Jesus answers that question too. It's everyone.

Greg Erlandson is an award-winning Catholic publisher, editor and journalist whose column appears monthly at OSV News. Follow him on Twitter @GregErlandson.

REFLECTION

In plain sight

By Mark Saucier

"Familiarity breeds contempt."

That old Roman proverb, echoed in Augustine and Chaucer, stills rings true today.

One exception, though, may be Scripture.

Here, our familiarity tends more toward laziness or conceit. We've heard it a hundred times, and we get it already.

The lasting appeal of Scripture is that it is ever-new, with insights and revelations not bound by the time in which it was written.

Sometimes that's hard to believe when we endure the same monotonous interpretation, the same unlabored exegesis each time a story is told.

Scripture takes work, not just on the part of the homilist, but on the listener, as well. We must imagine, engage and put ourselves in the story.

One way is to step into the sandals of one of the characters of the story.

Last Sunday, many of us heard John's account of the healing of the man born blind. Jesus restores a man's sight on the sabbath, and when the Pharisees hear of this, all Gehenna breaks loose.

Our first temptation is probably to become the man who sees his world for the first time. Maybe the more adventurous assume the role of Jesus to better understand what it might mean to have the power to heal.

I found myself drawn to the Pharisees.

These men, experts in the law and practitioners of a superior sanctity, were not evil. Most of them thought they were acting in the best interest of their people.

But we see them wiggle and worm, denying history and their own eyes, at the prospect of something that doesn't fit into their worldview.

They claim Jesus is not from God because he does not keep the sabbath as they understand it.

They claim that a sinful man could not do such things, citing their allegiance to Moses, who they forget was a murderer.

They claim the man Jesus healed, who could now clearly see, had never been blind in the first place.

The Pharisees, on a path that once fit them, had become calcified in their ways, rigid in their thinking, hardened in their hearts.

They loved what they believed, but could not accept another who, as John Caputo might say, simply believed what he loved.

While no Pharisee, I think of them when I fail to see the miracles around me because of the prejudices I harbor, the insecurity that threatens, and the change I fear.

Maybe in the next story, I'll be Jesus.

Counter-Culture encounters “The Living Word”

By Jane Weiland

Last Thanksgiving, we visited our son and extended family in California.

“Mom,” my daughter-in-law said, “no little children at the dinner. Young people are not having babies.”

These days, young adults are well-educated career professionals.

As we toured beaches, restaurants, gift shops, and piers, few children were seen.

We did see many dogs on display — well-groomed, some with bejeweled collars.

Back in Missouri, I recently heard radio interviews with college presidents. Stephens

College President Dianne Lynch, said: “The college students are not interested in having children. They have a pet in their rooms. Over half of our students have one. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they were content. Their best friend was in the room.”

She also stated an increase in curriculum in animal care for companion and comfort dogs.

Where are the children welcomed?

Thank you to all of the Catholic churches who welcome babies, toddlers and children to their Masses!

Babies cry, toddlers squirm,



St. Mary parishioner Jane Weiland spends time as a volunteer with children in St. Mary School in Glasgow.

and even a 5-year-old can drop a hymnal, yet I have not seen a stern look from a priest or parishioner.

When our children were small, we belonged to a different denomination and attended an early “family-friendly” service.

The later services were to be attended by adults, who left their children in the church’s nursery.

As I observe Mass at St. Mary Church in Glasgow, where I volunteer, there is an intrinsic value placed on having the children participate in the

See LIVING WORD, page 14

Why we believe Jesus is present in the Eucharist

By Deacon Thomas Whalen

This article centers on the one thing above all else that relates to our Salvation: The Eucharist, the consecrated bread and wine that becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life! (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1324)

It is one of seven Sacraments, all of which are sources of God’s Grace.

If the Sacraments, were all mountains, the Eucharist would be the highest by far, as it IS the Body and Blood of Jesus.

It begins with the Passover described in the Book of Exodus. The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years, and so God told Moses he would send plagues upon the Egyptians so that Pharaoh would let the Israelites go.

It wasn’t until the 10th plague that the Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave.

Prior to God sending that 10th plague, he told Moses to have each Israelite family slaughter an unblemished lamb, and eat it, along with unleavened bread (because they would have to leave in a hurry and no time for bread to “rise”).

The Israelites then were to paint their doorposts with the blood of the lamb.

During the night, the Angel of Death would come and kill the firstborn in each household, man and animal, but will “pass over” those households whose doorposts were painted with the blood of the lamb.

Also, God told Moses to tell the Israelites to celebrate this Passover Meal once a year so the people will never forget what God did for them.

There is a new Passover also, and that is when the Lamb of God — referred to by John the Baptist — who suffered and died on the cross and then rose on the third day so that mankind would be freed from the slavery of sin.

And, just as the original Passover included a meal — a lamb and unleavened bread — so, too, did the New Passover: Jesus, the Lamb of God, and unleavened bread.

It was the Last Supper at which Jesus took the bread, broke it, gave thanks, and said, “Take and eat, for this is my Body.”

And then, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks,

gave it to his apostles saying, “Drink from it all of you, for this is the Blood of the New Covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Central themes

•**The first Passover** freed the Israelites from physical slavery, and the New Passover freed mankind from slavery to sin.

God ordered in both cases to “do this in remembrance of me,” so that mankind would never forget what God had done for them.

The word Eucharist comes from the Greek word for “thanksgiving.”

Jesus gave thanks at the Last Supper when he blessed the bread and the wine.

The name Eucharist became a common name for the consecrated bread and wine by the Church leaders during Mass late in the first century A.D.

•**All four Gospels** have episodes of Jesus feeding five thousand people. And each time he blesses the five loaves and two fish to feed all the people, and he “gives thanks,” which points this miracle to the Eucharist.

Each time this occurred, it was at Passover time, and it happened one year before the New Passover.

•**John 6** — Jesus says, “I am the bread which came down from Heaven.”

Jesus compares himself to the manna that God made fall from the sky to feed the hungry Israelites in the desert during their 40-year sojourn.

Jesus several times refers to the many graces one receives from eating his flesh, as he is “the living bread come down from Heaven,” and that we will live forever if we eat his flesh and drink his blood.

The Jews then disputed what he said, so Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.”

That means we don’t receive that special grace unless we receive Jesus in the Eucharist: “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food, indeed, and my blood is drink, indeed.”

•**The “Our Father”** strongly points to our need for

the Eucharist in the words, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

The word “daily” appears nowhere else in the New Testament. The word in Greek is “*epilousios*” and has several meanings, the first being to meet our daily needs, but it also means “super-essential” which refers directly to the Bread of Life, the Body of Christ, the “medicine of immortality,” without which we have no life within us.

But the most evident meaning is the Day of the Lord, the Feast of the Kingdom anticipated in the Eucharist that is already the foretaste of the Kingdom to come, Heaven.

•**Emmaus** — The day Jesus rose from the dead, he met two men walking to Emmaus (Luke: 24) who were aware of what happened to Jesus and that his body was missing.

So, Jesus walked with them and explained the Scriptures, but they did not recognize Jesus.

Nonetheless, they invited him to stay with them, and at dinner Jesus disappeared right after they recognized him in the “breaking of the bread.”

Thus, another reference to the Eucharistic meal.

•**St. Paul**, in Chapter 11 of his First Letter to the Corinthians, not only repeats Jesus’s words at the Last Supper but also adds, “Anyone who eats and drinks of the Lord’s Body and Blood unworthily brings condemnation upon himself.”

In other words, Confession is required if one has committed serious sin before receiving the Eucharist.

Jesus’s presence in the Eucharist is manifested by his words prior to his ascension to Heaven in Matthew 28:20:

“I will be with you always until the end of the age.”

•**Eucharistic miracles** — Many miracles have occurred where the consecrated bread and/or wine have bled, and some have been tested showing it turned into fresh human flesh or blood — the most profound being the Miracle of Lanciano, Italy, in the 1300s, which was scientifically tested in 1970 and 1980.

Deacon Whalen, a member of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, is a retired deacon of the Jefferson City diocese.

Totus Tuus and summer camp missionaries share the joys of loving, serving God unconditionally

By Jay Nies

One day, the children were so wound up that all Anna Schubert could teach them was the first of the five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

And, as it turns out, that was enough.

"It's really God who's going to cultivate those seeds," said Miss Schubert, who served as a Totus Tuus missionary in this diocese last summer.

"So, you have to surrender and say, 'God, I gave you my best, and maybe this is what they needed today,'" she stated.

Surrendering is a big part of being a Totus Tuus missionary (diojeffcity.org/totus-tuus), and that's an important skill for the journey not only through this life but into the next.

"How can you expect to grow if you're not willing to do something out of the ordinary?" said Miss Schubert, who is from Livonia, Michigan.

And then, there are the days when you can actually see the seeds taking root and blossoming all over the place.

"Those are the moments that really help us keep doing what we're doing," Miss Schubert stated near the end of last summer's Totus Tuus season.

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship.

Groups of college-age missionaries travel to participating parishes throughout the summer to conduct week-long catechetical programs that help build up families and parishes.

It's much more than teaching about God and the doctrines of the Church. It's about promoting an ongoing encounter with Christ and fostering a deeper relationship with him.

The missionaries sign up for the whole summer and go through a period of training and formation together before being sent out in teams to parishes all over the diocese.

"I'm not going to lie: signing up for this is one of the scarier things I've ever done," said Nico Keegan, a member

of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, who's been a Totus Tuus missionary for three summers in a row.

