

Celebrating Anne's Anchor

A gala of gratitude for lives saved, transformed by an interfaith ministry with origins in St. Clement Parish.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

April 26, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 22

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

300 explore stewardship at conference here



A few of about 300 participants from throughout the Jefferson City diocese take in the message and the atmosphere at the Diocesan Stewardship Conference April 13 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

— Photo by Annie Williams

Ambassadors celebrate Fr. Tolton's life, ministry during Mass at Columbia Newman Ctr.

See related story on Page 4

By Jay Nies

Only through God's life-giving love can people overcome the lures and tempests of this world and claim their rightful place in his eternal kingdom.

"Whatever scares you, whatever distracts you has been conquered by the grace of God!" Father Joseph Luzindana proclaimed to an overflowing congregation in the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

"And if you don't have that grace, you better kneel down and get it!" the priest stated.

Fr. Luzindana, a missionary priest to this diocese from the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda, presided and preached the homily at this year's Venerable Father Augustus Tolton Celebration Mass, coordinated by the Columbia chapter of the

Father Tolton Ambassadors.

Fr. Luzindana pleaded in his homily for everyone to become like Fr. Tolton (1854-97) — Missouri native and the first recognizably Black, Roman Catholic priest in the United States — who imitated Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in every aspect of his ministry.

"A slave said 'yes' to God!" Fr. Luzindana said with relish. "He was not received in the seminaries of this country, but Jesus received him and said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

Fr. Tolton was born into a family of enslaved people and baptized into the Catholic Church at Brush Creek in north-eastern Missouri.

He escaped as a child with his family to Illinois, a free

By Jay Nies

It all starts at home.

Prayer, vocations, the practice of the faith, catechesis and stewardship as a way of life.

"Just like all things in our faith, the home — the domestic church — is the basic building block," noted Father Stephen Jones, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

"And if we all want our parishes to be good stewards and embrace stewardship, we have to start doing that at home," he said.

Fr. Jones, former director and current moderator of the diocesan Stewardship Office, joined about 300 people from parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese at the Diocesan Stewardship Conference on April 13 in the Cathedral.

It was a fantastic audience, said Trish Lutz, diocesan director of stewardship.

"We were very pleased with the turnout and the level of engagement," she stated. "It was a very engaged audience, and we got a lot of positive feedback."

The daylong conference included a series of discussions and fellowship opportunities for people to become more familiar with stewardship — not as a program or code word for Church finances but as a God-inspired way of life, thoroughly rooted in gratitude.

Presenters included Bishop W. Shawn McKnight; Father John Lanzrath, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas; Eric and Lisa McArdle of Augusta, Georgia, cofounders of Catholic Stewardship Consultants Inc.; Fr. Jones and Mrs. Lutz.

"I hope that what came across 'loud and clear' is what we've been proclaiming throughout the diocese for the past

See STEWARDSHIP, page 17

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See FR. TOLTON, page 16

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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Pray for deceased priests

Apr. 28 — Fr. Richard C. Reichling, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1970)

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

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

Build Church unity, favor reconciliation, pope tells pilgrims

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Pius VII, a prisoner of Napoleon from 1809 to 1814, endured humiliation but successfully resisted all attempts to fracture the unity of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis said.

When Napoleon was de-

feated and the pope was able to return to Rome, “the community that emerged was materially poorer, but morally stronger, more cohesive and more credible,” the pope told pilgrims from the Italian dioceses of Cesena-Sarsina, Tivoli, Savona and Imola, who were marking the 200th anniversary

of the death of Pope Pius VII.

Barnaba Chiaramonti, who would become a Benedictine monk and abbot before being elected pope in 1800, was born in Cesena.

Pope Francis told the pilgrims, “His example spurs us to be, in our time, even at the cost of renunciations, builders of unity in the universal church, in the local church, in parishes and in families: to build communion, to favor reconciliation, to promote peace, faithful to truth in charity!”

Pope Pius VII came from well-off family, Pope Francis told the pilgrims, but he had told the cardinals who elected him that “it is not in splendor ... but rather in contempt for riches, in humility, in modesty, in patience,

this a smooth transition.

The new advertising pricing structure will be as follows:

Parish Rate

This includes parishes, schools and other diocesan entities.

Effective July 1, 2024, the black/white rate will be \$8 per column inch and the color rate will be \$10 per column inch.

Effective January 1, 2025, the black/white rate will be \$10 per column inch and the color rate will be \$12 per column inch.

Business Rate

Effective July 1, 2024, the black/white rate will be \$12 per column inch and the color rate will be \$14 per column inch.

Effective January 1, 2025, the black/white rate will be \$15 per column inch and the color rate will be \$17 per column inch.

For more information about advertising in *The Catholic Missourian*, contact Kelly Martin at advertize@diojeffcity.org or 573-635-9127.



Teachers Needed - Westphalia



St. Joseph School in Westphalia, Mo., a Catholic K-8 school, is seeking to fill the following teaching positions:

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER — Develop and implement engaging lesson plans that align with the school’s curriculum and Catholic teachings; ability to create positive classroom environment; and use a variety of instructional strategies to promote active learning. Candidate should have good communication skills to collaborate with colleagues, parents and administration, hold a BS in Education and current teaching certificate.

MUSIC TEACHER — Strong background in music education, deep appreciation for Catholic values and the ability to create engaging and enriching music experiences for students. Previous music teaching experience, proficiency in playing the piano, organ, and playing music for Masses is preferred.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER — Promote health, fitness and teamwork among students; experience in teaching PE to students in K-8; develop and implement age-appropriate PE lessons that promote physical fitness, skill development, student team building and sportsmanship; and integration of Catholic values and principles within lessons.

SECOND GRADE TEACHER — Teach the sacraments; develop and implement engaging lesson plans that align with the school’s curriculum and Catholic teachings; ability to create positive classroom environment; and use a variety of instructional strategies to promote active learning. Candidate should have good communication skills to collaborate with colleagues, parents and administration, hold a BS in Education and current teaching certificate.

If interested in any of these positions, please submit cover letter, resume and three references to Patricia Kirk at pkirk@stjosephwestphalia.org.

The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City
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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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in charity and finally in every priestly duty that the image of Our Creator is portrayed, and the authentic dimension of the Church is preserved.”

“What he said is beautiful,” Pope Francis said.

After Napoleon’s troops had invaded Italy, Pope Pius VII tried to negotiate with him and succeeded to some extent until Napoleon invaded the Papal States in 1809 and exiled the pope to Savona and then to France.

“He was a very intelligent man, very pious and astute,” Pope Francis said. “He knew how to face his imprisonment with cunning. ... And it is a good thing: he was a man who was intelligent, astute and who wanted to carry out the task of governing that the Lord had given him; this is good.”

Pope Francis told the pilgrims to think about Pope Pius VII and try to imitate his “style of meekness and readiness to sacrifice.”

1st & 2nd Grade Teacher

St. Clement School in St. Clement, Mo., has an opening for a 1st and 2nd grade classroom teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. A successful candidate is a practicing Catholic in good standing who can minister to students regardless of subject area or a teacher who, consistent with the mission of St. Clement School, promotes and teaches the Catholic faith as reasonably determined by the principal. Applicants should hold the appropriate Missouri teaching certification, or its equivalent. All interested persons should complete the application at tinyurl.com/StClementTeacher and contact the Principal, Laurie Schuckenbrock, at lschuckenbrock@stclementmo.org.

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 or send resume to hrdir@diojeffcity.org.

Statement of the Missouri Catholic Conference on the abortion initiative petition

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City; Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis; Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph; and Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, functioning in their role as officers of the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), issued the following statement:

The Catholic Church supports and defends society's most vulnerable, especially women and children, through

accompaniment, social services, and material assistance.

A misleading proposed amendment to the Missouri Constitution suggests that a "right to an abortion" is needed to protect women, while the amendment could actually put women at risk and endanger preborn children.

This ballot initiative would legalize abortions in this state and remove long standing health and safety standards for women.

In addition, this initiative

does nothing to reduce or eliminate the underlying social causes for abortion and does not further a true culture of life in the state.

Groups are currently collecting citizen signatures to add the amendment to the November 2024 ballot. We encourage all Catholics and people of good will to not sign any petition that would put this amendment on the ballot.

The Catholic Church in Mis-

souri will continue to provide spiritual and material support to expectant mothers and their families through our parishes and ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their preborn children.

For those women suffering from the pain of an abortion, the Church will continue to offer true healing and hope through its Post Abortive Healing Ministries. We ask all to help us in these efforts to safe-

guard the right to life.

We look forward to the day when every child, born and unborn, has the love and support needed to thrive and reach his or her full potential.

Let us pray for a greater recognition of the gift of each and every human life in our society.

The MCC (mocatholic.org) is the public-policy agency of the state's four Roman Catholic dioceses.

Pontifical College Josephinum presents highest award to Bishop McKnight



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight gathers with priests, seminarians and friends from the Jefferson City diocese during the Pontifical College Josephinum's Good Shepherd Dinner on April 15. The Josephinum presented him with its highest honor for clergy, the Good Shepherd Award, that evening.

— Photo from the Pontifical College Josephinum

By Carolyn A. Dinovo
Columbus, Ohio

The Pontifical College Josephinum was privileged to present its annual Good Shepherd Award — the highest honor it bestows upon members of the clergy — to Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, at its Good Shepherd Dinner on April 15.

Bishop McKnight attended the Josephinum from 1990 until his priestly ordination for the


Diocese of Wichita in 1994.

After doctoral studies in Rome, he returned to the Josephinum and served for many years as a professor and administrator.

Throughout his Priesthood and into his Episcopacy, Bishop

McKnight has maintained a strong connection to the Josephinum, most recently by accepting an invitation to join the seminary's Board of Trustees.

See GOOD SHEPHERD, page 27



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

APRIL

Apr 27 Confirmation ceremony, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 11 am, Columbia

Apr 30 Priests' Personnel Board dinner meeting, 4:30 pm, Bishop's residence

MAY

May 1 Diocesan 6th Grade Vocation Day Mass, 10 am, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Columbia; Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Board meeting, noon, Columbia; Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Snows Parish, Mary's Home and Sacred Heart Parish, Eldon, 6:30 pm, Our Lady of Snows Church, Mary's Home

May 2 Diocesan 8th Grade Mass, 10:30 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

May 4 Confirmation Mass, St. Clement Parish, St. Clement, Mission of Mary Queen of Peace, Clarksville, and St. Joseph Parish, Louisiana, 5:30 pm, St. Clement Church, St. Clement

May 5 Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish and Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia, 2:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia

May 6 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board of Directors meeting, 11 am, virtual

May 8 Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg, Sacred Heart Parish, Vandalia, and Mission of St. John, Laddonia, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church, Martinsburg

May 9 Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Parish, Fulton and St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Mokane, 6:30 pm, St. Peter Church, Fulton

May 10 St. John Apostle of Charity Society annual dinner, 5:30 pm, Bishop's residence

May 11 Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting, 10 am, Chancery; Confirmation Mass, St. Brendan Parish, Mexico and Holy Spirit Parish, Centralia, 5:30 pm, St. Brendan Church, Mexico

May 12-16 Diocesan mission trip to Merida, Mexico

May 17 Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Executive Committee dinner, 5 pm, Bishop's residence



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Bishop McKnight's May prayer intention for our Local Church

For those who are preparing for marriage and those who are living the sacrament of holy Matrimony: May the mutual self-giving of spouses and engaged couples bring new life into our community of faith.

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

Para quienes se están preparando para el matrimonio y quienes están viviendo el sacramento del santo Matrimonio: Que la entrega mutua de los cónyuges y de los novios traiga nueva vida a nuestra comunidad de fe.



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

Art teacher saw crucifix restoration as part of his life's mission

Lonnie Tapia of Tolton Catholic repaired, colored crucifix from Cathedral for use in Newman Center

By Jay Nies and Annie Williams

What happens when an artist becomes clay in the hands of the Creator?

Lonnie Tapia wasn't afraid to find out.

"I've felt all along like God was right here, guiding me, and he wasn't going to let me fail," said Mr. Tapia, the art teacher at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia.

Working late nights in the school's art room, Mr. Tapia painstakingly restored a broken, 6-foot crucifix that once adorned the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

He removed layers of accumulated grime, reconstructed both broken arms, and shattered fingers, rusticated the wooden cross and applied lay-



ers of pigment to the corpus to draw out the life, the sacrifice, the total self-giving love of God's only begotten Son.

Mr. Tapia did all this while recovering from painful shoulder surgery.

"But you're doing it all out of love and passion for your relationship with God and for everyone who will see it," he stated.

The renewed crucifix was installed in the sanctuary of the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia in time for Good Friday services during Holy Week.

Father Daniel Merz, pastor of the Newman Center Parish, had asked Mr. Tapia to do the

restoration upon the suggestion of Tolton Catholic's bookkeeper, who is a member of the Newman Center Parish.

Mr. Tapia came to recognize the project as an extension of his life's mission to help his students vanquish fear of failure and embrace their God-given creativity.

Mr. Tapia spoke of all of this while working in front of a mural depicting the life and ministry of Tolton Catholic's namesake, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, the first recognizably Black, Roman Catholic priest

The crucifix that now adorns the space above the sanctuary of the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia is seen here during its restoration by art teacher Lonnie Tapia in the Art Room of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia. Mr. Tapia's "Fr. Tolton Life Mural" can be seen on the wall behind the crucifix.

— Photo by Annie Williams

in the United States.

"Father Gus ... he is my mentor and my friend," said Mr. Tapia. "I pass by him a dozen times a day, looking at him all the time. I sometimes remind my students, 'Look who's watching.'"

Far from home

Mr. Tapia and his wife Susan have been married for 48 years. They have two adult sons and nine grandchildren.

"I tell her everything," Mr. Tapia stated. "She's my partner and knows about all of this."

His own childhood was difficult. By the time he was 10, he had attended 16 schools, including about a year and a half at the former Sacred Heart School in Columbia.

"You'll hear no complaints from me," the artist insisted. "This is all just part of who I am."

He discovered his talent

See CRUCIFIX, page 19



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Welcome, newly initiated members of the Catholic Church!

Here are the names of many who received Sacraments of Initiation at Easter in parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese.

Additional names will be included on the People Page in future editions of The Catholic Missourian as they become available.

Boonville, Ss. Peter and Paul

Bridget Hancock

California, Annunciation

Alayna Benne, Jose Cardenas, Braden Irely, Allee Prettyman, Jeffrey Prettyman

Camdenton, St. Anthony

Matt Ancell, Debbie Godde, Ken Godde, Stephen Riner, Adam Slaughter

Centralia, Holy Spirit

Brian Clayton, Heather Clayton, Mark Dodge, Amanda Erisman, Draven Hamilton, Gracie Hamilton, Ginger McVay, Scott McVay, Charlie Million, Maddie Million, Jeb Romine, Jeff Schmidt, Brigitte Tollett, Laura Unterbrink

Cole Camp, Ss. Peter and Paul

Emily Callahan, Lora Ulm

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes

Emily Ambra, Kathryn Giesing, Amy Green, Mary Bess Green, William Green III, William Green, Jr., Kurt Kopp, David (Seth) Lyons, Weston Newlin, Andrew Nilson, Kyler Stanic, Benton Stecklein, Brandon Stecklein, Kate Stecklein, Avery Watson, Beth Watson, Lincoln Watson, Macklin Watson, Mark Watson

Columbia, Sacred Heart

Dominick Almendarez, Hunter Domsch, Samuel Emerson, Jo Potter Keene, Neal Morgan, Sam Price, Kristina Rosas, Ashton Skopec, Kristin Stafford

Columbia,

St. Thomas More Newman Center

Abby Brenner, Michael Egnaw, Trey Faucheux, Steele Fleming, Chase Forrer, Emilie Fry, Elijah Greenwell, Patrick Hanks, Stacy Hayes, Abby Heskett, Jason Jiang, Bryanna Johnson, Jessy Locke, C. J. Pelletier, Aleasia Ryan, Alex Taylor

Ewing, Queen of Peace

Dylon Ferrara, Penny Pitford

Folk, St. Anthony of Padua

Sherwood "Woody" Watson

Fulton, St. Peter

Andrew Salmons

Glasgow, St. Mary

Brooke Barron, Charlee Barron, Paislee Barron, Randall Barron, Bindi Norris, Blayze Norris, Blythe Norris, Brandy Norris, Bristol Norris, Julia Parker, Larry Staton, Amber Stockhorst, Raylee Stockhorst

Hannibal, Holy Family

Kelsey Caswell, Aspen Cheney, David Jennings, Daymon Jennings, Maycee Jennings, Shannon Jennings

Hermann, St. George

Eric Berry

Holts Summit, St. Andrew

Amanda Calvin, Nicholas Graziano, Kyle Smith, Leslie Williams

Indian Creek, St. Stephen

Phyllis James

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Sophia Bruce, Dale Clack, Dale Clack, Jr., Ryan Dolce, Nicole Dunmire, Conner Kimsey, Rebecca Lindquist Stokes, Michael Reed, Michael Reed Sr., Bryan Salmons, Rebecca Stokes

Jefferson City,

Immaculate Conception

Christian Bennett, Adam Berendzen, Cameron Berendzen, Samantha Brookshire, Daniel Castillo, Ivan Dudenhoefler, Alayna Forck, Thomas Nichols, Susan Pulliam, Amy Schaefer, Wayne Schaefer

Jefferson City, St. Peter

Tyler Bailey, Sharon Liese, Whitney Plassmeyer, LeAnn Schatzer, Thomas Sodergren, Elias Willmeno

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate

Laura Loyet, Yohei Norimatsu

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake

Mallory Walsh

Laurie, St. Patrick

Erik Ackerson

Louisiana, St. Joseph

Randy Spann

Marceline, St. Bonaventure

Leann Falkenstine, Richard Thudium

Marshall, St. Peter

Bethany Harris, Jeff Harris, Chelsey Weinreich, Huxley Weinreich, Paxton Weinreich

Martinsburg, St. Joseph

Carylle Ann Folta, Taylor West

Milan, St. Mary

George Fowler, Rebecca Fowler, Areli Martinez

Moberly, St. Pius X

Britney Bowling, Bobby Harris, Ezra Hillen, Skylar Housman, Brandy Mauzey, Alivianna O'Brien, Kairi O'Brien, Liam O'Brien, Samantha O'Brien, Kadie Parsons, Courtney Pingleton, Levi Pingleton, Malvisity Vorhees

Monroe City, Holy Rosary

Greg Smith, Mercedes O'Connor

Montgomery City,

Immaculate Conception

Dale Anderson, Rick Adams, Michael Brown, Teagan Daily, Allie Johnson, Kellie Lewis, Kendrya Wasson

Perry, St. William

Karson Sommer, Stacey Sommer, Stephanie Power, Carol Fiorito, Debra Dimaria

Rhineland,

Church of the Risen Savior

Thomas Carlock

Rolla, St. Patrick

Barrett Basham, Morgan Bergner, Jimmy Hickman, Colby Jackson, Bryan Luettgen, Shana Stephenson

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul

Abraham Alejo, Aedan Brennan, John Freiwold, Samuel Griess, Allison Guy, Meredith Norfleet, Valeria Ortiz Noriega, Tayler James Porter, Elizabeth Rochin, Jose Rodriguez

Shelbina, St. Mary

Matthew Baker, Lance Crump, Christine Gill, Andrea Unterbrink, Hannah Wegman

St. Clement, St. Clement

Adam Ellis, Ashlee Ellis, Shawn Everhart, Evan Kay, Kristy Oberman, Tara Oberman

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence

Tanner Duncan, Hayden Humphrey

St. James, Immaculate Conception

Dennis Green

St. Martins, St. Martin

Jackson Marsch Jonathan McKinnon, Briana Meldrem, Tatum Meldrem

St. Robert, St. Robert Bellarmine

Joseph Chaney, Leilani Chaney, Blaise Moynihan, Shannon Moynihan, Tyler Silbanuz

Taos, St. Francis Xavier

Michael Bardwell, Evan Kay, Stormy Moayer, Jammie Sandbothe

Warsaw, St. Ann

Tamara Jack

Westphalia, St. Joseph

Rachel Holterman, Erik Michels

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels

Bretta Bixenman, Brock Ervie, Chloe Shoemaker

"I, then ... urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

— Ephesians 4:1-6

I.C. School in Jeff. City to be honored at Midwest March for Life

DATE: May 1
TIME: 8 am - 2:30 pm

Students share recollections from January trip to Washington, D.C. for national March for Life

By Jay Nies

Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City is about to take part in their second March for Life of the year.

Students from the school, which chartered a bus to Washington, D.C., in January for the National March for Life, will receive the Pro-Life School of the Year Award and carry the banner for the Midwest March for Life on Wednesday, May 1, in Jefferson City.

"One thing we kept hearing in Washington was, 'Roe is done, but our work is not done,'" said Principal Heather Schrimpf.

"Because until abortion becomes unthinkable in the minds of all, we will continue to march," she said.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the 15th annual Midwest March for Life and associated activities on the grounds of the State Capitol.

Activities are planned from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Parishes and schools throughout the diocese are encouraged to attend.

Participants are urged to wear red.

The day's activities will begin at 8 a.m. with a Prayer Walk in the Capitol, and the praying of the Rosary on the North Lawn of the Capitol.

Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau will pray the Opening Prayer and give remarks at the pre-march rally, which will begin at 9:15 a.m.

Speakers at the pre-march rally will include Melissa Ohden, founding CEO of The Abortion Survivors Network, who survived an attempt to end her life in the womb by a failed saline infusion abortion.

Immaculate Conception School will be honored for its consistent, multifaceted pro-life efforts.

The March through down-



Students from Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City brave the cold and snow during this year's National March for Life in January in Washington, D.C. Students from the school will carry the banner for the 15th annual Midwest March for Life on May 1 in Jefferson City.

— Photos by Heather Schrimpf



town Jefferson City's streets will occur immediately after the rally.

A grilled hot dog lunch prepared by the Knights of Columbus St. Peter Parish Council in Fulton will be offered at a reasonable cost.

A youth rally will be held outside the Capitol at 12:15 p.m., while Dena Espenscheid, senior director of coalitions at the Leadership Institute, gives an update on the statewide ballot initiative at 12:15 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.

Further information and a full listing of the agenda for the day can be found at: midwestmarchforlife.com.

Bishop Rice will preside and preach the homily at the Closing Mass at 1:30 p.m. in the nearby Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter. Bishop James V. Johnston of Kansas City-St. Joseph will concelebrate.

"Shoulder to shoulder"

Immaculate Conception School eighth-graders who attended the National March for Life in Washington came home filled with passion to protect pregnant mothers and pre-born babies alike from abortion.

"Because all life, born and unborn, is sacred," said eighth-grader Mary Webb.

The March in D.C. coincided with the 51st anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions that legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States.

The Supreme Court struck

down *Roe* in its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in 2022, sending jurisdiction over abortion back to the states.

Missouri lawmakers had already passed a law outlawing most elective abortions. That law went into effect the day of the Supreme Court decision.

That law and others aimed at regulating abortion are the subject of a campaign to amend the state's Constitution through the initiative petition process. (See a related story on Page 3.)

Different perspectives

Recalling the National March for Life in January, Mary and I.C. eighth-grader Olivia were amazed at the number of people who attended.

"We were shoulder to shoulder with a lot of people," said Olivia.

"At one point," Mary recalled, "we could see up the hill and you could see how many people are in front of you and how many are behind you. The crowd was immense."

"It was very energetic," said eighth-grader Colton Versluis. "There were a lot of people, some of them very outspoken."

For eighth-grader Payton Arras, the speakers were as intriguing as the March.

"Learning what some of them went through — it really made you think," said Payton. "Some talked about how they wanted to get an abortion but people supported them and

they wound up having the baby."

Others speakers talked about the trauma and regret they experienced during and after having abortion, and the healing and reconciliation they finally sought and received.

Eighth-grader Elliott King couldn't believe it when he heard that more than 60 million abortions have been carried out in the United States since the *Roe* decision in 1973.

"It's such a big number," said eighth-grader Mark Saucier. "I never realized how many abortions actually happen."

Help and guidance

The students also learned about helping women who are pregnant and feel frightened or hopeless.

"One thing that's really important is for people to know that there's help available, that they're not alone and that there are people who support them," said Mary.

Sometimes, the clearest witness is encouragement and information about where to go for help.

"When you're out and around and someone's talking about abortion as the only way for them to get through, you can tell them that sometimes you need help and that you've got to reach out for it," said Elliott.

"I would tell them to contact a pregnancy help organization, because they'd know how to help them," said Mark.

"I would also remind them that this is all God's plan, and that every life is precious,"

said Elliott.

"I'd be really positive and tell them I'll help them if they ever need it," said eighth-grader Braylen Stevens, "that their baby matters."

Something to build on

The students also visited several churches in Washington and toured the National Holocaust Museum.

"It's another one of those things that you don't realize how bad it is until you see it in a museum or something," said Braylen. "Like all the hair and the shoes and the suitcases."

Mrs. Schrimpf said it's important to understand that a Catholic school's mission is not just to say that it is pro-life, but to show it.

"You can't be truly pro-life until you accept the dignity of all life, no matter what stage it is," she stated.

"It isn't just about abortion itself, it's about so many other things," she added. "Whether it's living out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy — clothing the naked, giving shelter to the homeless — all of those things are ways to show that you're pro-life and to uphold the things that are nonnegotiable, but always with love and compassion."

She believes encouraging students to put their faith into action by serving others gives them a solid foundation for being pro-life.

"And what better way to do that than through our Catholic schools and our parishes?" she said. "Because this is where it starts."

Women share stories of transformation for themselves, their young children, at Bowling Green ministry's VIP Banquet

By Jay Nies

Three women stood before a capacity crowd in the St. Clement Knights of Columbus hall and shared the itinerary of their "ridiculously amazing" journeys.

Residential clients of the Anne's Anchor interfaith ministry served as the keynote speakers at the agency's VIP Banquet on March 21.

Anne's Anchor (annesanchor.org) is a locally-funded interfaith nonprofit entity that provides a safe, welcoming community for pregnant women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Originally conceived by members of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, it is named in honor of St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Mother and grandmother of Jesus.

The agency's staff and board of directors are committed to helping the residents, as well as non-resident clients in the community, acquire the skills they need to become the best parents, providers and community members they can be.

Residential clients commit to spending a full year in the program but may end up living at the home for several years with their children, while saving up money and acquiring valuable life skills.

The goal is to help young mothers learn how to do for their families what St. Anne helped Mary prepare to do as mother of the Savior.

Clients use the "My Ridiculously Amazing Life" curriculum developed by Jane Dalton, executive director of the Bridges program in Rolla.

That challenging and effective method for teaching essential life and parenting skills focuses on seven core competencies for achieving self-sufficiency.

Ideally, that means earning enough money to support herself and her children in their own home, while maintaining a strong relationship with Jesus.

Hard work and accountability play a large role in creating that kind of environment.

"Brighter future"

Hannah, a mother of three boys, shared not her whole life story but "the best part of my life's story that took a turn for

the better."

She spoke of "finding strength that I didn't know I had and ultimately, discovering the transformative power of love and faith."

She revealed how she was at an all-time personal low when she found out that she was pregnant with her youngest son.

"The realization that I was going to be having a baby at some point and that it was inevitable, awakened a deep desire within me to seek help and escape the hole I had dug myself into," she said.

Yes, God intervened in what felt like her darkest moment.

She found out about Anne's Anchor from a state employee who had been given oversight of her situation.

"Initially, I doubted that such a beautiful and blessed place would accept someone like me," Hannah recalled. "It seemed like a distant dream."

She was cleared to move into the Anne's Anchor home shortly after giving birth to her son.

She acknowledged that adapting to the structure and requirements of Anne's Anchor took some getting used to.

"I had come from a life devoid of responsibilities, without any routine or schedule," she said. "It took me a couple of months to adjust and recognize the benefits these changes brought to my life."

She got her driver's license, went back to school and began to excel in her studies.

"It is a remarkable confidence booster, as it exemplifies the enormous progress I have made in rebuilding my life," she told the audience.