"But, I have given and received more authentic love in these past three summers than I think I could have anywhere else," he said.

"All in"

The diocesan office of Youth /Young Adult Ministry is accepting applications for Totus Tuus missionaries to serve this summer.

Totus Tuus which is Latin for All Yours, was the papal motto of Pope St. John Paul II, who served from 1978-2005 and inspired many young people to trust God fully and aspire to great things as adults.

"This is a terrific opportunity for someone who wants to solidify the foundation of their faith with service, camaraderie and rock-solid fellowship with people seeking to know, love and serve the Lord," said Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry.

Mr. Keegan signed up to be a missionary at the request of Father Paul Clark, diocesan vocations director.

"My initial response was one of reluctant surrender," Mr. Keegan recalled. "I kept trying to remember a saint's quote, 'God will not be outdone in generosity.'"

By the end of his third summer, Mr. Keegan never felt more at peace.

"Going to school and trying to figure out what you're going to do with your life, it can be hard to be certain about anything, let alone that you're doing what you're supposed to be doing at this very moment," he stated.

"But, when you're giving up your summer as a college student, when you're giving of your time and your knowledge and your energy to these kids who are desperate to hear the message we're giving to them, you know that you're doing what you're supposed to be doing," he said.

"Yes!" said Miss Schubert. "I love the peace and clarity of knowing that what you're



The 2023 Totus Tuus missionary team for the Jefferson City diocese gathers at the Lake of the Ozarks in this image from last year.

— Photo by Maureen Quinn

doing in the moment is what God wants you to be doing."

She likened God's will to stepping into the wilderness.

"You intellectually know, 'I have a map, and I'm gonna' go from Sand Point to Rainbow Lake'" she said, "but the in-between is kind of sketchy.

"And yet, there's peace in the reality that 'okay, my mission is to go from Point A to Point B' — so you live very much in the moment," she said.

Miss Schubert is convinced that God wants people to be decisively "all-in" when it comes to making a commitment.

"He wants us to be free in giving ourselves to him, totally and completely," she asserted.

Laughing, she added: "I'm still working on that!"

Surrendering to love

Mr. Keegan pointed out that Totus Tuus is really two programs that happen within the same week.

"There's a catechetical, theological education program that's also sort of like a day camp for kids who are entering first through sixth grade," he said.

"Then, for the older kids in seventh through 12th grade, the goal is to try to help them know God on a personal level," he stated.

Mr. Keegan likened this progression to the process of getting to know a person.

"You can't ever start a relationship without figuring out how someone reacts to some-

thing or what they love or how they live," he stated. "You have to ask them, 'What is your name? Where are you from? What do you do?' and so-forth.

"It's that way with God," he asserted. "You start out by learning about him. Then you can start to get to know him."

Mr. Keegan said the missionaries, especially those who have been around for several summers, have seen how sharing these simple truths can lead to greater things in the years to come.

"I certainly would not be here in the spot that I am today in my faith without having done this," he noted.

"Because being able to live and make sacrifices for it, you start to love it more."

Miss Schubert said the work of Totus Tuus is challenging but very much worth it.

"You need to consider, is God asking you to surrender?" she said. "Because allowing someone else to write a portion of your life, so to speak, is a step toward surrender," she said.

Mr. Keegan called to mind

St. Teresa of Kolkata's description of herself as "a pencil in God's hand."

"A pencil is an inanimate object," Mr. Keegan noted. "It has no concept of about what is being drawn. So it sits there and lets its master, the artist, use it to its potential.

"Compared to God, I am an inanimate object, and I'm being used to do something for him," he stated.

Camp missionaries

The Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office is also hiring college-age young adults to serve as missionaries for several Catholic camp experiences in the diocese.

Among these are Camp Lolek (diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek) for middle-school-age boys and girls, Camp Siena (diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-siena) for high-school-age girls, and Camp Maccabee (diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry/camp-maccabee) for high-school-age boys.

"It's one of the best things I've ever done," said Allie Mathews of Glasgow, who served as a diocesan camp missionary last summer.

"A lot of people think you're just here to work, but the camp is for you, too," said Luke Dalton of Rolla, who has been a camp missionary for several summers.

See MISSIONARIES, page 14

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EASTER COLLECTION

From page 1

the coffee and taste the day — and go from there,” she said.

She noted that at age 75, she doesn't have as much energy as she once had.

“And that's really okay,” she stated. “I have the energy to do what God is calling me to do right now.”

In many cases, that simply means being fully present to God and to fellow human beings.

“I've discovered that in our world, people are hurting just to be in connection with people,” she said. “I can spend a half-hour in the grocery store, just visiting in the checkout line.”

A closer walk

Since retiring as a diocesan parish priest a year and a half ago, Father Donald Antweiler spent all but a few months

fighting tongue cancer and recovering from surgery and the side effects of treatment.

A flood of intercessions helped him stay afloat.

“I regard it as near-miraculous all that the doctors were able to do with the support of so much prayer,” he said.

He marvels in being able to speak clearly and carry on much as he did before his diagnosis.

“Prayer makes a big difference,” he stated. “I'm so grateful for people who pray for me, who remember me in their prayers. And I do the same for them.”

Fr. Antweiler has had more time in retirement for praying, reading, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

He leads a small Scripture study group a couple of days a week, frequently offers Saturday morning Mass at the Alcoa Correctional Center in Jefferson City, and occasionally fills in on weekends for priests in central Missouri.

“Retirement doesn't mean you stop being a priest,” he pointed out. “And I enjoy being a priest very much.”

He celebrated the Christ-



Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND serves in retirement as Bishop McKnight's delegate for religious sisters in the diocese.

deal of creativity into the homilies he preaches.

“I use the gifts that I have,” he said. “And my most fervent prayer before I even start reading the Gospel (while preparing a homily) is, ‘Help them hear what You want them to hear.’”

Wherever he has gone in over 50 years of Priesthood, Fr. Antweiler has felt surrounded by faithful people.

As he looks out from the pulpit or the altar, “there are people in all different stages of life and different occupations, and we come together as people just trying to walk a faithful life, closer to Christ!” he said.

Spiritual gifts

Sr. Kathleen spoke of her retirement in the context of the unique charism — the gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed on the Church through each religious order or congregation — of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

“I feel like I'm now moving from doing a ministry that impacts the charism, to really learning how to live it myself and give witness to it just by my being,” she said.

She begins each day with time for personal prayer and spiritual reading, “which I now find to be less rushed and more integrated,” she said.

Free of administrative responsibilities, she can offer her time and expertise, along with a listening ear, as its own gift.

She's also found an increase in her involvement in volunteer activities at church.

She is a member of her parish stewardship council and helps prepare and serve food as part of the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Events Committee — just as her mother, the late Dorothy Wegman, did for many years.

Sr. Kathleen noted that for generations, religious sisters in the United States taught in Catholic schools and served in other capacities at a very low cost to parishioners.

“Much of the compensation

Light Our Path

2024 Women's Ministry
Spring Pilgrimage

Join us for a day of prayer and reflection on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary with Catholic speaker Jill Simons

Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Mary Parish — Shelbina, MO

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RETIREMENT

From page 12

was what we would call ‘in-kind,’ which met the immediate needs of the sisters living there at the time,” she noted.

This almost never included preparing for retirement.

SSND and other communities of religious women eventually established their own retirement funds, with help from generous donors, but they have been consistently underfunded.

SSNDs and other religious sisters apply for all the government benefits that are available to them.

“Our thinking,” said Sr. Kathleen, “is that while we need to ask people to help fund the retired religious appeal, out of a sense of gratitude for what the sisters have provided throughout their lives, we don’t have a right to ask the laity to contribute to more than they have to when the taxes they pay already support all of these government benefits.”

Over the past half-century, the Catholic Church in the United States has gone from an abundance of men and women religious, to having more and more laypeople provide the bulk of those ministries.

“Which all is of God!” Sr. Kathleen stated. “The charism of the laity is a great gift to the Church.”

But the needs of retired religious remain — along with the legacy of services that have been provided to the Church by women and men religious for generations.

“We have a long, great history in this diocese of ministry provided by sisters, brothers and religious priests, and of great relationships with local parishes and the institutional Church,” Sr. Kathleen noted.

“It’s important, especially for anyone who has been educated in Catholic schools, to find ways to give back from what we’ve been given, and this is one good way to do that,” she stated.

“Give what you have”

Sr. Kathleen pointed out that like her siblings who are married, she has retired from her job but not from her vocation.

“The call from God is not age-bound,” she said.

She said she and the other



Father Donald Antweiler, a retired priest of the diocese, displays one of his artworks.

— Photo by Annie Williams

religious sisters who serve in this diocese — many of whom do so at some level of retirement — feel honored, appreciated and supported.

“I know a lot of them take Holy Communion to shut-ins or visit people who are on the margins who just need to be in relationship,” she said. “The sisters have the ability and time to do that. It’s a beautiful thing, and I’m very grateful for it.”

Fr. Antweiler offers thanks for all the prayers, support and affirmations he’s received throughout his decades of Priesthood.

He said a scene from a movie he recently watched sums up his approach to priestly retirement.

“Somebody asks St. Matthew, ‘What do you do these days?’ And Matthew says, ‘Life is very simple now: I just wake up in the morning and focus on how to follow Him.’”

That approach tends to make each day somewhat different from the one before it.

“I take each day as it comes,” he said. “I can’t maintain the same pace as I used to, so I’m trying to go at the pace I can go at.”

He glories in the time he gets to spend with people, as well as the times of quiet and solitary reflection that allow him to rest and recharge.

“All of that is happening in my retirement,” he said. “I just see it as God leading me on, and I take it day by day.”

As he did in his youth, he often gets lost staring out into a night sky filled with fuzzy points of light.

“Two hundred billion stars in our galaxy, and another 100

billion galaxies, and that’s just what we know about!” he said. “It just makes me think of how big God really is!”

Observing God’s playful creativity on full display in nature and throughout humanity has a similar effect on him.

“I get focused on things,” he said. “And when I take time to look a sunset or a person’s face, it’s wonderful!”

While cooling her feet in the waters of retirement, Sr. Kathleen asks for prayers for her and all the religious sisters of the diocese to continue to remain open to how God is calling them at this stage in their lives.

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ST. MICHAEL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
March 22
4:30-7 pm
St. Michael’s Parish Hall
Fried USA catfish fillets, coleslaw, fried & boiled potatoes, baked beans, mac & cheese and dessert
Adult carry-outs available
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“Because, no matter the age, God is still saying, ‘Give what you have to the poor and come follow Me,’” she noted. “So, what does that ‘follow Me’ mean for each of us?”

Fr. Antweiler also asked for prayers.

“If you would be kind enough to simply remember me when you remember your loved ones, when you remember your enemies, when you remember those whom the Lord has asked you to pray for, I’d appreciate just a word, just a thought,” he said.

“I’d appreciate that very much.”

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Kids burger & fries—\$6
Cash or check ONLY

Knights of Columbus Hall
TAOS

LIVING WORD

From page 10

responsibilities of the church, such as by proclaiming readings, serving, taking up collections, and ushering.

They are participating in “learning by doing” education.

Frankie, my 9-year-old great-grandson for whom religion is very important, made a comment about Catholic theology that caught me by surprise. I asked “Did you do extra reading?”

“Why, no” he replied with a puzzled look. “I listened to Father Duncan’s homily.”

The spoken — the Living Word!

The written word has endured through centuries in clay, papyrus, and beautifully inscribed Bibles

handwritten in monasteries.

The living word will be carried forth by the children in the pews.

Final Thought: In this country, we are blessed to have the religious freedom granted to us by our Founding Fathers.

This blessing will pour forth and multiply as all churches in our nation not only welcome children but help them grow and nurture God’s word within them.

Mrs. Weiland is a teacher, a great-grandparent to 15, and a member of St. Mary Parish in Glasgow.

GENDER

From page 8

Marc Ouellet, retired prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, to promote and support research in the social sciences on vocations in society.

The pope greeted the attendees and told him that he would have an aide, Msgr. Filippo Ciampantelli, an official of the Vatican Secretariat of State, read his prepared text because “I still have a cold and I get worn out from reading” out loud after a while.

However, he continued speaking off-the-cuff, saying, “I would like to emphasize one thing: It is very important that we have this meeting, this meeting between men and women, because today the worst danger is gender ideology, which erases differences.”

MISSIONARIES

From page 11

Camp missionaries work in teams to guide campers through their daily experience and to keep things running smoothly.

Mr. Dalton, now a seminarian at Conception Semi-

nary College in Conception, spoke last summer of his experience as a missionary.

“If you’re a boy and it’s a boys’ camp, you’re front-end, doing team-lead stuff,” he said. “So, you’re helping these

kids and young men learn to be disciples.

“And then, say, if you’re a boy and it switches to girls’ camps, then you’re doing back-up stuff,” including behind-the-scenes set-up and

take-down, he said.

The missionaries pray intentionally throughout each camp for each other and for the campers, he noted.

“Spilling over”

Miss Mathews spoke of being spiritually present to the campers.

“You get to experience all the joy and some of the sorrow that they have, especially when camp begins and when it ends,” she said.

“Because they build such a community within it and you get to be a part of that community and send them out to build that community in their parishes,” she stated.

Miss Mathews attended Camp Siena as a camper in 2019. She became a camp missionary in the summer of 2023.

“It is a lot of work, but it’s very rewarding and fulfilling,” she said. “Because you’re there with incredible people who share the same love and desire for the Lord.”

Together, the missionaries get to show the young people how to put that same love and desire for the Lord into action.

“And from there, you send them forth, and then you go forth yourself and continue to do that work,” she said.

Mr. Dalton said being a camp missionary helped him learn how to give himself up to God and minister to the campers.

“It’s not of myself but of God,” he said. “As Fr. Clark says, ‘It’s what’s overflowing from us — not just pouring out of our own chalice but pouring out of what’s over-

flowing from our chalice.”

Being a camp missionary has helped Miss Mathews learn to serve in a deeper manner.

“The call to serve and love was very overwhelming to me,” she stated. “So this was fulfilling in every sense of that.”

She resolved to take what she learned into her first year of college and into discerning what God has in mind for her.

Miss Mathews and Mr. Dalton both said people noticed the change in them when they were home on weekends and after they completed their time as missionaries.

“That compassion and joy and happiness that we as a team would spend so much time sharing — people could see that spilling over into the rest of my life and being shared with others,” said Miss Mathews.

“The amount I’ve grown in my faith has been huge,” Mr. Dalton noted. “Going home and seeing that people notice something different about you, tells me that we’re doing something right.”

Both said they’d recommend the camp missionary experience to anyone seeking to grow stronger in their relationship with God.

“It’s very rewarding because you get to help the young people of the Church grow in their faith and grow in their knowledge and grow in their life,” said Miss Matthews.

“There’s nothing I’d rather do in the summer than summer camps if I want to grow closer to God,” Mr. Dalton stated.

CHRISM MASS

From page 3

Given and received

Father Christopher Aubuchon, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in St. Elizabeth and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in St. Anthony, often reminds his parishioners where the sacramental oils come from.

“This Holy Oil has been blessed by our bishop at the Chrism Mass,” he tells them whenever he administers one of the sacraments that include an anointing.

“I say this phrase, indicating that the Holy Oils I am using for the good of the person I am ministering to are blessed by our bishop, to make an important connection to the entire diocese,” he said.

This helps clarify that his authority to use these oils comes from his connection to the bishop, “as he is consecrated in the fullness of the Priesthood of Christ, which I get to share in as his priest through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.”

Fr. Aubuchon said the most important and fulfilling priestly ministry he gets to carry out each day is celebrating the sacraments for the people of God who are entrusted to his care.

“Using the blessed Holy Oils in those sacraments that require them is a blessing to the soul receiving them and to me as their spiritual father,” he said.

His favorite image that is brought to mind by a sacramental anointing is that of “strengthening” — “being strengthened by Christ our Blessed Lord, to be healed, as in the Anointing of the Sick, or to prepare for Baptism in the Oil of Catechumens or the consecration of the person after Baptism with the Sacred Chrism Oil,” he said.

He noted that he has received six of the seven

Sacraments of the Church in his lifetime — all except the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Baptism, requested for him by his parents when he was 2 weeks old, set him on a trajectory to say “yes” to his vocation as a priest of Jesus.

He has received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick several times, particularly during of his long hospitalization and heart-related condition beginning in 2020.

“I have indeed received the healing effects of this Holy Sacrament, and through the power of prayer, as my heart was healed!” he said.

It is a sacrament of healing — particularly of the soul, he noted, to strengthen people “to persevere throughout their illness and in this life to prepare them for eternal life, by way of forgiveness of their sins, and to strengthen one’s trust in God’s love and plan for their life.”

In nearly 10 years of administering the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to others, Fr. Aubuchon has seen it bring comfort to people who are sick, wounded, suffering and potentially dying.

“My heart is filled with gratitude at the immense privilege of getting to celebrate the sacraments for the people of God, as a priest of Jesus Christ, incarnated into the Diocese of Jefferson City and connected to our bishop’s ministry,” he stated.

That connection is on full display when the bishop, priests and faithful of the diocese gather each year to celebrate the Chrism Mass.

“May God be praised, adored and glorified at all times, in every place, and in every person, forevermore!” said Fr. Aubuchon.

The Chrism Mass will be livestreamed on the diocesan Facebook page at:

facebook.com/diojeffcity

STEWARDSHIP

From page 1

the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas; Patricia Lutz, director of stewardship for this diocese; and Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

Bishop McKnight invites everyone to attend.

“Please join me as we explore together various ways of transforming our lives into pillars of gratitude to God and becoming more effective agents of his grace and mercy in the world,” said Bishop McKnight, whose pastor at his home parish was Monsignor Thomas McGread, fondly remembered as the father of Catholic Stewardship.

Transformation

Mrs. McArdle believes that, as was strongly the case with Bishop McKnight, answering the call to stewardship begins with the family.

“Every family has a special stewardship call,” she said. “God equips each of us with talents that we need to live out the call to be holy — which everyone who’s baptized receives.

“God hard-wired us to want to give of ourselves,” she stated. “That’s where the happiness is. So, we use those gifts, those talents, in thanksgiving to God.”

Mrs. McArdle pointed to the “ordinary” gifts and everyday acts of kindness that make the world go around.

“People using their talents outside of church — sewing a button, bringing someone their mail, reaching out to people in need, helping a neighbor, bringing someone flowers — people who do these things don’t always realize that they’re living and breathing stewardship,” she said.

Understanding stewardship as a round-the-clock way of life begins at home — the domestic church — where values are taught and “caught” within families and where, as St. Teresa of Avila noted, “God walks where the pots and pans are.”