"Tonight, as I stand before you, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the incredible support system that has guided me every step of the way," she said.

She thanked everyone, including God, the Anne's Anchor staff and the community that supports the ministry, for helping her come this far.

"Your compassion has shown me that, no matter the past, we all have the potential to rise above our circumstances and create a brighter future," she stated.

She now sees that the challenges she has faced are helping



Board members, staff and residents of the Anne's Anchor home in Bowling Green gather during the interfaith agency's VIP Banquet March 21 in the St. Clement Knights of Columbus Hall.

— Photo from the Anne's Anchor Facebook page

her become the person God wants her to be.

"I stand here today, a living testament to the power of love, faith, and the incredible impact that organizations like Anne's Anchor can have in changing lives," she said.

"May my story inspire others who may be facing their darkest hours to never lose hope, to reach out for help, and to have faith that a better future is within reach," she said.

"Ridiculously amazing"

Elissa began with how the father of her son broke up with her and told her to move out last September while she was still pregnant.

Her father helped her look for temporary housing. A friend of his sent her a link for Anne's Anchor.

One of Elissa's friends took her in temporarily while she filled out the paperwork and waited for an opening at Anne's Anchor.

That opening did come. "Tonight, I don't know where or what I would be doing without these ridiculously amazing people that I have come to

that I didn't think I would ever accomplish on my own," she said.

The people there helped her finish high school, work on her communication skills and learn to move father and farther out of her comfort zone.

At the same time, "I'm thankful to have somewhere to live, where I can feel safe and be me," she said. "I have some pretty amazing friends and people I can talk to without feeling like I'm being judged."

"It truly is a ridiculously amazing place to be!" she proclaimed.

"Worth it"

Lizzy talked about how numerous people, culminating with those at Anne's Anchor, helped her escape human trafficking, abuse and life threatening illness.

She recounted discovering the power of prayer in her darkest days.

"Things were worse than ever,

See ANNE'S ANCHOR, page 28

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QUESTION CORNER

Should Jesus be depicted on crucifixes as alive or dead?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: I have a friend who observed that some crucifixes depict the Savior with his eyes open and some depict him with his eyes closed. He wants to know which is correct — alive or dead? (Lakeland, FL)



A: With respect to the second part of your question, I think it's equally correct for a crucifix to portray Jesus either as still alive on the cross or as just having died. The crucifixion was a progressive event in time, not one static snapshot, so it would be reasonable for an artist to choose to portray any number of given points of this part of Jesus' passion.

As a parallel, we might think of artistic depictions of the Stations of the Cross: The second station, where Jesus is just taking up his cross, is not any more "correct" than the 14th station, when he is laid in the tomb, despite Jesus being alive in one and already dead in the other.

Considering the broader question of why Jesus' eyes are open on some crucifixes and closed in others, it occurs to me that a crucifix with Jesus' eyes closed might not necessarily be intended to show him as having already died. That is, it could be that an eyes-closed crucifix is meant rather to show the intensity of Jesus' agony.

As far as I can tell, closed eyes on a crucifix does not indicate any specific symbolism on its own, unlike other symbols in Western Christian art that do have a specific meaning. For example, when Our Lady is shown with a white lily, this is understood as a reference to her purity and sinlessness. But the eyes of a crucifix might tell us something about the period in which the artist was working, or the style a modern artist was trying to emulate.

In the Church's first few centuries, crucifixes were not a common symbol at all. It seems that for the early Christians, crucifixion imagery was a bit too jarring — which makes sense when you consider that the early Christians would have known crucifixion as a grisly contemporary method of execution. In early Christian art, it is much more common to see Christ portrayed as the Good Shepherd, or for Christianity to be referenced via other more abstract symbols, such as a fish.

We start seeing more crucifixes around the time of the early Middle Ages, when Christianity became the dominant religion in Europe and parts of the Middle East, and when Christians likely had more of a sense of distance from the brutality of the Roman Empire. But even in this period, crucifixes tended to show Christ as a victorious king. Often in these crucifixes, Jesus' expression is serene and untroubled, with his eyes wide open and staring ahead.

While this early medieval style of crucifix does express some real truths of our faith — Jesus was indeed victorious on the cross, and he never ceased to trust God his Father — these depictions can tend to engage the intellect more than the emotions.

This is not the case for later crucifixes, especially from what we call the "Counter-Reformation" period in the late 1500s. Alongside trends in Western art in general, these crucifixes often show Jesus in a very lifelike, naturalistic way, where his suffering is depicted in realistic and often graphic detail. The goal of this style was to touch the heart of its viewers, to help move their souls to greater love of the suffering Christ and to greater sorrow for their sins. This makes sense for this period in Church history, as this was a time when the Church —

See QUESTION, page 23



Papal Audience

April 24, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on the virtues, we now turn from the cardinal to the theological virtues. As we have seen, the cardinal virtues are essential elements of a good life. Yet the fullness of life in Christ to which we are called — our final end — is possible only with the infused virtues of faith, hope and charity bestowed on us by God. Called theological because they place us into a dynamic relationship with the Triune God, these virtues animate and shape our exercise of all the other virtues and are thus the foundation of the Christian moral life, enabling us to merit the gift of eternal life (CCC 1813). May we open ourselves anew each day to the power of the Holy Spirit, and ask that he revitalize our faith, reawaken our hope and soften our hearts with his love.

I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially those coming from England, Finland, India, Indonesia, Tanzania and the United States of America. In the joy of the Risen Christ, I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father. May the Lord bless you all!

And then, thoughts go out to tormented Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Myanmar, who are at war, and so many other countries. War is always a defeat, and those who profit the most are the arms manufacturers. Please, let us pray for peace; let us pray for tormented Ukraine: it suffers so, so much. Young soldiers go to die... Let us pray. And let us also pray for the Middle East, for Gaza: it suffers so much there, in the war. For peace between Palestine and Israel, that they may be two states, free and with good relations. Let us pray for peace.

Pope, Council of Cardinals continue discussion of women in the Church

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals continued their discussions about the role of women in the Church, listening to women experts, including a professor who spoke about how culture impacts women's roles and status.

The pope and the nine-member Council of Cardinals invited women, including an Anglican bishop, to make presentations at their meetings in December and in February as well.

The council met April 15-16 in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the pope's residence, the Vatican press office said.

On the first day, Sister Regina da Costa Pedro, a member of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate and director of the Pontifical Mission Societies of Brazil, shared "concrete stories and the thoughts of some Brazilian women," the press office said.

Stella Morra, a professor of theology at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, "examined the role cultures have in the recognition of the role of women in different parts of the world," the press office said.

A priest and two women made presentations at the council's December meeting and published their papers in Italian in a book with a foreword by Pope Francis, "*Smaschilizzare La Chiesa*?" ("De-masculinize the Church?").

During the preparation for the synod on synodality and during its first assembly in October, the pope wrote in the foreword, "We realized that we have not listened enough to the voice of women in the Church and that the Church still has a lot to learn."

"It is necessary to listen to each other to 'de-masculinize' the Church because the Church is a communion of men and women who share the same faith and the same baptismal dignity," he wrote.

At the February meeting, the pope and cardinals heard from: Bishop Jo Bailey Wells, deputy secretary-general of the Anglican Communion; Salesian Sister Linda Pocher, a professor of Christology and Mariology at Rome's Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences "Auxilium"; and Giuliva Di Berardino, a consecrated virgin and liturgist from the Diocese of Verona, Italy.

Bishop Bailey Wells said she was invited to "describe the Anglican journey in regard to the ordination of women, both in the Church of England and across the (Anglican) Communion."

At the April meeting, the Vatican said, the second day began with a report about the ongoing Synod of Bishops on synodality by Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, and Msgr. Piero Coda, secretary general of the International Theological Commission.

The meeting concluded "with reports from each cardinal on the social, political and ecclesial situation in his home region," the press office said.

"Throughout the session there were references — and on several occasions prayer — dedicated to the scenarios of war and conflict being experienced in so many places around the world, particularly in the Middle East and in Ukraine," the statement said.

"The cardinals — and with them the pope — expressed concern about what is taking place and their hope for an increase in efforts

See WOMEN, page 21

The way to find happiness

By Sister Constance Veit, lsp



In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations this year, Pope Francis acknowledges the fact that every vocation — from marriage to consecrated life and priesthood — involves a call from God embracing our entire existence.

Realizing that every path in life is a call from God is worth pondering.

“Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord’s call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim

people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life,” Pope Francis wrote. “Hearing that divine call . . . is the surest way for us to fulfill our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfillment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves.”

I’d like to reflect on two aspects of this message — that God is calling each of us to participate in his loving plan and that our acceptance of his plan is the surest way to find personal fulfillment.

When we speak of someone having a

“calling” we generally assume this means a call to Priesthood or religious life. But this is a narrow understanding of the concept of vocation.

God has a plan for each of us; he is calling each of us to a specific vocation, which may or may not involve full-time service in the Church.

Realizing that God has a plan for us — and discerning what this plan is — is essential to our personal growth as we mature from childhood to adulthood.

As the pope says, it’s a matter of discovering who we are, what our gifts are and where we can make them bear fruit.

Do we take into account that our personal gifts have been “received”?

This is what St. Paul was trying to teach the Corinthians when he said,

“What do you possess that you have not received? But if you have received it, why are you boasting as if you did not receive it?” (1 Cor. 4:7).

Looking back on my own vocation, I realize that as a youngster I didn’t look at my abilities and blessings as gifts given to me by God. I didn’t even understand that God had a plan for my life — I thought that life was all about my plans!

I began volunteering with the Little Sisters of the Poor and the elderly — not because I felt God calling me to religious life or because I was committed to improving the lives of elderly people in need — but simply because I thought community service would “look good”

See SR. CONSTANCE, page 23

Easter and Pentecost

By Effie Caldarola
OSV News



At Easter morning brunch, one of my daughters brought me a beautiful bouquet of tulips.

They were so welcome, and so extraordinary, that I took extra good care of them. I

changed their water, recut their stems and used the little packet of powder the florist sent. I placed them where I could see them at dinner time, and at the place where I pray in the morning.

And they began to open. One morning, I peered inside a bright yellow and orange tulip and saw the stamen reaching out toward me. At least, I think it was the stamen; not being much of a horticulturist, I had to look up what the reproductive parts of flowers are called.

The inner works of my tulip seemed to be bursting forth from the slowly opening flower. In the morning light, with the tulip nearly translucent, I suddenly saw in my tulip a tomb being opened, a little symbol of resurrection. The tomb was empty, and the stamen and pistil seemed to be radiating out from the empty tomb as if to proclaim that the Risen One, who had been held there so recently, had gone before us into Galilee.

It was a lovely, graced moment, a little gift.

But here’s the thing. Easter Sunday is many days ago now, and tulips don’t last forever. Mine began to open too broadly and fray a bit at the edges. They bent over and lost their lovely shape. Like our own lives on this earth, they were finite and passing. But they had done what they had come to do, proclaim a daughter’s love and provide beauty and a mo-

ment of inspiration.

Would that we can say the same about our own passing lives.

The time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost is so special, but sometimes I fear we leave the Easter season behind us too quickly. Lent gave us something to “do.” We gave something up, we tried to go to morning Mass, we experienced the incredible beauty of Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, something most parishes do well.

Even our secular culture reminded us of Easter, with the jellybeans and bunnies popping up as soon as Valentine’s Day was over. But on Easter Monday, stores immediately put the basket paraphernalia on sale. You want a discounted bunny headband? Go for it.

I think the time between Easter and Pentecost, the actual Easter season, is when the real Christian in us is challenged. Rather than “do” something, be silent. Reread all the amazing readings from the Gospels of John and Luke. Walk into the garden with Mary and be amazed when the person you thought was the gardener calls you by name. Take a long walk, and imagine you, too, are heading for a getaway in Emmaus. Talk with that man who walks beside you. Put your fingers, like Thomas, into the scars left on the body of Jesus. Rejoice in this incredibly tactile, bodily faith we live.

There won’t be any advertisements for Pentecost baskets, or Pentecost wrapping paper. You won’t be hurrying to get your Pentecost letters out to all your friends. But Pentecost comes, with its fire and wind, to inspire us with the Holy Spirit. Imagine those in that room on Pentecost morning, some of them men who had fled during the crucifixion. Imagine Peter, who denied three times knowing Jesus, and then wept bitterly, becoming a man willing to be crucified himself.

Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter,

Sunday, May 19 this year. The days, like all our passing days, will fly. Let us use them to experience the hope and glory of Resurrection.

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

REFLECTION

Between ebb and flow

By Mark Saucier

I went for a walk the other day along a portion of the green belt near our house.

It’s a peaceful path, meandering past a football field, a children’s park, tennis courts and open spaces.

I like it because it follows a creek. Not a creek of my youth, mind you, with rippling graveled shallows, dark, cave-like turns through the woods, and mystery beyond every bend.

No, this one was tamed, paved for flood control, standing witness to our control of nature.

Still, it had water running, singing a soft song, an ode to its source and journey.

Then, something bright and round in the water caught my eye.

As I got closer, I could see that it was a soccer ball. Its pink, yellow and white colors shimmered as they wrestled for dominance.

Strangely, the ball was not floating down the stream. I thought that it was snagged, but I soon realized it was something far more curious.

As the topography changed and the creek deepened, there were drop-offs where the water tumbled down a 45-degree slab to a new stretch of bottom below.

The ball was at the base of one of those drops. Instead of drifting down the creek, it just sat there spinning.

The water coming down rotated the ball, and that motion was enough to counter the downstream flow.

It was never going to climb that ramp, but as long as the water kept running, it was going to stay right where it was, defying expectations and dancing in the light.

Like life itself, it was improbable that it should be there. Did it land like that, or did some unseen hand put it there?

I was mesmerized, and when I finally looked up, there on the other bank was a groundhog, lazing in the sun and watching it as well.

On my side, to my left, closer to me than I would have thought, was a robin. You never know what a bird’s eyes are looking at, but her head was pointed in the direction of the ball.

I don’t know what they experienced, but I do know that when I left that ball still spinning in the glimmering water, the sun was brighter, the sky bluer, the birdsong louder.