Parishes, communities and countless souls undergo radical transformation when stewardship ideals become an accepted way of life.

“There’s no short-cut, no program, no ‘crash diet’ to making this happen,” Mrs. McArdle noted.

“It’s a way of life, and we’re all called to it — not just

priests and deacons and sisters and the really holy people we know,” she said.

“We’re all baptized, we’re all called to holiness — the very same holiness that any saint who inspires us was called to.”

When families adopt the stewardship way of life, the Church reflects that change in numerous ways.

Churches and schools start to fill back up, ministries become more robust and vibrant, and young people become intentional about discerning vocations to Priesthood, consecrated life and Christian marriage.

Mrs. McArdle said all of the most thriving parishes she’s seen have something in common — perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

“When I tell that to parish finance councils, they look at me like my hair is blue,” she stated.

“But, when people pray more and have a relationship with God and understand the meaning of stewardship and want to give back and want to get involved ... they take ownership in the parish and want it to thrive,” he said.

“And when they’re that invested, they want to give their resources back to the parish, back to the diocese, back to God,” she continued.

“Once people are transformed, that’s when the magic happens, you see the beauty, you see the transformation,” she said.

Close to home

Mrs. McArdle and her husband were newly married 30 years ago when their pastor offered to send them to a Catholic stewardship conference in New Orleans.

“We had no idea what the Holy Spirit was about to drop in our lap,” Mrs. McArdle recalled.

The couple came back so excited about what they wound up learning about stewardship as a way of life, they set about helping their pastor promote it throughout the parish.

“Our prayer life grew, ministries started thriving, the offertory increased exponentially,” she noted.

Neighboring parishes got word of this and asked the



Catholic authors, speakers and stewardship consultants Lisa and Eric McArdle will be among the presenters at the Diocese of Jefferson City’s Stewardship Conference on April 13 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

McArdles to come and share what they learned.

“So, this became God’s ministry for us,” said Mrs. McArdle. “As he continues to send us work, we roll up our sleeves.”

It fills her with joy to see her own children “catching” the essence of stewardship and applying it in their own unexpected ways.

One of her high-school-age daughters who had never served in a leadership role, resisted several invitations from her teacher to give a talk on being pro-life at a speech competition.

With encouragement from her teacher, her pastor and her parents, she decided to pray about it and finally said “yes.”

“I’m not going to lie: I was nervous for her,” Mrs. McArdle noted. “But when she spoke, the entire room was completely quiet. She projected confidence and eloquence that I didn’t realize she was capable of. I don’t know if she did, either.”

After winning the competition, her daughter told her, “I didn’t want to do this, but God called me to do it, and he gave me every grace to carry it out.”

After that speech, “she became quite the leader in her last two years of high school and all throughout college,” said Mrs. McArdle.

Mrs. McArdle took another of her daughters to help serve at a soup kitchen.

It was cold, and her daughter wore the coat she had just gotten for her birthday.

When it was time to go home, the coat was missing.

No matter. She told her mom, “Somebody needed it more than I did,” and left the place “beaming and smiling.”

“I said to myself, ‘Here’s an 11-year-old child telling — teaching me! — that we give and don’t count the cost,’” said Mrs. McArdle.

On the other side of the age spectrum, Mrs. McArdle’s grandmother moved to the same town at age 97.

Mrs. McArdle set out to bring her lunch and Holy Communion every Sunday.

From the very first time came exciting stories and endearing fellowship.

“Then it hit me: I came here to serve her, but she wound up serving me!” said Mrs. McArdle.

Come and get it

Mrs. McArdle is confident that people who sacrifice the time and energy to attend the Stewardship Conference will be happy they did.

“Going through the motions, day in and out — it’s exhausting and busy and overwhelming,” she said. “Is there more? Yes! God wants to give us more.”

“If people come away aware of these opportunities for deeper meaning, for transformation, for living a better way of life for themselves and for their family members, then even a two-hour trip is worth it,” she said.

“My hope and conviction is that people will leave with a changed heart, with a renewed sense of what God is calling them to do, what God

is calling their family to do, and how to live that out in ways that bring them joy,” she said.

People who are going through a hard time and having trouble feeling grateful will also benefit.

“Looking at life through a stewardship lens, we’re thankful for both the blessings and the challenges,” she said. “Oftentimes, those challenges are how God stretches us into the people he created us to be.

“And I think the joy from a stewardship way of life allows us to endure those challenges with a much wider heart,” she said.

Mrs. McArdle suggested preparing for the conference by first considering the stewardship way of life that Bishop McKnight has been promoting in the diocese, and asking, “If I’m shying away from any aspect of it, how can I be at least a little bit more open to it?”

“Bring it to prayer,” she suggested. “Listen to where God is tapping on your heart — where to pray, where to help, where to give.”

“Ultimately, God is who gives you everything you are and everything you have,” she said. “Each of us has our own individual graces and strengths. Each one of us has our own personal stewardship story.”

“I’m looking forward to exploring those stories with the people of the Jefferson City diocese and hopefully reaching a deeper understanding of our calling to be followers of Christ,” she said.



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By Father Donald Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Mo.'s capital was named for Thomas Jefferson, perhaps for his purchase of the Louisiana Territory out of which Mo. was carved, and/or for his ____ on small gov't. and State's rights which better fitted the mores of the population.
8. On his marble epitaph, Jefferson listed his proudest accomplishments as 1) ____ of the Declaration of Independence, 2) author of Virginia's statute for religious freedom, and 3) establishing the Univ. of Virginia. Notably missing is being President of the U.S.
13. Jefferson's original grave obelisk was ____ at the Univ. of Mo. on July 4, 1885 and sits on the Francis Quad; it has a marble plaque with his epitaph.
15. Restaurant list.
16. Tavern.
17. Letters for Electric Vehicle.
18. The Hawkeye State (abbr.).
19. One of Jefferson's great ____ as President is the Louisiana Purchase, doubling the size of the young nation, and commissioning the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore it.
23. Very Important Person (____).
25. *Mater* ____; Mother of God.
27. Waste material from smelting ore.
28. "In 1866, in the aftermath of the Civil War, St. Peter Parish in Jeff. City formed the St. Peter's Benevolent Society ____ aid the large number of wounded, widows and orphans," —*The Civil War as Seen from the Capital City*, Divo Brugioni.
30. Slippery fish.
31. Jefferson's Monticello estate, which he designed, is an important piece of world architecture. Echoes of its lines can be seen in the shape of the St. Louis Gate-

way ____, the Jefferson Memorial in D.C., and other Am. monuments.

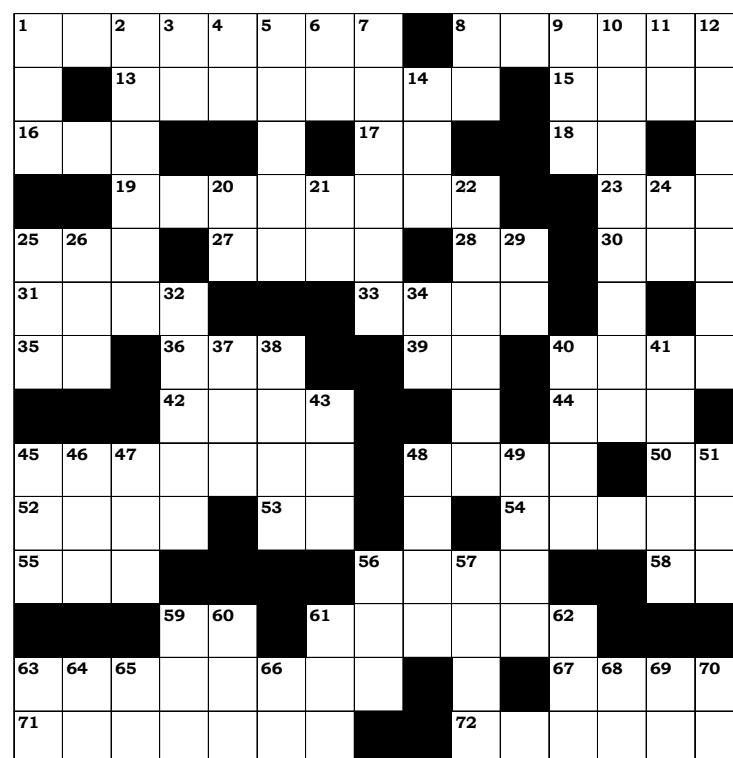
33. Unlike Harry Truman, Jefferson couldn't "stand the ____" in the kitchen of open political life. Rather, he crafted in secret an opposition to the Presidencies of George Washington and John Adams, his predecessors.
35. "Woe is ____! The traitors betray..." (Isaiah 24:16).
36. An umpire's call.
39. Abbr. for a canonized person.
40. Though Washington in his will freed his slaves, Jefferson's were ____ off to pay off his large debts.
42. The ____ Mountains separate Europe from Asia.
44. Prefix for mate or seed.
45. Jefferson defended the moral lessons of the life and teachings of Jesus but rejected his divinity, miracles, etc., and even produced his own ____ of the Bible accordingly. Yet he was a churchgoer and invoked the divine in his written and spoken statements.
48. Jefferson, after eight years as President, was personally \$10,000 deeper in ____ than when he entered the Presidency.
50. In the army, letters for Military Police.
52. In the War of 1812, the British burned Washington, D.C., including 3,000 books belonging to Congress. Jefferson gave for sale his own personal library of 6,487 volumes to form the ____ of the new Library of Congress.
53. Letters for Samsung Galaxy; a brand of mobile phone and computer devices.
54. Strange; weird.
55. Licensed caregivers.
56. ____, Mo. in Osage Co., home of St. Cecelia Church, is also the location of the first Diamond Pet Foods factory, since 1970.
58. The Volunteer State (abbr.).
59. Chemical letters for gold.
61. Cars traditionally associated with a comfortable interior and a smooth ride.
63. "Oh, that ____ might come the deliverance of Israel..." —Psalms 14:7 (2 wds.).
67. "____ is a greater threat to progress than hardship, fall down seven times, get up eight," —Denzel

Washington.

71. One writer summarized Jefferson as "a flawed man who could not express ____, yet his words and philosophy created a nation," —Gateway Nat. Park, St. Louis, Mo.
72. "They are like a tree...that yields its fruit in ____" (Psalms 1:3).

DOWN

1. Sixth sense; extra sensory perception (____).
2. T. Jefferson's descendants donated the original obelisk over his grave to the Univ. of Mo., the first ____ univ. west of the Mississippi in the Louisiana Purchase.
3. Abbr. for Head Nurse.
4. Letters for Audio Visual.
5. Part of a flower.
6. Pope St. John Paul ____ was canonized in 2014.
7. Santa's transportation.
8. Companion to B.C.
9. Letters for: Too much information!
10. "A ____ earth I have won by wooing thee," —"All's Well That Ends Well," Wm. Shakespeare (2 wds.).
11. "Early ____, Abraham Lincoln revealed an attribute essential to success — the motivation and willpower to develop every talent he possessed to the fullest," —*Leadership in Turbulent Times*, Doris Kearns Goodwin.
12. Jefferson is described as freckled and sandy-haired, rather tall (6' 2½") and awkward; as ____, humorless, sensitive; his mind fertile and luminous; his tastes and spending extravagant.
14. New Year's and Christmas have one.
20. General Schedule (____) is the predominant pay scale within the United States civil service.
21. This State is 3rd of the 50 in size and has more people than Canada (abbr.).
22. The 13-foot bronze ____ by James Earle Fraser, dominating the south lawn of our Mo. State Capitol, is considered one of the best of T. Jefferson in existence. Fraser's work is integral to many of D.C.'s most iconic structures.
24. Latin abbr. for "in other words."
25. Bagnell or Cannon.
26. "Buy what thou hast no need of and ____ long thou



- shalt sell thy necessities," — Benjamin Franklin.
29. It precedes the NT.
32. Jefferson's Monticello was an 11,000 sq.-ft. 33-room ____ with 10 more rooms under the south terrace.
34. Prefix for teem or chew.
37. An upper respiratory infection (____) is an infection of the nose, sinuses or throat.
38. Cole Co. town that is home to St. Francis Xavier Church which contains the body of the celebrated missionary of central Mo., Fr. Ferdinand Helias.
40. Satisfy.
41. City or speed.
43. Letters for Liquefied Natural Gas; natural gas is seen by some Europeans as a substitute for Russian oil; the liquefied state takes up far less storage capacity.
45. I have some old VHS tapes that I play on my old ____ player.
46. A very, very long time.
47. Short Line and B&O in Monopoly.
48. Jefferson (3rd Pres.) and John Adams (2nd Pres.) were political enemies but respected each other. Amazingly, strangely, they both ____ on the same day, on the 4th of July, just hours apart, on the 50th anniv. of the Declaration of Independence.
49. The coffee ____ "is to become the favorite beverage of the civilized world," —T. Jefferson, 1822.
51. Jefferson was eloquent in his writings but was not a good speaker. His power was in

his ____, not his voice.

56. "Satan has been very busy through the centuries persuading ____ he does not exist. Always will evil do that, the better to deceive and destroy," —Fr. O'Connor in *Grandmother and the Priests*, Taylor Caldwell.
57. Makes lace.
59. Letters for American Medical Technologists (____), a national agency that certifies 8 primary designations of healthcare personnel.
60. A type of submachine gun.
61. Jefferson fathered six children, a ____ and five daughters, with only two daughters surviving to adulthood.
62. Before Jefferson sent Lewis & Clark west, he sent east to the Mediterranean ____ Am. warships to stop the costly extortion by North African pirates of Am. (and European) ships. The Marine Corp hymn "...to the shores of Tripoli" recalls this episode.
63. Faith, in Madrid.
64. Abbr. for room.
65. ____7; James Bond designation.
66. Moon of Jupiter.
68. "(Christians) marry, ____ do all others; they beget children, but they do not destroy their offspring," —letter to Diognetus, 130 A.D.
69. The word "amen" in the scriptures used in the early Church is translated as "____ be it."
70. 14th letter of the alphabet.

See ANSWERS, page 19

“We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!”



Members of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal present the Live Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 1, in Holy Family Church. The presentation was prayerful and impactful.

— Photos by Frank Ditillo

New telescope is changing ideas about how universe began

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Orbiting the sun nearly 1 million miles from Earth, the James Webb Space Telescope is reshaping the way scientists understand the universe and its origins, a number of astronomers said at a Vatican-sponsored meeting.

“The telescope is able to see things that prior telescopes just could not see,” Jonathan Lunine, a professor of astronomy and department chair at Cornell University, told Catholic News Service (CNS) Feb. 28.

It has such unprecedented power in terms of its sensitivity, wavelength range and image sharpness that it is “doing revolutionary things” and leading to exciting new discoveries in multiple fields, he said.

Lunine, who is a planetary scientist and physicist, was one of nearly 50 experts in the field of astronomy attending a Feb. 27-29 workshop organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences to discuss the newest results from the Webb telescope.

Launched Dec. 25, 2021, NASA’s latest space science observatory is the largest and most powerful space telescope ever built. It began sending full-color images and data back to Earth after it became fully

operational in July 2022.

“The JWST data are revolutionizing many areas in astrophysics, from the first galaxies to new worlds,” the academy said in its workshop program.

NASA said on its www.nasa.gov page, “Telescopes show us how things were — not how they are right now,” which helps humanity “understand the origins of the universe.”

“Webb is so sensitive it could theoretically detect the heat signature of a bumblebee at the distance of the Moon,” it said.

The telescope can see points in the history of the cosmos that were never observed before — over 13.5 billion years ago, a few hundred million years after the Big Bang — to search for the first galaxies in the universe, NASA said.

Anna de Graaff, an independent research fellow in the field of galaxy evolution at the Max

Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg, Germany, told CNS she is working to understand “how galaxies, like our own Milky Way, came to be, how they grew into the structure that we see today in the sky.”

The Milky Way, for example, is a flattened rotating disk, she said, but, like all galaxies, it started out “really messy and kind of clumpy.”

The Webb data “doesn’t really tell you about the Big Bang, because we cannot look that far back in time,” she said, but it should help scientists find out “how you go from basically a very homogeneous gas in the universe, so basically almost nothing, to all these amazing structures that we see in the sky.”

Being able to see these younger galaxies, Lunine said, is changing ideas about how the universe began.

For one thing, there seem

to be many young galaxies that are brighter and more developed than it was thought they should be, he said.

“They seem to be growing

up too fast. It’s like going into a nursery school and discovering that all of the three-year-

See UNIVERSE, page 19




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

Fundraisers & Social Events

Mar. 15

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish Fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C Fish fry, 5-7 pm, Sacred Heart Catholic Center; **Holts Summit**, K of C Fish fry, 3:30-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, K of C Council #1054 Fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, 1822 Tanner Bridge Rd; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C Council/Boy Scout Troop 104 Fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; **Laurie**, K of C Fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **St. Elizabeth**, K of C Fish fry, 4-7 pm, St. Elizabeth Community Center; **St. James**, K of C Fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish hall; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Home & School Fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, school gym; **Warsaw**, K of C Fish fry, 4-7 pm

Mar. 15, 16 & 17

Jefferson City, "Grease," Helias Catholic High School Spring musical, Fri & Sat 7-9 pm, Sun 2-4 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center

Mar. 16

St. Anthony, K of C St. Patrick's Dance with Morgan County Line, 8-11 pm, St. Anthony Parish Hall

Mar. 17

Bonnots Mill, St. Louis of France Parish chicken dinner, noon-6 pm

Mar. 21

Jefferson City, Vitae Foundation's Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders Annual Pro-Life Event, luncheon & program noon-1:30 pm, dinner & program 6:30-9 pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, for info or to register visit vitaefoundation.org

Mar. 22

Brookfield, K of C carry-out only Fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Immaculate Conception School hall; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish Fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C Fish fry, 5-7 pm, Sacred Heart Catholic Center; **Jefferson City**, K of C Council #1054 Fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, 1822 Tanner Bridge Rd; **Laurie**, K of C Fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Russellville**, K of C Fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. James**, K of C Fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception

Parish hall; **Sedalia**, K of C Fish fry, 4-7:30 pm; **Shelbina**, K of C Fish fry, 5:30-6:30 pm; **Taos**, K of C Fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C Fish fry, 4-7 pm

Mar. 22 & 23

Sedalia, "Fiddler on the Roof Jr." Sacred Heart School musical, 7-9 pm each evening, Hayden Liberty Association for the Arts

Mar. 23

St. Martins, Luck Hunt Spring Market, 10 am-4 pm, K of C Hall

Apr. 7

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels parish Spring dinner, 11 am-4:30 pm

Apr. 14

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

Apr. 19

Jefferson City, Helias Marching Band trivia night & silent auction, 6-10 pm, Helias old gym