And the world was more hopeful.

The older I get, the less I know who God is, but the more I encounter intimations of God’s presence — sometimes even in a soccer ball.

Encounter

Family Tradition

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Jennifer Hudson

For many individuals, the journey from volunteering to becoming a staff member within an organization is a testament to dedication, passion, and a deep commitment to a cause.

This transition becomes even more meaningful when it spans across generations, evolving into a cherished family tradition.

If you would indulge me, I would like to share a bit about my family's commitment to volunteerism.

It has been passed down through multiple generations, culminating in the transformation from volunteer to staff member.

Volunteering often serves as the first step towards understanding and embracing the values upheld by an organization.

It provides individuals with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the mission and objectives and gain firsthand experience of the impact creat-

ed by their efforts.

For many families, volunteering becomes a shared activity, fostering bonds and instilling a sense of responsibility towards community service from an early age.

Our family's involvement with Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri spans three generations.

It all began with my dad Dan Muessig, who started volunteering for the organization delivering Senior Food Boxes.

To help prevent food insecurity for seniors in the community, Catholic Charities participates in a USDA program in partnership with The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri and the Jefferson City Housing Authority to deliver food to seniors within Cole County.

Dad's dedication and passion for volunteerism inspired me to follow in his footsteps.

We have both spent hours volunteering in various capacities such as delivering food boxes, stocking shelves in the Food



Three generations share the family tradition of service and stewardship: Jennifer Hudson (center), her daughter Audrey (left) and her father Dan Muessig (right).

Pantry and assisting neighbors as they shop the client-choice food pantry.

During my time as a volunteer, my connection to Catholic Charities deepened, compelling me to pursue a full-time role.

Months of service paved the way for this transition to the organization's staff, where I could continue my passion of service by fostering more meaningful interactions with clients and neighbors.

This evolution from volunteer to staff member opened an avenue to serve in a more profound capacity.

I have been asked why I chose to volunteer.

Two things come to mind. The first is the passage, "We love him because he first loved us," (1 John 4:19) which I hear as we serve because He first served us.

The second, as Tevye from Fiddler on the Roof sang, "Tradition!"

These two quotes encapsulate the values with which I was raised.

Service stems from a reciprocal relationship of love and care.

Our family's journey did not end there.

Inspired by her family's legacy of service and her school requirement of 50 service hours for graduation, my daughter Audrey joined in volunteering for Catholic Charities Food Pantry at the early age of 16.

She continues the family tradition of service and stewardship, participating in the services offered by the organization.

Once Audrey's school service requirements were fulfilled, she enjoyed volunteering so much

that she chose to continue volunteering in lieu of a summer job.

The transition from volunteer to staff member symbolizes more than just career progression; it embodies a shared commitment to faith in action, which has been passed down through generations.

Our story highlights the transformative power of volunteerism and the profound impact it can have on individuals, families and communities alike.

We are not alone in our journey.

Across the globe, countless families share similar stories of multi-generational involvement in volunteer work, each one contributing to the fabric of society in their own unique way.

These families serve as a reminder of the enduring power of service and the importance of passing down values of compassion, empathy and civic responsibility to future generations.

For more information or to volunteer with Catholic Charities of Central and Northeast Missouri, visit ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/volunteer or call 573-635-7719.



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Lay Catholics have key role in Church's mission in today's world, says top Knight

By Mark Zimmermann
OSV News

Washington, D.C.

Addressing the John Carroll Society at its April 13 annual awards dinner in Washington, Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly underscored something that Pope Francis once told him, that the laity have a co-responsibility along with the clergy for the mission of the Catholic Church in today's world.

"As laypeople, we've been given an essential role, not in Church governance, but in advancing her mission. The Gospel makes that crystal clear. And the Second Vatican Council's decree on the laity provides a framework for living out our calling," Kelly said.

The Knights of Columbus leader — who was the guest speaker and was one of five recipients of the John Carroll

Society Medal at the dinner — emphasized three main duties that laypeople have in carrying out the Church's mission.

"First, we are called to evangelize, inspiring people to love and follow Jesus," he said. "Second, we are called to conform the temporal world to reflect God's law and his desire for human flourishing. And third and finally, we are called to mercy and charity, showing the love of Jesus Christ to those around us, especially the suffering."

The John Carroll Society, founded in 1951, includes nearly 850 Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington who work in professions and businesses in the metropolitan area and assist the archbishop of Washington in charitable and community projects. They also participate in spiritual, intellectual and social

activities together.

In his talk, Kelly said the need for lay Catholics to take part in the Church's evangelization is "especially urgent in our time."

"We've all heard the numbers," he said, noting that one-tenth of Americans are now ex-Catholics, and a majority of U.S. Hispanics are no longer Catholic. "And for many of us, these aren't just statistics — they're personal experiences. I imagine that almost everyone in this room has family members who have left the faith — siblings, children and grandchildren. Clearly, evangelization is urgently needed."

The Supreme Knight noted that "we aren't living in normal times. All of us are called to be missionaries in a society that often views religion, at best, as a matter of private opinion — or at worst, as an enemy of the public good.

This requires that we live out our mission constantly — not only on Sundays, and not just at dinners like this, but at all times, in all places, and with all the people that we meet."

Pope Benedict XVI, he said, encouraged the importance of laypeople forming themselves in the faith and forming relationships to bring faith to life.

In addition to daily prayer, forming oneself in the faith involves studying the faith, not just to deepen one's intellectual understanding of God, Kelly said.

"It's about encountering Christ in the Word of God and the wisdom of the Church. Self-formation is really transformation, because our goal is not just knowledge — our goal is to become more like Christ."

Reflecting on Pope Benedict's goal of forming relationships centered on faith, Kelly

noted, "In the workplace and in our communities — and even in our families — we often fall into transactional relationships. But Christ doesn't want us to get something from others.

"Much more profoundly, he wants us to give something to them, while asking nothing in return. In short, he wants us to love as he loves. ... It's a simple thing, yet it's very rare, especially here in Washington. In a town and time where people generally look out for themselves, the best way to evangelize is to look out for others."

Concluding his talk, Kelly said, "In this era of fading faith and rising secularism, and in this town of politics and power, let us commit ourselves to the personal work of evangelization. And let's use the gifts that Christ has given to each of us to build up his kingdom, fulfilling the call that we equally share, yet is even more uniquely our own."

In addition to Kelly, the other recipients of the John Carroll Society Medal at the dinner were Kevin Baine, one of the nation's leading First Amendment attorneys; Andrew N. Cook, a lawyer and past president of the John Carroll Society; Colleen Mudlaff, the executive director of the Gregorian University Foundation who earlier served as the executive director of the John Carroll Society; and Marcus Washington, the president of the Washington Jesuit Academy.

At the dinner, Msgr. Peter Vaghi — longtime chaplain of the John Carroll Society and pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Maryland — gave the opening prayer, and Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, gave the closing prayer.

The more than 200 guests at the dinner included John G. Roberts Jr., chief justice of the United States.

Mark Zimmermann is editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Cardinal: Vocation is call to happiness; right path is discerned in prayer

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

At its most basic level, a vocation is a call to happiness, said Korean Cardinal Lazarus You Heung-sik, prefect of the Dicastery for Clergy.

"Vocation is essentially the call to be happy, to take charge of one's life, to realize it fully and not waste it," the cardinal told the Vatican newspaper in an interview published ahead of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 21.

God wants each person to be happy and to live life to its fullest, he told the newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

In Jesus, he said, God "wants to draw us into the embrace of his love; thus, thanks to baptism, we become an active part of this love story and, when we feel that we are loved and accompanied, then our existence becomes a path to happiness, to a life without end."

The path to happiness, he said, "is then embodied and realized in a life choice, in a specific mission and in the many situations of every day."

Insisting that the "first vocation" of all people is the call to happiness, Cardinal You said that it is wrong to think that an individual's desires have no role to play.

In discerning God's call, he said, "the first road signs to follow are precisely our desires, what we sense in our hearts may be good for us and, through us, for the world around us."

At the same time, the cardinal said, ev-

"We are small and full of limitations, but we are disciples of the Master. ... You can only be missionary disciples together."

— Cardinal Lazarus You Heung-sik, prefect, Dicastery for Clergy

eryone knows how their desires can sometimes lead them astray "because our desires do not always correspond to the truth of who we are; it may happen that they are the result of a partial vision, that they arise from wounds or frustrations, that they are dictated by a selfish search for our own well-being or, again, sometimes what we call desires are actually illusions."

At that point, discernment is necessary, which, he said, "is basically the spiritual art of figuring out, with God's grace, what we should choose in our lives."

Prayer is essential for discernment because "a vocation is recognized when we bring our deep desires into dialogue with the work that God's grace does within us," Cardinal You said. Through that dialogue

of prayer, clouds of doubt and questions gradually clear, and "the Lord makes us understand which path to take."

"We must not run the risk of thinking that the spiritual aspect can develop apart from the human one, thus attributing to God's grace a kind of 'magical power,'" he said. "God became flesh and, therefore, the vocation to which he calls us is always embodied in our human nature."

The cardinal said he has devoted much of his life to priestly formation, and he knows that in many parts of the world many priests are experiencing hardships, trials, exhaustion and, especially, profound loneliness.

Priests and the people they minister with need to learn to share duties and responsibilities, he said, and diocesan priests need to learn to rely on and support each other.

But even more, the cardinal said, "there is a need for a new mentality and new formation paths because often a priest is educated to be a solitary leader, a 'one man in charge,' and this is not good for him."

"We are small and full of limitations, but we are disciples of the Master. Moved by him we can do many things. Not individually, but together, synodally," he said, reminding readers of what Pope Francis has said: "You can only be missionary disciples together."

Parishioners, students join prayer vigil during state's first execution of 2024

Give witness to the inherent dignity of all human life

By Laura Kosta

As the state of Missouri executed Brian Dorsey on the evening of April 9, high school students and parishioners from the Archdiocese of St. Louis joined a peaceful prayer vigil outside the Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Bonne Terre.

Dorsey was convicted of first-degree murder for the 2006 killings of his cousin, Sarah Bonnie, and her husband, Ben Bonnie.

During the vigil, several people read statements from Dorsey's family, friends, fellow prison residents and former corrections officers, recounting their positive relationships with Dorsey over the years. Spiritual leaders offered prayers for Dorsey, the Bonnie family, Dorsey's lawyers, the corrections officers and everyone affected by the execution happening inside.

A smaller crowd of death penalty supporters was also present outside the prison, holding signs with a photo of Sarah and Ben Bonnie.

At 6:13 p.m., a corrections officer let the crowd know that Dorsey had died at 6:11 p.m.

Father Gerry Kleba, a retired priest of the St. Louis archdiocese who served as spiritual advisor to Johnny Johnson during his Aug. 1 execution, was among those offering prayers.

"We come here in this sad and difficult and grieving time, grieving for Brian Dorsey and grieving for all the people he hurt and all the family members who still suffer because of that," said Fr. Kleba, turning briefly to the group of death penalty supporters to his left.

"We are also here grieving for a system that acts like an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is the way we want to go. And that's not God's way to go," he continued. "So we pray that, first of all, the peace of eternal glory be embraced by Brian as he sees God face-to-face. And that that peace might saturate all of our lives



Monsignor Jack Schuler (holding sign), a priest of the St. Louis archdiocese, spoke at a vigil outside the Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Bonne Terre, where Brian Dorsey was executed April 9.

— Photo by Jacob Wiegand, courtesy of the St. Louis Review

and trickle through us — maybe even through our tears — to make a new society, more God-like, the one we want to embrace and to model for future generations."

The death penalty opponents solemnly ended their vigil by singing "Song of Farewell," a hymn often used in Catholic funerals.

In Dorsey's final written statement, he apologized to the victims' families.

"To all of the family and loved ones I share with Sarah and to all of the surviving family and loved ones of Ben, I am truly, deeply overwhelmingly sorry. Words cannot hold the just weight of my guilt and shame. I still love you. I never wanted to hurt anyone. I am sorry I hurt them and you. To my family, friends, and all of those that tried to prevent this, I love you! I am grateful for you. I have peace in my heart, in large part because of you and I thank you. To all those on ALL sides of this sentence, I carry no ill will or anger, only acceptance and understanding," he wrote.

Father Mike Lydon, episcopal vicar for the St. Louis archdiocese's Southern Vicariate, was a first-time participant in the vigil outside the prison.

"It's a life issue, so I thought it would be very appropriate, especially as episcopal vicar in

this area, to bring people here and that we support the movement of abolishing the death penalty, the state taking life," he said. "I know it's very different from abortion in many ways, but it's also similar in the sense that you're actually taking a person's life intentionally, in the name of the people of Missouri."

On the bus ride to and from the Bonne Terre prison, Aquinas Institute of Theology graduate students Emma Grace Johnson and Grant Hartley led a discussion on the Church's teaching on the death penalty with the approximately 20 high schoolers in attendance.

They also shared the background of Dorsey's case, including his initial representation by a flat-fee attorney who did little investigation and advised him to plead guilty with the possibility of the death penalty still on the table.

They shared words from the former warden of Potosi Correctional Center and more than 70 current and former corrections officers who supported clemency for Dorsey, citing his perfect discipline record and their views that Dorsey had been fully rehabilitated.

However, Johnson and Hartley emphasized Catholic teaching that the death penalty is inadmissible is not based on the behavior of the inmate; it

reflects the inherent dignity of each person, made in the image and likeness of God.

"The dignity and value of human life is an unmerited gift of God," Johnson said. "Unmerited means you can't earn it; you can't lose it."

Three students from Nerinx Hall, a girls' Catholic high school, participated in the vigil, accompanied by director of service learning Becky Giunta.

Nerinx junior Analucia Romero read a prayer from Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking* and a well-known advocate for the abolition of the death penalty.

"I definitely feel like the Holy Spirit is here," Analucia said afterward. "I think it's beautiful how we're all able to gather here, people from different experiences, different faiths. We're all here for mercy, forgiveness, because we believe this is a worthy cause."

Fellow junior Lucy Banks

said she and her classmates have been studying Catholic Social Teaching in morality class. "It's been nice to experience it in a way where I can fully understand it; I'm not just getting taught in the classroom, I can understand how I need to stand up for this," she said.

Sophia Stage said what she learned about the death penalty in Missouri through the discussions on the bus will stick with her. "I definitely have more knowledge on it, so I'm going to be able to talk to people about it and have a real conversation and an opinion on it," she said.

St. Joseph's Academy English teacher Emma Luem brought 15 freshmen from the girls' Catholic high school to the vigil. Luem's freshman class recently finished studying the book *Just Mercy*, an account of attorney Bryan Stevenson's early days defending people on death row and founding the Equal Justice Initiative.

The vigil "gives them the opportunity to see that this isn't abstract, what we've learned — this happens, and these are people," she said. "... I'm hoping that these girls can also teach their peers about what this looks like and the tragedy

See VIGIL, page 23

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Why Water? Understanding the Importance of Providing Safe Water to Haiti's Poorest Families

Few of us think about water much. We want some, and we turn a tap. We drink it, and we expect to feel refreshed. Water isn't something we worry about, and with good reason. We are blessed to have safe, clean water at our fingertips.

Unfortunately, millions of families in developing countries — Haiti among them — are far less fortunate. For them, water must be found, it is rarely clean, and it can pose serious dangers if they don't take precautions before drinking it. This is because poor families often rely on collected rain or murky streams — water sources that are almost inevitably contaminated with bacteria and parasites that cause disease.

"That is why Father Glenn Meaux has made providing safe water to the people of Kobonal, Haiti, a priority," explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the largest Catholic charities serving in Haiti. For years, Cavnar's ministry has partnered with Kobonal missionary Fr. Meaux to address the plight of the poor in Haiti by funding feeding programs, housing projects, educational outreaches, water projects and more.

"It may surprise some American Catholics, but providing safe water can literally be a lifesaving measure in a remote community. In fact, one of the first projects we did with Fr. Meaux involved capping a spring to bring clean water to a town that had lost a tragic number of children to illnesses caused by contaminated water," Cavnar said. "Fr. Meaux had seen them carrying a child's coffin down the hillside and was shocked to learn local families were losing babies and toddlers to unsafe water every month. He contacted us to see whether something could be done, and we rallied

support from American Catholics to fund the water project he needed. This gift to the community has probably saved dozens of lives since then."

The impact of unsafe water goes further, affecting older children and adults too, according to Cavnar.

"When an older child becomes ill, he or she often misses school. And sick adults can find it difficult to work steadily and secure a stable income. These may not seem like serious problems, but as sick days mount, the impact can be devastating. Children fall behind in their classwork or drop out of school entirely, losing the opportunities for advancement that an education can bring. Their parents struggle to make ends meet, sometimes even finding it impossible to provide food each day. Once that downward spiral begins, it can lead to families falling into extreme poverty — and a real sense of hopelessness."

Fortunately, modern technology can provide a solution if funding is available. Well-drilling rigs can be secured to reach safe water sources underground, and hand or solar pumps can be used to make water stations functional even when electricity isn't available.

"We have had a lot of experience solving water scarcity problems and developing water delivery systems in remote areas," Cavnar said. "The technology and skills are available if we can get the funding for the project work involved. That is why we are seeking support from American Catholics to help Fr. Meaux with his latest project — installing three new freshwater wells and repairing several other wells in his area." (See story on opposite page.)

As Cavnar has said, managing major



In Haiti's rural communities, water is often collected from murky ponds or other contaminated sources. It can be tainted with animal waste or teeming with bacteria and harmful parasites. For the poor, who must rely on this water, one drink can lead to serious illnesses, and infants and very young children are at the greatest risk.

water projects is one of Cross Catholic Outreach's areas of expertise, and he remains confident Fr. Meaux's wells will be built, benefiting families who pray for a safe drink.

"I believe we'll succeed because Catholics in America often rally to accomplish missions of mercy like this," he said. "They are eager to help others, particularly those with an urgent need. What matters to them is that their donations are used wisely and will produce an important, tangible benefit for the poor. They support water projects such as this one because they understand the value of safe water. They would want that for their own families, and their hearts go out to poor parents

who must give their sons and daughters contaminated water to drink. I believe they will want to end that suffering and support a committed Catholic leader like Fr. Meaux."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach water programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC03095, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner.

Cross Catholic Outreach Introduces Catalog of Merciful Gifts To Provide Families With Unique Easter Almsgiving Options

The long-held tradition of almsgiving during Easter has always been a blessing to Catholic households. But there have been times when families longed for ways to extend their compassion to international communities, where the ravages of poverty are often more extreme. We know those needs exist. The challenge is in finding a way to connect U.S. Catholics with families and communities in dire need.

This year, the respected relief and

development ministry Cross Catholic Outreach has offered a solution — its Easter Catalog of international mercy projects that need funded. Through the catalog, individuals, families and parishes can build homes, provide meals to combat malnutrition, sponsor educational scholarships for poor children, address urgent medical needs, and undertake many other acts of compassion — all under the supervision of respected Catholic leaders in the countries being served.

The opportunities listed in the catalog span the globe, including missions of mercy in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa, and beyond.

"Just imagine the excitement of your children or grandchildren knowing they can help give another child a safe, new home," said Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "It's so important as parents that we teach our little ones the importance of almsgiving and being God's helpers here on earth. It's a lesson that will bless them for a

lifetime, and it also will forever change the life of a person in need."

This unique Easter Catalog is easy to access. Readers will find a link for it at the ministry's website (CrossCatholic.org), or they can reach it directly by entering the web address CrossCatholic.org/Easter.

"Easter gifts are a great way to share joy and love with family and friends," said Sagarino. "Why stop there when we can share Christ's light with the world?"

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

U.S. Catholics Rally Behind American Priest to Provide Safe Water in Rural Haiti

When Father Glenn Meaux and his missionary team arrived in Kobonal, Haiti, in 1989, he was deeply disturbed by the magnitude of poverty he saw there. Hardly anyone in this remote area owned the land their fragile huts occupied. No one grew gardens or raised animals. Very few employment opportunities existed for the unskilled, uneducated population, meaning very few families were able to earn money to buy food.

During the rainy season, women and children would gather water from the plentiful streams and rivers — but the water was visibly tainted. During the dry season, people resorted to digging holes in the sand in order to find water.

In addition to suffering from hunger and thirst, the people were starving for spiritual guidance. Entrenched in superstition, few had ever heard the name of Christ.

“There was no agriculture, there was no irrigation system, there was literally no hope at the time,” Fr. Meaux recalled.

This is the challenging ground in which the Kobonal Haiti Mission took root. And over the course of 35 years, the mission has worked marvels, helping hundreds of families improve their lives. Still, Fr. Meaux’s heart breaks every time he sees a mother or child living in a dilapidated hut or gathering water from a murky stream.

“Fr. Meaux has already given the best years of his life to the people of Haiti (see story on opposite page), but he always has his eyes forward, looking for the next thing he can do to help relieve the people’s suffering and increase their opportunities in life,” explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach, a leading Catholic relief and development ministry that has partnered with Fr. Meaux for more than two decades. “Many people are aware of the wonderful things he’s done to address urgent needs, but his ultimate goals are to help break the cycle of poverty in this part of Haiti, lead families to Christ, and forever change the future for those he serves.”

Fr. Meaux stated his objectives even more simply.

“As Catholics, we must extend our hands to help our brothers and sisters in need,” he said.

Currently, one of the mission’s main focuses is to bring clean water to the people of Kobonal, ending the need for families to collect unsafe water from remote sources.

“Women and children are often



tasked with finding and collecting water, and the murky streams they draw from aren’t fit for animals, much less people,” Cavnar said. “At Cross Catholic Outreach, we work on many projects like this, obtaining donations from U.S. Catholics to pay for the equipment and organize the construction efforts involved. Our current goal is to help Fr. Meaux put in three clean-water wells and repair several existing wells. If we can accomplish this, it will positively impact 569 adults and 1,906 children who currently face the greatest challenges to their health and well-being. The people in these villages will use the water not only for drinking and cooking but also to sustain important

gardens they depend on for food and income.”

According to Cavnar, the wells will make use of freestanding hand pumps, and the families in each community will choose a leader to oversee and perform maintenance on the equipment. Each well will have a cement wall around it for security, and it will be available daily during specific hours of operation. The water will be free, but the benefiting families will be encouraged to contribute a token amount to a community fund that can be tapped whenever repairs are needed on the

wells. Contributing in this way will give families a sense of ownership and pride in their community.

“Anticipation is mounting for this project, and volunteers have already stepped forward to offer their help with the construction of the wells. Now, all that’s needed are the funds for drilling, purchasing pumps, constructing a pump house to store supplies, and training community members to handle maintenance of the new facilities,” Cavnar said. “Our goal now is to make American Catholics aware of the project and gain their support.”

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC03095, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions for becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.





LEFT: Father Joseph Luzindana preaches the homily at the Father Tolton Celebration Mass on April 21 in St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia. **CENTER:** Deacon William Seibert proclaims the Gospel reading. **RIGHT:** Michele Sisson-White and Avila Hendricks Nilon give an update on the Columbia chapter of the Father Tolton Society. **BELOW:** Fr. Luzindana elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament.

— Photos by Jay Nies

FR. TOLTON

From page 1

state, during the Civil War.

In learning about and practicing his faith, he came to realize that God was calling him to be a priest.

The overwhelming obstacles he had to overcome — including his poverty and lack of education and the fact that no U.S. seminary would accept him because he was Black — wound up magnifying God's glory.

Because Fr. Tolton did become a priest, ministering with tremendous faith and devotion despite ongoing hardships that he endured to the very end.

He is now one of six African American Catholics who are under formal consideration for being declared saints.

"We need people who can understand like Fr. Tolton," said Fr. Luzindana.

"A son of this Missouri soil, he's no longer a slave," Fr. Luzindana stated. "He became a great servant of God."

That same grace that allowed Fr. Tolton to minister without reserve despite overt racism in his Church and his society remains alive and active today.

"We cannot talk about Fr. Tolton without talking about that same grace that's in you and me," Fr. Luzindana pointed out.

"That's why we are here. This great grace of God working in a slave," the priest con-

tinued. "He heard the voice of God calling him, and despite all the waves and the storms and winds of the world, he said yes to the voice of God."

Fr. Luzindana passionately implored the adults to stand between their children and a world that has largely rejected God.

"We need to say to people,

moderator for youth and young adult ministry and associate pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City. He previously served as associate pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia.

Ministering with him at the Fr. Tolton Celebration Mass was Deacon William Seibert, who assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

The St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish choir and ensemble led and accompanied the singing.

Debra Green and Marietta Monroe, members of St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbia, sang several songs in the African-American Gospel tradition.

Students from Father Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia served as greeters and lectors for the Mass.

Jill McIntosh Weimer, Tolton Catholic's vice president and director of advancement, also attended on the school's behalf.

Prayer for Fr. Tolton's Canonization

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in Heaven, Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your Will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now request through his intercession (mention your request) so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen.

— Bishop Joseph N. Perry, 2010

Avila Hendricks Nilon and Michele Sisson-White, co-organizers for the celebration, encouraged everyone to learn more about Fr. Tolton's life and times, emulate his patience and spiritual tenacity, share his story with other people and pray for his saintly intercession in heaven.

Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, also acknowledged the presence of Lonnie Tapia, art teacher at Tolton Catholic, who had recently restored the large crucifix

above the Newman Center's altar; and Tolton Catholic senior Nate Pfenenger, whose mosaic portrait of Fr. Tolton made of 20,400 black dice was on display in the Newman Center's vestibule the day of the Mass.

The people joined together in praying the prayer for Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause, composed by Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, co-postulator for the cause.

Afterward, people gathered on the patio outside the chapel for cake and ice cream to celebrate the anniversaries of Fr. Tolton's birth (April 1, 1854) and priestly ordination (April 24, 1886).

The Fr. Tolton Celebration Mass is an activity of what is now the Columbia chapter of the Fr. Tolton Asso-

ciates.

The chapter, previously known as the Father Tolton Legacy Society, was established to help increase awareness of Fr. Tolton and the significance of his life.

More information about the six African American candidates for sainthood can be found at:

usccb.org

search "road to sainthood"

For information about Venerable Fr. Tolton's cause, visit: tolton.archchicago.org.



"Please, in God's name, come back to Jesus!" Fr. Luzindana insisted. "Don't be afraid to give your children God. He is who gives us strength to withstand the winds and waves of this world."

A time to celebrate

Fr. Luzindana is diocesan



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Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen.

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Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, also acknowledged the presence of Lonnie Tapia, art teacher at Tolton Catholic, who had recently restored the large crucifix

above the Newman Center's altar; and Tolton Catholic senior Nate Pfenenger, whose mosaic portrait of Fr. Tolton made of 20,400 black dice was on display in the Newman Center's vestibule the day of the Mass.

The people joined together in praying the prayer for Fr. Tolton's sainthood cause, composed by Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, co-postulator for the cause.

Afterward, people gathered on the patio outside the chapel for cake and ice cream to celebrate the anniversaries of Fr. Tolton's birth (April 1, 1854) and priestly ordination (April 24, 1886).

The Fr. Tolton Celebration Mass is an activity of what is now the Columbia chapter of the Fr. Tolton Asso-

ciates.

The chapter, previously known as the Father Tolton Legacy Society, was established to help increase awareness of Fr. Tolton and the significance of his life.

More information about the six African American candidates for sainthood can be found at:

usccb.org

search "road to sainthood"

For information about Venerable Fr. Tolton's cause, visit: tolton.archchicago.org.



"Please, in God's name, come back to Jesus!" Fr. Luzindana insisted. "Don't be afraid to give your children God. He is who gives us strength to withstand the winds and waves of this world."

A time to celebrate

Fr. Luzindana is diocesan

STEWARDSHIP

From page 1

three years: the idea that stewardship is ‘Christianity 101’ — basic Christianity,” said Fr. Jones.

“Stewardship is not a ‘Jeff. City thing,’ and it’s not a ‘Wichita thing,” Fr. Jones stated, referring to the diocese where the stewardship way of life was first articulated for present-day Catholics and where it in many ways has reached its highest expression.