Meetings & Conferences

Mar. 16

Jefferson City, St. Joseph's Day celebration with author Joe Benevento, 2-3:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall

Mar. 22

Jefferson City, 3rd Annual Community Resource Fair, 10 am-1 pm, Catholic Charities Central Offices, for info visit cccnmio.diojeffcity.org

Apr. 2

Shelbina, Protecting God's Children, VIRTUS® training, 6-8 pm, Fr. Buhman Center

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

marzo 16

Marshall, Planificación Familiar Natural - Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Parroquia San Pedro, Para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org, para más información sobre este método, visite diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/ y/o familyplanning.net/es

marzo 23

Lake Ozark, Retiro Parroquial: Buena Administración, 9 am-3 pm, Nuestra Señora del Lago, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org

abril 6

Columbia, Retiro de Quinceañera, 9 am-3 pm, Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org; **Marshall**, Retiro Parroquial: Buena Administración, 9 am-3 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org

abril 13

Sedalia, Planificación Familiar Natural - Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Parroquia San Patricio, Para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org, para más información sobre este método, visite diojeffcity.org/natural-family-planning/ y/o familyplanning.net/es

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Mondays during Lent

Jefferson City, Lenten Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer, 12:10-12:50 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph cry room

Tuesdays during Lent

Camdenton, Catholics Returning Home, 6:30-8 pm, St. Anthony Parish education center; **Laurie**, "Tuesdays with Jesus: A Lenten Eucharistic Journey," 4-6:30 pm, St. Patrick Church, for info visit thenationalshrineofmarymotherofthechurch.com/events

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

Every Friday

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

Mar. 16

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; **Monroe City**, "Discovering the Women of the Bible," Holy Rosary Parish Women's Ministry event, 8-10 am, K of C Hall

Mar. 17

Jefferson City, Lenten Vespers and Recital Series featuring Andrew Meagher, organ and Katharine Meagher, soprano, 5-6 pm, Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter

Mar. 17-20

Sedalia, "Just Rest" Lenten Healing Mission with Sonja Corbitt, Sun 2:30-3:30, Mon-Wed 6:30-7:30 pm, St. Patrick Chapel

Mar. 18

Belleville, IL, "Grace and Gratitude - In the Grief of Our Everyday Lives," day of reflection with Sr. Madeleine Laine, 9 am-3 pm, National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, for info or to register visit snows.org/grief

Mar. 20

Jefferson City, Monthly gathering of the Men of Signum Crucis, 5:30-8 pm, Helias Catholic High School, for info visit menofsignumcrucis.com

Mar. 23

Jefferson City, "Invitation to (W)holiness in Body, Mind and Spirit," women's Lenten program, 8-11 am, Immaculate Conception Church, for info or to register visit icjeffcity.diojeffcity.org

Mar. 24

Wardsville, "Restored—Through the Five Wounds of Jesus," Arise Women's Ministry event, 1-5 pm, St. Stanislaus gym, to register visit eventbrite.com and search for "Restored-A Women's Retreat" or email registerariseevent@gmail.com, for info call 573-690-2882

Mar. 25

Jefferson City, Lenten Vespers, 5-5:35 pm, Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter

Apr. 6

Shelbina, "Illuminate Our Path" Women's Ministry Spring Pilgrimage, 9 am-4 pm, St. Mary Parish, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry

Apr. 11

VIRTUAL, "Fuel the Body, Fuel the Soul," monthly program sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 7-8 pm, for info visit <https://bit.ly/fuel-the-body-and-soul>

Liturgical

Mar. 20

Jefferson City, Crusader Family Mass, 7:15-8:30 am, Helias Catholic High School's St. Pius X Chapel

Mar. 26

Jefferson City, Chrism Mass, 10 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Apr. 9

Starkenbourg, Second Tuesday Mass, with Sacrament of Reconciliation, Rosary and luncheon following Mass, 11 am-1 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows

Apr. 17

Jefferson City, Crusader Family Mass, 7:15-8:30 am, Helias Catholic High School's St. Pius X Chapel

Youth & Young Adults

First Wednesdays each month

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

Third Sundays each month

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

Health & Wellness

Mar. 21

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

Apr. 4

Columbia, Blood drive, 9 am-3 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School

Apr. 15

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

To submit items for the PEOPLE PAGE, including **Baptisms, Birthdays** for ages 90 and older, **Anniversaries** of 10+ years in increments of 5 ONLY (e.g., 15, 25, 45 years, etc.), **Marriages, Deaths, Elections, Honors and Appointments**, please go to:
diojeffcity.org/update-information

Anniversaries

Centralia, Holy Spirit
 Mark & Bertha Brekke, 40 years

Deaths

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Clara Mae Imhoff**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **John Clary**

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch — **Alfred Koetting**

Rosati, St. Anthony — **Roy Gorman**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Bernice Benton; Ella Heckman; Bernard Schnieders, Jr.; Loretta Siebeneck**

Baptisms

Hermann, St. George — **Sloane Eleanor Eckelkamp**, daughter of Brett & Tracey Eckelkamp; **Brock Bryant Gerlemann**, son of Chase & Abby Gerlemann; **Brooks Joseph LeRoy**, son of Derek & Emily LeRoy; **William Jay Levinson**, son of Aaron & Lauren Levinson; **Lendree Rose Elise Meyer**, daughter of Jeffery & Elise Meyer; **William Stephen VanBooven**, son of Seth & Jennifer VanBooven; **Tilly Jo Witthaus**, daughter of Jake & Molly Witthaus

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch — **Duke William Luebbering**, son of Owen & Angela Luebbering

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Arlen Baxter Abell**, son of Zachary & Bailey Abell; **Becket Michael Gervais**, son of Brandon & Cecelia Gervais; **Amelia Kate Massman**, daughter of Justin & Katie Massman

CALDAROLA

From page 9

one reads today.”
 We’re called to be signs, too.
 But this sign business still challenges me. The Gospels are full of the marvelous deeds of Jesus. The blind see, evil spirits are expelled, the multitudes are fed, the lepers cured. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead after days in the tomb.

Hopefully Jesus’ message of love, mercy and inclusion was attracting crowds to him. But let’s be honest — many of those crowds were attracted by the amazing stories they had heard of healing. They saw and hoped for signs and wonders.

Jesus’ incredible love and mercy propelled him toward helping those in need. Often, he would instruct the healed to tell no one. But people inevitably blabbed.

But these works also drew the crowds to hear his message. How many who listened to the Sermon on the Mount had come for miracles but stayed to hear the real message of how we are called to be the miracle, to be the sign.

It takes spiritual maturity to become the sign rather than, like a hopeful child, demanding one. We’re in the

midst of 40 days to ponder that. Forty — a sacred number. The rain fell for 40 days on Noah, the Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness. Jesus was credited with 40 days in the desert.

During our 40 days, may we seek to see how God sends us out, like Jonah, to be a sign of Christ’s limitless mercy.

Effe Caldarola is a wife, mom and grandmother who received her master’s degree in pastoral studies from Seattle University.

UNIVERSE

From page 17

olds look like teenagers already. So what is going on?” he said. “Cosmologists have to revise how it is that structures form and grow in the earliest epoch of the universe.”

Karin Öberg, an astrochemist and professor of astronomy at Harvard University, told CNS the Webb telescope “is amazing at observing water and organics around young stars,” which can help them figure out “how planets are forming and how likely planets are to form with ingredients that make them hospitable to life.”

Right now, she said, the Webb telescope has been able to give information about the composition of larger planets and not Earth-like planets. But they are hoping next-generation telescopes will provide details about the atmospheres and, therefore, the composition of other Earth-like or rocky planets. De Graaff said, “I think it’s really important to be aware that there is only one Earth and it is a special place. Maybe it’s not unique, but it’s a very special place.”

Lunine said, “The amazing structures and beauty of the universe are an expression of God’s creation and of this tremendous sense of order that comes from the creator. We’re able to see that now in greater detail and greater depth with this wonderful telescope.”

PILGRIMAGE

From page 4

our circumstances, and recognize what he’s actually pouring out on us.”

She said these are foundational but often-underdiscussed aspects of the faith life that many people reach adulthood without ever reflecting on.

“So, a lot of these things will be new to people who come to the pilgrimage,” she stated.

Never alone

The day’s activities will be shared in fellowship with other Catholic women who face similar challenges in their journeys of faith.

That in itself, said Mrs. Simons, is a good reason to attend the Spring Pilgrimage.

“I think one of the largest epidemics of our modern world is loneliness,” she said. “And the devil really loves to push hard on the lie that you are the only person who has ever had the struggles and fears and frustrations that you have.”

That, Mrs. Simons asserted, can’t be farther from the truth. “We begin to understand that when we come together and see how the truth resonates with our sisters around us,” she said.

“We begin to realize that we really aren’t alone and that God sees us, and we are walking the path that thousands have walked before us,” she stated.

“It brings hope when we recognize that we’re going to have these struggles and questions, but there is always a way forward,” she said.

Seeing the light

As executive director of Many Parts Ministries, Mrs. Simons creates resources for Catholics all over the world “to help them understand their destiny, discern their charism and grow in their intimacy with God.”

In her talk, she’ll talk about how the Holy Spirit drew her from being “a Type A, very performance-focused young woman,” to recognizing that God alone can provide every-

thing she needs, completely independent of her own accomplishments or other people’s approval.

She became personally invested in charisms and each person’s unique calling from God.

“I fell in love with charisms as a young person when I recognized them as such beautiful, concrete information from the Holy Spirit about the kind of saint I was called to be,” she said.

Within a short time, she went from helping friends discern their charisms, to doing the same with small groups, to addressing entire parishes — “and now, we are working with Catholics all over the world,” she said.

In anticipation of the Spring Pilgrimage, Mrs. Simons suggested reflecting on the Scripture passages on which the Luminous Mysteries are based (vatican.va/special/rosary/documents/misteri_luminosi_en.html), and possibly meditating on each through the mindset of an actual participant in those moments in Jesus’s life.

“Maybe also spend some time in prayer, hopefully Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, reflecting on if there are any lies about themselves that they would like to break through,” she advised.

For more information about the Spring Pilgrimage or to register online, visit diojeffcity.org/springpilgrimage.

QUESTION

From page 8

feels uncomfortable traveling to Mass, their bishop or pastor can “change” the Sunday obligation to something like prayerfully reflecting on the readings of the day or watching a televised Mass.

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

Crossword puzzle answers

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

United in generosity



Student representatives of St. Brendan School in Mexico present a \$9,439.58 check to Audrain County United Way Board President Gina Raines and Audrain County United Way Executive Director Samantha Wilson on Jan. 31. The students collected the money as part of Catholic Schools Week. — Photo from the KXEO Facebook page

“The Lord is with you”



All tied up



Members of the High School Youth Group at St. Peter Parish in Marshall gather after Mass on March 5 to show how everyone is connected and blessed through faith and the Lord. — Photo by Carol Wolfe

Students of St. Andrew School in Tipton close out Catholic Schools Week with a Living Rosary led by Father Anthony Viviano in St. Andrew Church. — Photo from the St. Andrew Church and School Facebook page

“When I grow up ...”

Aloha!



Students at Visitation Inter-Parish School in Vienna celebrate Hawaiian Day, including Hawaiian-themed projects in Mrs. Edwards’s art class. — Photo from the Visitation Inter-Parish School Facebook page



Here are a few of the students at Holy Family School in Freeburg who dressed up for their future careers while celebrating their local community and businesses during Catholic Schools Week. — Photo from the Holy Family School and Parish Facebook page

Bible Accent

Before eating the Passover meal with the apostles in Jerusalem, Jesus visited the home of Simon the leper in Bethany.

In Mark 14, we read that Jesus was reclining at table when a woman approached him carrying an alabaster jar filled with expensive perfumed oil. The woman broke the jar and poured the oil on Jesus' head.

This angered some of the people who were with Jesus.

"Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil?" they asked. "It could have been sold for more than 300 days' wages and the money given to the poor."

"Let her alone," Jesus said. "Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them, but you will not always have me."

Jesus said that the woman had anticipated anointing his body for burial.

"Amen, I say to you, wherever the Gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her," he said.

Then, Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' apostles, went to the chief priests to arrange to hand Jesus over to them. They promised to pay Judas money for betraying Jesus.

Once Judas made his deal with the chief priests, he began looking for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to be arrested and put to death.

St. Stanislaus of Krakow

St. Stanislaus of Krakow was born to noble parents in Poland in 1030. When he grew up, he became a priest and canon at Krakow Cathedral. He was elected



Krakow's bishop in 1072. After becoming bishop, he and King Boleslaus II were at odds over the king's immorality and injustice. Stanislaus rebuked the king several times and then excommunicated him. The king retaliated by executing Stanislaus himself in 1079. We remember Stanislaus on April 11.

People cheer as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

Jesus and the apostles were traveling to Jerusalem so they could celebrate the Passover feast.

As they traveled along, Jesus told his friends what was about to happen to him.

"The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the gentiles, who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him and put him to death, but after three days he will rise," Jesus said.

When the men reached Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, not far from Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of the apostles on an errand.

"Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat," Jesus said. "Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'"

The two apostles went to the village and found the colt tethered at a gate outside on the street. As they untied the colt, some bystanders questioned them.

"What are you doing, untying the colt?" they asked.

The apostles answered the bystanders as Jesus had instructed, and the bystanders did not give them any trouble as they led the colt away.

They brought the colt to



Illustration by Linda Rivers

Jesus and placed their cloaks upon the animal. Jesus then sat on the colt.

As Jesus rode the colt toward Jerusalem, people who saw him along the way recognized him. They spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.

The people who preceded Jesus repeatedly cried out:

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!"

Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple area. He looked around at everything and, since it was already late, went out to Bethany with the apostles.

Read more about it...
Mark 11

1. Where did Jesus and the apostles stop just before entering Jerusalem?

2. What animal did Jesus tell two of his apostles to get for him?



On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus healed a blind man. What was his name?
(Hint: Mark 10:46)

Answer: Bartimaeus.

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Puzzle

Using the hints provided from Mark 11, put a T next to the sentence that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.

1. ___ Jesus cursed a pomegranate tree. (verse 13)
2. ___ Jesus drove out those selling and buying in the Temple area. (verse 15)
3. ___ Jesus told the apostles that when they prayed, they should forgive others. (verse 25)
4. ___ The people wanted to know where Jesus' teaching authority came from. (verses 27-28)

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

Vatican Year of Prayer resource available free online

Vatican City
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to dedicate 2024 to intensifying their prayer lives in preparation for the celebration of the Holy Year 2025, and the Vatican has published a resource guide to help them.

Teach us to Pray, a 76-page volume prepared by the Dicastery for Evangelization, was published online in Italian in late February and made available in other languages in early March.

Pope Francis launched the year in late January, saying it would be “dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church and in the world.”

The Dicastery for Evangelization said the booklet is “an invitation to intensify prayer, understood as a personal dia-

logue with God,” and can help people reflect on their faith and their Christian commitment in the various contexts of their lives.

It includes selections from Pope Francis’ general audience talks about prayer and looks specifically at ways to strengthen people’s prayer experiences at home — for example, by praying before and after meals and at the start and end of the day — in their parishes, at a local shrine, on retreat and by visiting a monastery.

The booklet also has suggestions for encouraging teens and young adults to pray and for improving parish-based

catechesis on prayer for both children and adults.




“In this Year of Prayer, all communities are invited to promote times of Eucharistic Adoration, an indispensable element for encountering the Lord,” the booklet said.

While “each community should find the most appropriate ways and times to develop this practice that brings so many fruits of holiness to the Church,” the resource guide provides suggestions.

The booklet can be downloaded on the diocesan website at:

diojeffcity.org/teach-us-to-pray

Movie Ratings

	Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)
General Patronage	
	Cabrini (PG-13) Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity (not rated)
Adults and Adolescents	
	Argylle (PG-13) Bob Marley: One Love (PG-13) Dune: Part Two (PG-13) Imaginary (PG-13) Madame Web (PG-13)
Adults	

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

‘Cabrini’ is riveting retrospective of beloved saint’s life, mission

By John Mulderig
OSV News

New York

In 1946, less than 30 years after her death, aged 67, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini was canonized by Pope Pius XII.

Four years later, she was named the patron saint of immigrants. To judge by the luminous profile “Cabrini” (Angel Studios), however, she might just as easily be regarded as the patroness of the indomitable.

By combining visual craftsmanship with dramatic force and evoking a powerful performance from Cristiana Dell’Anna in the title role, director Alejandro Monteverde delivers



Cristiana Dell’Anna stars in a scene from the movie “Cabrini.”

— OSV News photo/Angel Studios

a riveting retrospective.

Despite the fact-based nature of the proceedings, moreover, Rod Barr’s script is infused with suspense simply because of the impossibly long odds its heroine repeatedly faces.

As the 1880s come to a close, the strong-willed superior is demonstrating her persistence by continuing to pester the Vatican for permission to achieve a cherished ambition.

Despite chronic ill-health, she longs to bring the Lombardy-based missionary religious order she had helped to found at the beginning of the decade to China.

Exasperated by Cabrini’s tenacity, a cardinal tells her, “Stay where you belong, Mother.” Fat chance.

Fortunately, Pope Leo XIII (Giancarlo Giannini) proves

more sympathetic. Instead of establishing an Asian mission, though, he directs Cabrini to minister to the impoverished Italian immigrants of New York City.

Thus Cabrini and a handful of her companions soon find themselves walking the mean streets of what was then Gotham’s most notorious slum, Five Points.

Intent initially on reopening an abandoned orphanage in the area and later on building a hospital to serve the downtrodden community, Cabrini gets only tepid support from Archbishop Michael Corrigan (David Morse).

But she eventually gains more enthusiastic backing from *New York Times* reporter Theodore Calloway (Jeremy Bobb).

Having been treated with

respect and kindness by Cabrini, reformed local streetwalker Vittoria (Romana Maggiora Vergano) becomes both an avid fan and an active collaborator.

Cabrini has a powerful outright opponent in the Big Apple’s (fictional) Mayor Gould (John Lithgow), however. He embodies both the disdainful misogyny and rampant ethnic prejudice Cabrini had to overcome on her way to founding a charita-

ble empire.

The work of cinematographer Gorka Gómez Andreu is chockablock with beautifully composed images. And Dell’Anna manages to convey a sense of Cabrini’s unshakable determination as well as a mysterious stateliness entirely free of self-importance.

This fine portrait of the indefatigable foundress is worthy of her wide-ranging legacy — which is saying a great deal.

The film contains brief physical and gun violence, mature themes, including prostitution, and a single crass expression.

The OSV News classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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LIESE

From page 6

congregation's prayer to God.

"The purpose of the Mass is to offer our gifts back to God as he has given to us," he said.