“No, it’s simply a ‘Christian thing,’ and it was great to have people come and give new voice to that,” said Fr. Jones.

“No greater love”

Bishop McKnight grew up in St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Wichita, where Monsignor Thomas McGread, known as the modern father of Catholic stewardship, served as pastor for 32 years.

“I’ve never studied the stewardship way of life,” Bishop McKnight noted. “It was just part of the ecclesial culture of my parish, and I thought it was how the entire Catholic Church operated.”

Msr. McGread took to heart what the world’s bishops had reaffirmed during the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) — specifically the call for laypeople to step up to their rightful role in the life and mission of the Church.

“This was just his way of doing that,” Bishop McKnight said of Msr. McGread. “It’s how he preached, and it’s how he lived.”

Fr. Lanzrath, speaking on the spirituality of stewardship, reiterated that it’s not about fundraising and is not “another program.”

“Stewardship spirituality is about faith,” said Fr. Lanzrath, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in El Dorado, Kansas.

Namely: “Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor,” he stated.



Eric McArdle and Lisa McArdle give their presentations, and audience members take it all in.

— Photos by Annie Williams

He pointed to four pillars that are critical for parishes to foster stewardship spirituality: hospitality, prayer, formation and service.

He noted that the textbook for stewardship spirituality is the Bible, and that the school of stewardship spirituality is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

“As Jesus says, ‘There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends,’” said Fr. Lanzrath.

He emphasized there will always be needs in every community, but even if there weren’t, everyone would still have the need to give back to God in gratitude for everything he has given.

On the home front

Lisa McArdle, author of a book called *Stewardship Starts At Home*, offered concrete examples of cultivating stewardship in the family.

“It starts at home and begins with how we treat ourselves and those who are closest to us,” she said.

She confronted the all-too-common misconception that people are only “doing stewardship” when they’re helping out at church.

“Yes, that’s a part of it,” she noted. “But if stewardship is, in fact, a way of life that touches every aspect of our lives, it begins with us at home.

“Whether we’re a huge family or a small family, whether we’re a retired couple living by ourselves or a married couple with no children or a family with 10 children, stewardship

really starts with how we treat the people who are closest to us that we often take for granted,” she said.

Mr. McArdle, president of Catholic Stewardship Consultants Inc., said a Catholic understanding of stewardship is grounded in “recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God, and in gratitude sharing our gifts with God and neighbor.”

He emphasized that stewardship is a disciple’s way of life, and that when it’s carried out properly, stewardship changes the lives of individuals and families for the better, helps young people become lifelong disciples, and enables each parish to become more effective in its mission.

He pointed out that in order for parishes to properly promote and sustain a spirituality of stewardship, there must be an increase in effective communication, education and evangelization.

He emphasized the importance of each parish promoting an annual Catholic Stewardship Renewal, allowing each member to pray about and recommit to support the work of the Church through a pledge of time, talent and treasure.

“Once you have a better understanding that it’s not about money but about how we live our lives as disciples of Jesus, that’s when it catches fire and people get excited about it,” he said.

“A lot at stake”

Mrs. Lutz gave a brief overview of this year’s Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR) for the parishes.

She also announced the theme: “Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give,” (Matthew

“Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.”

10:8b).

Bishop McKnight spoke of the essential role stewardship councils must carry out in each parish.

“That is, to help the pastor and the community become aware of the needs that are there and also to make us aware of the resources we have to meet those needs,” he said.

He pointed out that stewardship plays an important role in the diocese’s new three-year pastoral plan and the concurrent deanery plans of the diocese’s five deaneries.

The bishop talked about the importance of all members being engaged in the life and ministry of the Church, “for our salvation and for the salvation of others.”

“There is a lot at stake if we don’t get this right!” he stated. “But the Lord is here to help us no matter what the problems are out in the world or within our Church.”

Making a go of it

Reactions to the Stewardship Conference were overwhelmingly positive.

“It was a great time to come together as a parish and diocese,” stated Nikki Howell of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia.

“I was so inspired and also got concrete things to implement,” said Sharla Buthod of Immaculate Conception Parish in Loose Creek.

“The content and speakers were excel-

lent,” stated Gay Ann Christy, a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark. “I honestly believe those that attended the conference left ‘on fire’ for stewardship and our parish’s 2024 Catholic Stewardship Renewal.”

“It was a very worthwhile day and reiterated the Bishop’s message that the mission of stewardship is about living our faith as a way of life,” stated Mary Burgess, a member of the Our Lady of Snows Parish in Mary’s Home.

Fr. Jones said the diocese hopes to organize another Stewardship Conference next year, hopefully with more time for questions and answers and informal interaction among participants.

“We had a lot things this year that people needed to hear, and we got it all covered,” he stated. “I’m convinced that all of this will continue to bear fruit in all of our parishes.”

Catholic charismatic renewal creates ‘Church on fire’ with God’s love, a bishop states

By Gina Christian
OSV News

The Catholic Church’s charismatic renewal is a movement of the Holy Spirit to “bring about a Church that is on fire” with God’s love, the bishop newly appointed to serve the Holy See’s official charismatic body told OSV News.

“The Catholic charismatic renewal ... is a deeply personal,

life-giving, ongoing, transforming encounter with the Trinity — God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Often it’s (a particular encounter) with the person of Jesus,” said Auxiliary Bishop Peter L. Smith of Portland, Oregon. “And then from there, the empowering of the Holy Spirit ... in a radically new way transforms (the) life of faith.”

In February, Bishop Smith

was appointed the new ecclesiastical assistant of CHARIS, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service, inaugurated by the Holy See on Pentecost in 2019 through the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life.

Bishop Smith succeeds papal preacher Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, who was named to the the post when CHARIS

was inaugurated.

CHARIS, which was in development for three years prior to its formal unveiling, is intended to share with all in the church the baptism in the Holy Spirit, while promoting Christian unity and engaging in service to the poor.

With an international administrative office at the Vatican, CHARIS is supported by voluntary collaborators throughout the world. Among the resources it offers are publications, online courses and in-person training and prayer gatherings.

In particular, CHARIS is intended to provide a single nexus for the charismatic renewal in the Catholic Church, which began in 1967 at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and spread to other U.S. college campuses, including the University of Notre Dame.

While “there’s no hard and fast data” for the current number of Catholics involved in the charismatic renewal, the Vatican roughly estimates the number to be “at least 120 million Catholics” who are active in it, Bishop Smith told OSV News.

“And then there’s probably between another 60 and 120 million Catholics who came through the Catholic charismatic renewal and have gone into (religious) life and ministry,” he added.

The term “baptism in the Holy Spirit” — familiar to Protestant Christians since the early 20th century — marks a “personal Pentecost,” according to CHARIS.

“The bursting forth of the Holy Spirit in the life of a baptized person” following “the

See CHARISMATIC, page 21

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CRUCIFIX

From page 4

for creating art and set about mastering the fundamentals of painting, sculpture and graphic design, along with a healthy dose of salesmanship.

He has produced hundreds of artworks in various forms and styles.

He's a widely recognized pioneer in the realm of Instinctivism (*fatherofinstinctivism.com*), a mode of artistic expression that involves laying down and connecting lines and shapes drawn from memory and the artist's imagination.

He excelled in the early part of his career at advertising and corporate merchandising, securing for himself and his young family a comfortable lifestyle in New York City.

But he came to realize that all of this was taking a toll on his soul.

In 1995, he and Mrs. Tapia decided to move their family back to Missouri, where he started his own business, TapiaConcepts.

In 2013, he accepted the role of art teacher at the recently established Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School.

"I never thought I'd wind up teaching," he recently acknowledged, "and I never figured that I'd be teaching in a Catholic school."

Yet, "being here has brought about some of the most profound changes in my life," he said.

"God has a plan"

From Day 1 at Tolton Catholic, Mr. Tapia's focus has been on helping students unleash their creativity.

"How do you motivate and inspire kids?" he asked aloud. "First, you have to help them give up their fear to fail. That's the key. When they get past that, you can move them to take risks and let their creativity flourish."

In the off hours, he goes about redefining his own limits, leaving the day-to-day progress on his own artwork as a testament to his students.

That's where Mr. Tapia's faith in God finds some of its clearest expression.

"Did I ever think I was going to become a religious artist? Never," he said. "But God has a plan, and he's rewritten

the person who I am and made me one of his tools, and I'm really comfortable with that."

That relationship has grown in proportion to Mr. Tapia's spiritual friendship with the person of Fr. Tolton.

Born into a family of enslaved people in part of what is now the Jefferson City diocese in 1854, Fr. Tolton was baptized where St. Peter Church in Brush Creek now stands.

He recognized and pursued his priestly calling, eventually joining a missionary society and getting ordained in Rome, because no U.S. seminary at that time would accept a Black man.

Fr. Tolton was sent back to serve as a missionary in Quincy and Chicago.

He patiently bore the manifestations of racism throughout his ministry until his death at age 43.

"Being guided"

Filled with inspiration one night and blessed with ongoing guidance, Mr. Tapia set about creating the Fr. Tolton Life Mural on an untreated wall in his classroom.

He wound up spending about 620 hours of his own time rendering more than 200 Prisma color pencils into some 2 million minuscule dots and dashes that form the 9-by-6-foot artwork.

A few years later, he paint-

More photos from this story will be posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, cathmo.com. Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.

ed "The Light that Guides the Faithful," depicting an apocryphal encounter between young, enslaved Augustus Tolton and the priest he would eventually become.

"Whenever I work on religious art, I know I'm being guided," said Mr. Tapia. "It's sort of a warm and secure feeling that you get, a sort of love — 'everything's good, everything's okay.'"

Earlier this year, Mr. Tapia

completed an image of Our Lady of Sorrows, depicting the Blessed Mother lamenting not only the death of her Son on the cross but also the ingratitude with which his sacrifice has been met by so many through the ages.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Tapia awoke from a dream, filled with inspiration and a strong conviction to paint an image of Jesus, crucified.

Fr. Merz contacted the artist the next day about restoring the broken crucifix that had been claimed from the Cathedral during its recent renovation.

The half-century-old crucifix, colored to match the white Travertine marble in the Cathedral sanctuary, was worn and chipped in several places, and one of the arms and the fingers had been broken into 18 pieces during the removal.

Upon hearing about the request, Mr. Tapia's wife reminded her husband about the dream he had recently had.

"I knew I was supposed to do a painting of Jesus," he noted. "It turns out that it was supposed to be a three-dimensional painting!"

The artist immediately accepted the challenge, despite his recent shoulder surgery.

"More of a passion"

Like the Fr. Tolton Life Mural, the crucifix took on a life of its own.

"Working with Jesus — it's not just a project, it's more of a passion," Mr. Tapia stated.

The tedious reconstruction and restoration work forced him to be creative, to find ways to make it all work.

He liked the idea of his students seeing each day's progress and thinking, "If he can do that, than certainly I can do whatever he's encouraging me to do."

He could have simply repaired the arms, reassembled the 18 shattered pieces back into a hand, and reapplied the neutral, monochrome paint.

Instead, he chose to add



— Photo by Annie Williams

signs of fading life to the eyes; subtle but noticeable trails of blood from each wound; and hair cast askew by wind and sweat.

He fashioned an unusual fragment of a tree trunk that had been given to him years previously into the weathered sign Pontius Pilate has placed above Jesus's head, proclaiming his kingship.

"This has been an impactful journey for me and for my students," the artist stated. "They saw it when it was still cracked and broken. They've watched me go through the struggles with it."

Mr. Tapia also felt the reassurance that has been guiding his work since he arrived back in Columbia.

"I looked upon this pitted and shattered body and started thinking, 'What did Christ feel on the cross? What did he truly feel? And what would he say to me today if he were watching me do this work?'" he said.

"My mission"

This year's diocesan Teacher's In-Service was held at Tolton Catholic, giving Catholic school teachers from throughout the diocese a chance to pass by the art room and see the restoration work on the crucifix up-close.

Some who had seen several of Mr. Tapia's playful past works in progress were amazed to see him working on something so deep and religious.

Others were inspired by the work itself, including the skillful restoration of what had been broken, and the creative stylization that gives it depth

and trueness of life.

"I think that reflects how Mr. Tapia's gifts have always been a great contribution to Tolton Catholic," one of his former students stated, "but now he's bringing in a whole other, very glorious dimension, which is his faith."

He and several others set about moving the restored crucifix to the Newman Center on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Then, the left hand broke off of the wrist.

"I was for a moment shocked, confused and terribly disappointed," Mr. Tapia recalled.

He spent two days repairing and repainting the hand.

The finished work was lifted into position on Good Friday, with only minutes to spare before the blessing.

"The timing was not my plan but it was God's plan," the artist stated. "I just didn't know it at the time. This whole process was guided."

Seeing the evocative artwork high above the altar inspires Fr. Merz to pray in thanksgiving for Mr. Tapia, his students, and all affected by his artwork.

"Every time Lonnie listens to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the whole Church benefits," he said.

Fr. Merz invited Mr. and Mrs. Tapia to attend this year's Tolton Ambassadors' Fr. Tolton Celebration Mass at the Newman Center on April 21. The people applauded when the priest thanked the artist for his hard work and passionate attention to detail.

Mr. Tapia said he believes he's on a mission to glorify God through his teaching and his art and in promoting devotion to and friendship with Fr. Tolton, the man.