Palms and lilies

Nicholas found abundant encouragement to keep his interest in being Catholic alive.

"We got to know Father Jeremy Secrist, Father Brad Berhorst and Father Tomas Alber, along with the faithful at St. Peter and the people who came to be our friends and confidantes," Nicholas recalled.

"In talking to them and getting to know them, we came to appreciate the beauty of the faith of this area — a simple and honest faith," he said.

The couple felt comfortable asking questions and exploring the Catholic faith more deeply.

They grew in awareness of the holiness of the Sacred Liturgy.

"It is the Source and Summit of the Christian life," Nicholas noted. "Everything worthwhile in life stems from that, and everything worthwhile we do in life returns to it."

Nicholas became overwhelmed with this realization while leading the music for Mass on March 19, 2023, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"It was one of the first times that I not only played for Mass but prayed the Mass and realized the sanctity, the beauty, the dignity, the truth of what was happening as I was on the bench," he said.

He felt like St. Paul when the scales fell from his eyes, finally allowing him to see clearly.

Nicholas and Sharon had a long talk that evening and decided to start attending Mass together, beginning on Palm Sunday.

"And that next week was filled with so much peace in the midst of the necessary stress of preparing for Holy Week," Nicholas recalled.

Fr. Secrist began giving them instructions and helping them prepare to be received



Nicholas Liese, director of sacred music for St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, accompanies sung Vespers on Sunday, March 10, using a portable organ in the sanctuary of the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter.

— Photo by Jay Nies

into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Sharon later decided to continue her preparations through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and enter the Church at Easter.

Nicholas received his First Holy Communion and Confirmation on Aug. 24, the feast of St. Bartholomew.

It was the anniversary of the day that Apostle died a horrific death for living and sharing the faith that had been given to him by Christ.

"And on that day, I confessed the same faith that St. Bartholomew did," said Nicholas. "I made the same vow that day that I constantly pray that I would be willing to die, even in the same way, for the same faith that I consciously, willingly chose."

He took John of the Cross as his confirmation name, in honor of whose poetic treatise, *Dark Night of the Soul*, helped him prepare to go to Confession for the first time.

"I lament that it took me so long, but I'm home!" said Nicholas. "And for the first time in my life, I'm at peace."

He found that peace in the Eucharist and continues to find it in praying the Divine Office, sharing it in Sung Evening Prayer at St. Peter on the Sundays of Advent and Lent.

This alone

The night before Easter Sunday, Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, St. Peter Parish's 20th pastor, will complete

Sharon's initiation into the Church.

She is taking Teresa of Jesus of the Andes as her Confirmation name.

What she's most looking forward to about becoming Catholic is "being home" and "being in full communion with the Church and all of its members."

She asked for prayers for her and everyone else who are preparing for full initiation to "simply make a good confession of faith."

"This is not the end but the beginning of a life of faith in Christ and his Church," she said. Nicholas lauded his wife's insight.

"Being Catholic isn't about what you think the Church is," he noted.

"It's not about what you want the Church to be," he said. "It's not about what agenda you have, no matter where on the political line you stand.

"To be Catholic is to give up all that you are and all that you have and to let go of the way of the world," he stated. "To give yourself over wholly to the will of God and live by him as he has asked us to do and to say, as St. Alphonsus Liguori said, 'do with me as you will.'

"It's to hold to Mary our Mother, to hold to Christ, to his Most Sacred Heart, and his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist — and to say, and mean, 'Nothing else in this world matters. Because I have God, I have Christ,'" Nicholas said.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Mar 17

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jer. 31:31-34
Ps. 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
Heb. 5:7-9
Jn. 12:20-33

Monday, Mar 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor of the Church

Dn. 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62
Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Jn. 8:1-11

Tuesday, Mar 19

ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

2 Sm. 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
Ps. 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22
Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk. 2:41-51a

Wednesday, Mar 20

Dn. 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
(Ps.) Dn. 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
Jn. 8:31-42

Thursday, Mar 21

Gn. 17:3-9
Ps. 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Jn. 8:51-59

Friday, Mar 22

Jer. 20:10-13
Ps. 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7
Jn. 10:31-42

Saturday, Mar 23

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop
Ez. 37:21-28
(Ps.) Jer. 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13
Jn. 11:45-56

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for March:

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Sunday, Mar 24

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Mk. 11:1-10 or Jn. 12:12-16
Ps. 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Is. 50:4-7
Phil. 2:6-11
Mk. 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

Monday, Mar 25

Is. 42:1-7
Ps. 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14
Jn. 12:1-11

Tuesday, Mar 26

Is. 49:1-6
Ps. 71:1-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17
Jn. 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday, Mar 27

Is. 50:4-9a
Ps. 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34
Mt. 26:14-25

Thursday, Mar 28

Holy Thursday—Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:

Ex. 12:1-8, 11-14
Ps. 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18
1 Cor. 11:23-26
Jn. 13:1-15

Friday, Mar 29

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Is. 52:13-53:12
Ps. 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Jn. 18:1-19:42

Saturday, Mar 30

Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil:
Gn. 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a
Ps. 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35 or 33:4-7, 12-13, 20, 22
Gn. 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Ps. 16:5, 8-11
Ex. 14:15-15:1
(Ps.) Ex. 15:1-6, 17-18
Is. 54:5-14

Ps. 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
Is. 55:1-11
(Ps.) Is. 12:2-6
Bar. 3:9-15, 32-4:4
Ps. 19:8-11
Ez. 36:16-17a, 18-28
Ps. 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Is. 12:2-6 or Ps. 51:12-15, 18-19

Rom. 6:3-11
Mk. 16:1-7

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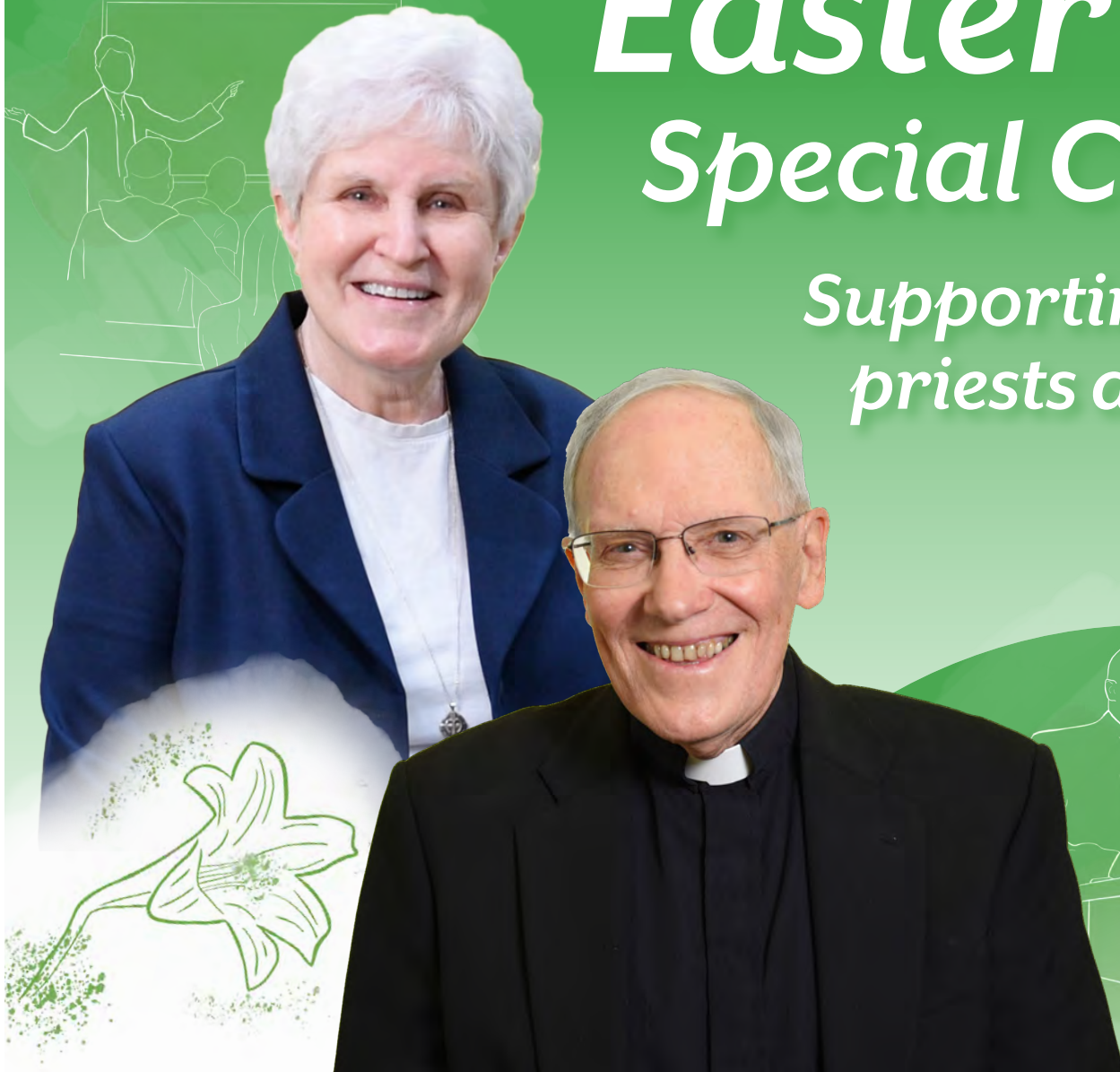
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