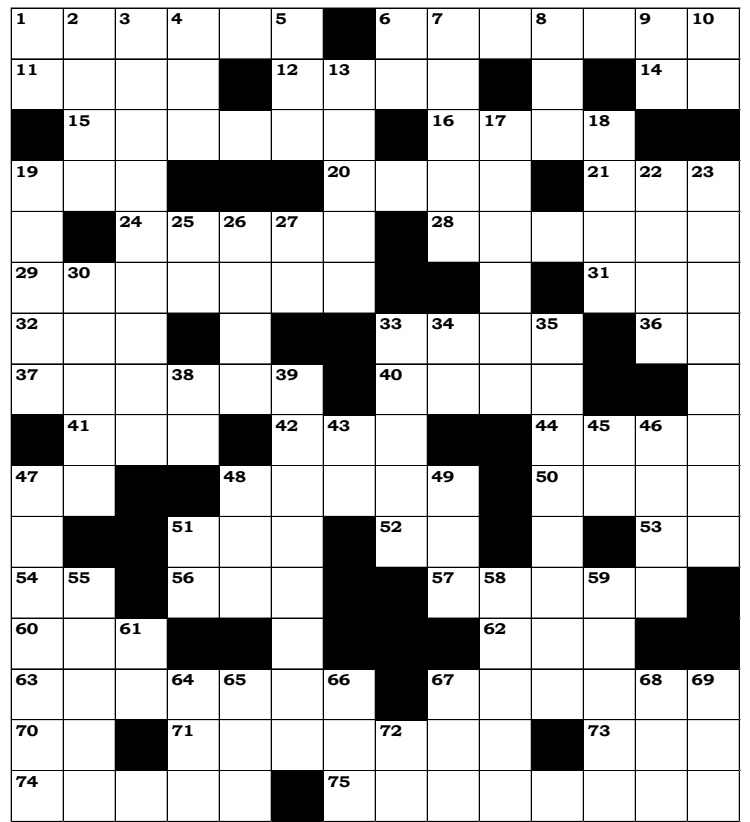
"I have to do more religious art," Mr. Tapia stated. "And I want my students to try it. I won't make them, but I want them all to have this feeling."

"I'm willing to do this," he said. "This is my mission, and I know I will be held accountable for it at the end of my life."



By Father Donald Antweiler
ACROSS

1. "Wine was a very important _____ in the history of Israel and in the time of Jesus. Everybody knew that God himself first showed Noah how it was made," —*Daily Life in the Time of Jesus*, Henri Daniel-Rops.
6. "In retrospect, . . . when Harry S. Truman warned Stalin to keep away from the Japanese home _____, our accidental president made one of his most important decisions, one that ranks with his decision to drop the bomb," —*The Soviet Invasion of Japan, in Military History Quarterly*, Robert Cowley.
11. Bro and sis.
12. An unworthy king of Israel (1 Kings 16:8, 13).
14. In 1861, "Gen. John Fremont found the State (of Mo.), he reported _____ Lincoln, 'in disorder, nearly every county in an insurrectionary condition,'" —*The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, Eric Foner.
15. "Wine was always spoken of as having the color of blood, and thus it was a deep red or _____ color. It was full bodied, rich in alcohol and tannin. It was drank mixed with water, not straight," —*Daily Life... Ibid.*
16. "For everyone who _____, receives..." (Luke 11:10).
19. Letters for the United States Navy.
20. "Though an _____ encamp against me..." (Psalms 27:3).
21. Useful certification for a professional tax preparer.
24. "Like today, there were different qualities of wine, some _____, some sweeter, some considered inferior, some more desirable (e.g. wedding at Cana). Israelites often blended their wines. Honeyed wine was not uncommon," —*Daily Life... Ibid.*
28. Two disciples met the risen Christ through Scripture and the Breaking of the Bread on the road to _____ (Luke 24:13).
29. "(You bring) wine to _____ our hearts," (Psalms 104:15). "Give strong drink to one who is perishing and wine to the sorely depressed..." (Proverbs 31:6-7). "Wine is very life to man if taken in moderation," (Sirach 31:27). The Scriptures speak of wine 141 times.
31. Bikini top.
32. The Employer Identification Number (_____) is used to identify a business entity, for tax purposes, for ex.
33. Snooty person.
36. _____. (Elwyn Brooks) White; 1899-1985; versatile Am. writer; 1978 Pulitzer Prize; notable among other things for his three children's classics: *Charlotte's Web*, *The Trumpet of the Swan* and *Stuart Little*.
37. "Since wine, like meat, was considered _____, it had to be kosher, that is, made only by Jewish hands," —*Daily Life... Ibid.*
40. "Wine was kept in either _____ jars, or in wineskins made out of goat's hide with wooden stoppers. Wine was drank from metal goblets or earthenware mugs, and although glass was known, it was scarce and expensive. Wine was always filtered before consuming it," —*Daily Life... Ibid.*
41. Letters for Residents Encounter Christ, a three-day Cursillo-based retreat for prison ministry.
42. A supermarket chain.
44. The main character in Walt Disney's animated film Frozen.
47. "When Cor and Aravis were grown, they were so used to quarrelling and making up again that they got married so _____ to go on doing it more conveniently. They made a good king and queen," — "The Horse and His Boy," *Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S. Lewis.
48. "I craved a few hours of sleep as a man who'd been crawling for days through the desert craves an _____," —*Run For Your Life*, James Patterson.
50. "Arrest that hoe in the hands of the negro, and you smite the rebellion in the very _____ of its life," —former slave and spokesman Frederick Douglas in *Battle Cry of Freedom*, James McPherson.
51. "To live like a lion for a day is _____ better than to live for a hundred years like a jackal," —Tipu Sultan, powerful anti-British Sultan of the Kingdom of Mysore, in India, 1780s. His revolt helped turn the Am. Rev. War into a World War for Britain.
52. "_____ matter how bad a situation is, you can always make it worse," —*An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*, Col. Chris Hadfield.
53. This State, the Granite State, in 1775 became the first to declare its independence from England (abbr.).
54. "The trip from Washington to _____, Louis in 1864 took about four days," —*Lincoln's Men: The President and His Private Secretaries*, Daniel M. Epstein (abbr.).
56. "Oh, you _____, indeed you do. In one little year your end will come," —*Personal Reflections of Joan of Arc*, Mark Twain.
57. "It was only red wine that was consumed in biblical times. There is no mention of _____ wine," —*Daily Life... Ibid.*
60. Ultra-High Frequency (_____) signals are used for TV, cell phones, GPS, walkie-talkies, Wi-Fi, etc.
62. The Italian company Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (_____), or National Hydrocarbons Board, is one of the "supermajor" oil companies in the world, headquartered in Rome.
63. The _____ River is one of the longest free-flowing waterways in Mo., 281 miles long from its headwaters near Salem to the Mississippi near St. Louis, draining nearly 4,000 sq. miles. Tour boats, gravel barges, ferry boats, and canoe outfitters use the river. Many nature trails along its bluffs give views of wildlife.
67. "Is this a _____ which I see before me, the handle toward my hand?" —"Macbeth," act 2, scene 1, Shakespeare.
70. Comparative suffix.
71. A Massey Ferguson or a John Deere, perhaps.
73. Letters for Electric Light Orchestra, a 1970-80s, 2014-present English band fusing rock with classical overtones; 50 million records sold worldwide; elected to Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2017.
74. "The world bursts at the _____ with people ready to tell you you're not good enough," —Keith Olbermann.
75. "Wine helped kill water-borne _____, though the people of the time didn't know of this. They did know wine had a medicinal effect," —*Daily Life... Ibid.*
- one who has dared to blaspheme God," —*The Case for Jesus*, Brant Pitre.
8. Noah's boat.
9. 5th bk. of the Bible.
10. "I didn't think then that one had to suffer very much to reach sanctity, but God was not long in showing me this was not _____ and in sending me trials," —*Story of a Soul*, autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.
13. "You have a dog and it misbehaves, you do something it doesn't like. It'll _____ to mend its ways. You're clearly not as smart as an average dog. Probably not as smart as a stupid dog," —*The Secret*, Lee Child & Andrew Child.
17. The vine was a _____ for Israel in the Scriptures. Jesus even spoke of himself as the vine (John 15:1-6).
18. "If you keep picking a _____ it will bleed and never heal. If you keep dragging the pain of the past up, it will never heal," —Leon Brown.
19. "Be wary of the man who _____ an action in which he himself incurs no risk," —Roman philosopher Lucius Seneca.
22. Despite urgings about moderation, wine was often in ample amounts because it "cheered the heart," also because of the very real problem that water was often not _____ or fresh. Spring water was strongly preferred over well water.



DOWN

1. Letters for Sacred Scriptures.
2. "Hey Bobby. Got time to give your little brother some _____ on defusing a nuke?" —*Zero Day*, David Baldacci.
3. "Vineyards and grapes were in _____ in Israel. The grapes were occasionally eaten directly, but most of them went toward making wine. Israel prided itself on producing a lot of very good wine," —*Daily Life... Ibid.*
4. Parish School of Religion (_____) programs provide catechetical instruction for children and youth who attend public schools.
5. Slippery fish.
6. Hogs outnumber people 4 to 1 in this Mo. border State.
7. "...execution is not enough. Blasphemy requires crucifixion — being 'hung' — so all can see the _____ of the

CLUES continued on page 21

CLUES

From page 20

23. Jesus often had to defend his healing on ___ day; e.g., Luke 6:9; Luke 14:1-6 (2 wds.).
25. Akin to Ave. or Hwy.
26. "...brothers, admonish the ____, cheer the faint-hearted..." (1 Thessalonians 5:14).
27. Wide size shoe.
30. "...for the mouths of ____ will be shut!" (Psalms 63:12).
33. "Though you scour it with soap...the ____ of your guilt is still before me," (Jeremiah 2:22).
34. Chem. letters for sodium.
35. "Wine in moderation was considered a great ____, but Jews were also well aware that excessive wine could be dangerous. Scripture is full of warnings about drunkenness, e.g., Proverbs 23:31-32, 35," —*Daily Life...* Ibid.
38. Brand of soda.
39. "When Paul tells Timothy to drink some wine to settle his stomach (1 Timothy 5:23), he was alluding to the fact that in those days water alone often tended to cause the stomach to be sore and inflamed, and to bring either ____ or constipation," —*Daily Life...* Ibid.
43. On the NYSE, letters for Goldman Sachs, a global investment banking and financial services company.
45. ____ Café du Monde is my favorite breakfast spot in New Orleans.
46. "A ____ person to an insane society must appear insane," —Kurt Vonnegut.
47. "Jealousy is a disease, love is a healthy condition. The immature mind ____ that the greater the love, the greater the jealousy," —Robert Heinlein.
48. Needed for boat propulsion.
49. "Those who ____ in tears will reap with cries of joy," (Psalms 126:5).
51. Santa ____ is the oldest capital city of all 50 U.S. States.
55. "____ is giving, caring and compassion for people here in this State of Mo. that you don't find anywhere else. And I'm all over the world," —Clinton, Mo.-raised Da-

- vid Steward, founder of the largest Black-owned company in the U.S., St. Louis based World Wide Technology.
58. The Immaculate ____ of Mary is the patroness of our diocese.
59. Mizzou mascot.
61. Possible abbr. before a priest's name.
64. Money machine.
65. Possible abbr. before a wife's name.
66. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (US____) is the assembly of Am. bishops who jointly exercise pastoral functions for the Catholic faithful of the U.S.
67. Friend of Gunsmoke's Matt Dillon or one of Disney's Seven Dwarfs.
68. High priest who raised Samuel the prophet (1 Samuel 2:11-26).
69. Letters for Return On Assets which measures how efficiently (or not) a company's management is generating profits from its assets.
72. Letters for Teacher's Asst.

See ANSWERS, page 23

WOMEN

From page 8

to identify paths of negotiation and peace," it said.

The council will meet again in June. The members of the council are: Cardinals Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state; Seán P. O'Malley of Boston; Sérgio da Rocha of São Salvador da Bahia, Brazil; Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India; Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, president of the commission governing Vatican City State; Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg; Gérald C. Lacroix of Québec; Juan José Omella Omella of Barcelona; and Fridolin Ambongo Besungu of Kinshasa, Congo. Bishop Marco Mellino serves as the council's secretary.

Hidden in plain sight



Children of the Mission of St. Joseph in Hurricane Branch take part in the annual Easter Egg Hunt outside their church after Mass on Easter Sunday.

— Photo from the Friends of St. Joseph Hurricane Branch Catholic Church Facebook page

CHARISMATIC

From page 18

experience of the personal encounter with the living Jesus" leads to conversion — which in turn is expressed through "prayer groups, communities, ministries, schools of evangelization, religious institutions, and all the realities the Holy Spirit might inspire," CHARIS notes on its website.

Bishop Smith admitted the term "baptism in the Holy Spirit" can be a confusing one for many Catholics, given the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, which the experience is not meant to replace but rather to complement.

"It can be just a wonderful moment of additional grace that God pours into your life," said Bishop Smith. "It's a grace of God that can be a release of the grace of the Holy Spirit received at baptism, the seed of the life of Christ and of the Holy Spirit. It can be a fuller release of the gift of the Holy Spirit that you receive at confirmation."

The experience "works differently for different people," but results in the deepening of faith and a sense of evangelical mission, he said.

"That's what happened with me," said Bishop Smith, who completed his undergraduate education, law degree

and military service before moving to the U.S. from his homeland of South Africa. After arriving in the U.S., he joined People of Praise, a Christian charismatic community that grew out of the renewal's spread from Duquesne University to the University of Notre Dame. He was ordained a priest in 2001 and a bishop in 2014.

"I was always a good Catholic. My faith had survived the military and college. I knew God existed and was real, but it wasn't personal to me in that way," said Bishop Smith, whose life was changed by his "particular encounter" with Lord at age 20 — an encounter that has continued "ever since," he said.

The Catholic charismatic renewal is not "a strict movement per se" but a "service of communion," said Bishop Smith — one born of what Pope Francis has called "a current of grace."

"A movement has a founder or founders, and they set a particular way of life, whereas for the Catholic charismatic renewal, that wasn't the case," said Bishop Smith. "It was the Holy Spirit who began this current of grace that swept through the church, and ... it's quite broad and has a number of dif-

ferent streams to it."

That "current of grace" often catches Catholics by surprise, leading to unexpected destinations in the journey of faith, said Bishop Smith.

"Many Catholic charismatics will tell you, they were going along as kind of mediocre Catholics," he said. "And then this (baptism of the Holy Spirit) happened, and it was like their faith just switched on and came alive. And then they act on it."

Bishop Smith said that "profound things can happen out of very, very simple moments" of encounter with the divine.

The exchange of wedding vows, for example, "takes just two to three minutes, but something radically new has come into being" in the process, as "the two become one," he said.

At the same time — and just as in a marriage — the daily living out of that new reality involves hard work, humility and dedication, he said.

"There's the honeymoon period, then the adjustment period, then the rest of our life," said Bishop Smith.

He pointed to the trajectory of the 16-day revival at Asbury University in February 2023 and a similar event the

following month at Holy Cross Parish in Bronx, New York, as examples of how powerful moments of grace evolve into enhanced faith and service.

Both revivals were "an outpouring of the Spirit, or at least ... an experience of God's presence and God's grace that was particular to that place, that God gave it as a special gift," said Bishop Smith. "And the people leading it were smart enough to know that this isn't necessarily in perpetuity; God was blessing them for a time ... allow people ... to experience his grace in this way. And it's radical and touches and transforms their lives."

"But the challenge is you don't want to keep going back. ... (If) you've been married 20 years, you can't go back and live your marriage the way you did when you were on your honeymoon," said Bishop Smith. "You've changed, life has changed, but (with) the grace you have of your relationship and marriage, you need to continue to live ... (having) really experienced the power and the presence, the love, the mercy, the forgiveness of God."

Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.

Need more info about an event or want to see more events?
Visit the diocesan EVENT CALENDAR at diojeffcity.org/events.
Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Apr. 26-27

Camdenton, St. Anthony Parish annual Spring garage sale, Fri 7 am-4 pm, Sat 7 am-2 pm

May 2

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

May 3

Jefferson City, El Puente Hispanic Ministry's trivia night, 6-10 pm, Cana Hall, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or to register visit elpuentemo.org; **Jefferson City**, Fraternal Order of Eagles chicken lunch & dinner, 11 am-7 pm, 1411 Mo. Blvd.

May 7

Columbia, Vitae Foundation Pro-Life Dinner, 7-9 pm, Holiday Inn Executive Center, to register visit vitaefoundation.org

May 12

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

May 31

Freeburg, Cruise-in and Holy Family Parish BBQ, 5 pm-midnight, parish grounds

Meetings & Conferences

May 1

Jefferson City, Midwest March for Life, 8 am-2:30 pm, Missouri State Capitol south steps and lawn, for info visit [midwest](https://midwestmarchforlife.org)

marchforlife.com; **Westphalia**, "What is the deal with all the Jesus signs?" Divine Mercy presentation with John Michael McGlenn, 6-7:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

May 2

St. Martins, Protecting God's Children (VIRTUS® training), 6:30-8:30 pm, St. Martin Parish; **Wardsville**, "What is the deal with all the Jesus signs?" Divine Mercy presentation with John Michael McGlenn, 6-7:30 pm, St. Stanislaus Church

May 8

Folk, Presentation on Dignitas Infinita, 5:45-6:45 pm, St. Anthony of Padua Parish Hall

May 17-19

St. Louis, 25th Anniversary St. Louis Marian Conference, Renaissance Hotel-St. Louis Airport, for info or to register, call 314-850-7718 or visit stlmc.org

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

mayo 18

Jefferson City, Retiro de Quinceañera, 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 ecasastro@diojeffcity.org; **Marshall**, Retiro de Quinceañera, 10 am-4 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 ecastro@diojeffcity.org

mayo 25

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

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Tuesday

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

Every Friday

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

Apr. 27

Moberly, "Morning of Retreat" for diocesan music ministers, 9 am-noon, St. Pius X Parish, for info or to register email JeffersonCityMO@npm.org

May 2-5

Camdenton, Women's Cursillo Weekend #81, St. Anthony Parish, for info or to register email jeffcity.diocese.cursillo@gmail.com or visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo

May 8

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>

May 15

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

May 18

Columbia/Jefferson City/VIR-TUAL, "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; **Columbia**, "Life in the Spirit," CoMo Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group, 8 am-4 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish multipurpose room

Liturgical

May 12

Laurie, Mother's Day Mass, beginning with free brunch

9:15-11 am, Mass 1:30-2:30 pm and unveiling of recently added name to Mothers' Wall of Life, RSVP at mothersshrine.com

May 14

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

May 15

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

Ave Maria professor: Earth Day needs Catholics' engagement

OSV News

Ave Maria, Florida

Professor Samuel Shephard from Ave Maria University suggests that Catholics can contribute a unique perspective to Earth Day, celebrated each April 22, by viewing it as an opportunity to fulfill their role as stewards of creation.

Shephard said Catholics can place the importance of practical actions like reducing plastic use and ethical clothing purchases within the context of God's "loving plan for salvation."

But research shows Catholics are not fully engaged with the Catholic Church's longstanding teaching on caring for creation. Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate shows 72% of U.S. Catholics affirm the legitimate urgency of "environmental justice," but just one-third are aware of Pope Francis' landmark 2015 envi-

ronmental encyclical, "Laudato Si'."

Shephard advocates for changing this disconnection, promoting a new minor in Agriculture and Catholic Environmental Stewardship at Ave Maria.

This program seeks to equip students with the tools to become effective environmental stewards through hands-on education, including theology courses inspired by "Laudato Si'."

Shephard believes Catholic teachings on the human person's role in creation can enhance the global environmental conversation and help Catholics give a witness to their faith in Jesus Christ.

"This is absolutely part of what it is to be a Catholic — to take care of the poor; to take care of creation," he said. "It's a matter of justice — of giving due to God, and to our neighbor."

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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

Argyle, St. Aloysius
 Scott & Jackie Reichel, 20 years
 Ross & Sarah Juergensmeyer, 10 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter
 John & Beth Utrecht, 50 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus
 Robert & Debby Hoelscher, 50 years

Baptisms

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary — **Bennett John Keilholz**, son of Jacob & Kara Keilholz

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Luca Dewayne Hamilton**, son of Draven & Gracie Hamilton

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Wyatt Dalen Bell**, son of Dalen & Alison Bell; **Beau Brant Kempker**, son of Jerry & Kelsey Kempker

Morrison, Assumption — **Callen William Michael Rost**, son of Michael & Casey Rost

Pilot Grove, St. Joseph — **Bonnie Jay Twenter**, daughter of Brett & Shelby Twenter

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Bryer Michael Brehm**, son of Luke & Tegan Brehm

SR. CONSTANCE

From page 9

on my college applications!

In just a few weeks, however, I discovered qualities within myself that I never knew existed — gifts like love and empathy for the elderly and joy in making them happy — and I came to the conviction that caring for the elderly — giving my life for them — was my God-given purpose and my mission in life!

Discovering who I was, what my special gifts were and where I could make them bear fruit, led me to experience a sense of personal fulfillment and lasting joy.

Despite life's inevitable ups and downs, this joy and purpose have never waned; they have endured for almost 40 years now!

Even when I was quite self-absorbed and ignorant of his ways, in his kindness God came to meet me where I was and to make himself known to me.

This encounter, though completely

Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Kaitlyn Farris & Judson Everts**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Claire Luebbering & Kyler Griep**

Birthdays

Shelbina, St. Mary — **George Wilt**, his 90th on May 1

Deaths

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Adrienne Fairley**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Grace Blank; Charles Morris**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **John "Jack" Madigan; Richard Sefcik**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Kevin Kliethermes**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Simon "Sam" Suthoff**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Leslie "Chip" Long**

unexpected, was very real.

When I look back at my own vocation, I often think of the words Pope Benedict XVI addressed to young people during his inaugural homily on April 24, 2005: "With great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ — and you will find true life!"

If you think God might be calling you to a vocation of service, feel free to email me at serenity@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

VIGIL

From page 13

of it, and that when you're here to bear witness to it, that it hurts. You feel that empathy."

Josh Schmidt, a junior at St. Louis University High School, had participated in two previous execution vigils.

"Going into my first one, I was kind of skeptical about what I thought about it. I had grown up with 'an eye for an eye' teaching, and I always felt indifferent about it," he said. "But after my first time there, I was just moved by the presence of the people and how somber it was. You could tell that this is the right thing that we should be doing. We should be supporting whoever is (being executed); it doesn't matter who they are, or what they did — it's the right thing to do. It's inherent human dignity."

Dorsey was the first person executed in Missouri in 2024 and the fifth execution nationwide. Alabama, Texas, Georgia and Oklahoma have each executed one person this year.

David Hosier's execution is scheduled for June 11 in Bonne Terre.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "The Church teaches,

in light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and the dignity of the person,' and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide" (CCC 2267).

Laura Kosta is a reporter for the St. Louis Review and Catholic St. Louis, publications of the St. Louis archdiocese (archstl.org).

QUESTION

From page 8

often though saints such as Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, and Ignatius of Loyola — was calling the faithful to a greater spirit of penance and a more personal engagement in prayer after some of the abuses that occurred in the medieval period.

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

Last survivor of USS Arizona, dead at 102, is recalled for strong faith, commitment

OSV News

Grass Valley, California

By any measure, Louis Anthony "Lou" Conter, a Catholic hero of World War II who died April 1 at his home in Grass Valley, California, at age 102, led a celebrated life.

Conter's funeral Mass will be celebrated April 23 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Grass Valley, followed by burial with full military honors.

Born in Ojibwa, Wisconsin, on Sept. 13, 1921, Conter graduated from high school in Colorado. He escaped a hardscrabble life — at age 7, he hunted rabbits in Kansas, where his family was living, in order to provide dinner — and a job in a Hormel meatpacking plant by enlisting in the Navy in 1939.

As a quartermaster on the battleship *USS Arizona* in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Conter was one of only 335 crewmen and officers aboard to survive the assault by Japanese fighter pilots, bombers and torpedo planes that sank it on Dec. 7, 1941, launching the United States into World War II.

The sailors and Marines killed aboard

numbered 1,177.

The *Arizona* casualties amounted to nearly half of the 2,403 U.S. personnel, including 68 civilians, who died that day.

Conter served for 28 years, retiring at the rank of lieutenant commander, the highest rank possible for someone with a high school diploma.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

cathmo.com

Staff and residents of the Frankenstein Zoo



It was a zoo in Frankenstein as students of St. Mary School prepared and presented reports on 18 different animals, led by four student scientists. Students held two performances and paired the second with their annual service project. The school raised \$558 for veterans and wounded warriors. — Photo by Theresa Wagner

Food for thought



Motivational speaker Susie Thompson, a member of St. Peter Parish in Marshall, shares stories and advice for high school students during an April 21 gathering of the St. Peter Parish Youth Group. — Photo by Carol Wolfe

'It is finished'

Seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg act out the Fourteenth Station — Jesus is Buried in the Tomb — while presenting the Live Stations of the Cross on March 27, the Wednesday of Holy Week, in St. Joseph Church. The fifth- and sixth-graders sang in the choir for the presentation.

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



Knights essay contest



Toby Libbert, a student at Holy Family School in Freeburg, placed second statewide in the 2023-2024 Missouri State Knights of Columbus Essay Contest. He is pictured here with Father William Debo, pastor of Holy Family Parish and of Sacred Heart Parish in Rich Fountain and Mrs. Perrey, Toby's Language Arts teacher. The topic was: "What is the importance of the Eucharist to me in my life?" Student participation in the 2023-24 K of C Essay Contest exceeded 600 essays, making it the largest in recent years.

— Photo from the Holy Family School and Parish Facebook page

diojeffcity.org

Bible Accent

When the gentiles started to become followers of Jesus, a debate arose: Should they be required to follow the Mosaic law?

In Acts 15, we read that Paul, Barnabas and some others went to Jerusalem to ask the apostles, who discussed the question with other Church leaders and with help from the Holy Spirit.

After much debate, Peter arose. He pointed out that all Jews, past and present, never successfully followed the Mosaic law.

“Why, then, are you now putting God to the test by placing on the shoulders of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?” he asked.

James also shared his thoughts.

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we ought to stop troubling the gentiles who turn to God,” he said, “but tell them by letter to avoid pollution from idols, unlawful marriage, the meat of strangled animals and blood.”

Paul, Barnabas and some others delivered a letter to the gentiles, telling them they could become followers of Jesus without following the entire Mosaic law. They also outlined the things James had said to avoid.

“If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right,” they told the gentiles.

St. John of Avila

St. John of Avila was born near Toledo, Spain, in 1500. When he grew up, his wealthy parents sent him to school to study law. Instead, he



chose to live as a hermit for three years and was ordained a priest in 1525. He had hoped to become a missionary to Mexico, but his archbishop sent him to minister in Andalusia in southern Spain, where he served for nine years. He was briefly imprisoned during the Spanish Inquisition, but after his release, he continued to evangelize. John died in 1569, and we remember him on May 10.

Paul and Barnabas preach to the gentiles

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

One day, while the apostles were worshipping and fasting, the Holy Spirit told them something.

“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them,” the Holy Spirit said.

Barnabas and Saul — who became known as Paul — received a blessing from their friends before leaving on their first missionary journey to preach about Jesus in gentile cities. The gentiles were non-Jews who believed in false gods.

When they preached in Iconium, which is located in present-day Turkey, they converted many gentiles and even some Jews to Christianity. After a while, the Jews living in Iconium who did not believe in Jesus made people mad at Paul and Barnabas. The two men fled the city before they were killed.

Their next stop was Lystra, also in what is now present-day Turkey. There they met a man who was crippled since birth.

The man was in a crowd of people listening to Paul preach. Paul noticed the man and saw that he had faith to be healed.

“Stand up straight on your feet,” Paul told him.

The man jumped up and began to walk around. The others who had been listening to Paul speak were amazed. But, since they believed in false gods,



Illustration by Linda Rivers

they mistakenly thought Paul was a god. They did not understand that Paul had performed the miracle through the power of God and Jesus.

“The gods have come down to us in human form,” the people in the crowd said excitedly.

They began calling Paul and Barnabas by the names of Greek gods, and a priest from a nearby pagan temple brought oxen to sacrifice to them.

Paul and Barnabas began to tear their garments.


“Men, why are you doing this?” they shouted as they rushed into the crowd. “We

are of the same nature as you, human beings. We proclaim to you good news that you should turn from these idols to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them.”

Even with these words, Paul and Barnabas scarcely kept the crowd from offering sacrifice to them.



Read more about it... Acts 13 & 14

1. What miracle did Paul perform in Lystra?
2. Who did the people of Lystra think Paul was?



What were the names of the Greek gods the people called Paul and Barnabas?
(Hint: Acts 14:12)

Answer: Zeus (Barnabas) and Hermes (Paul).

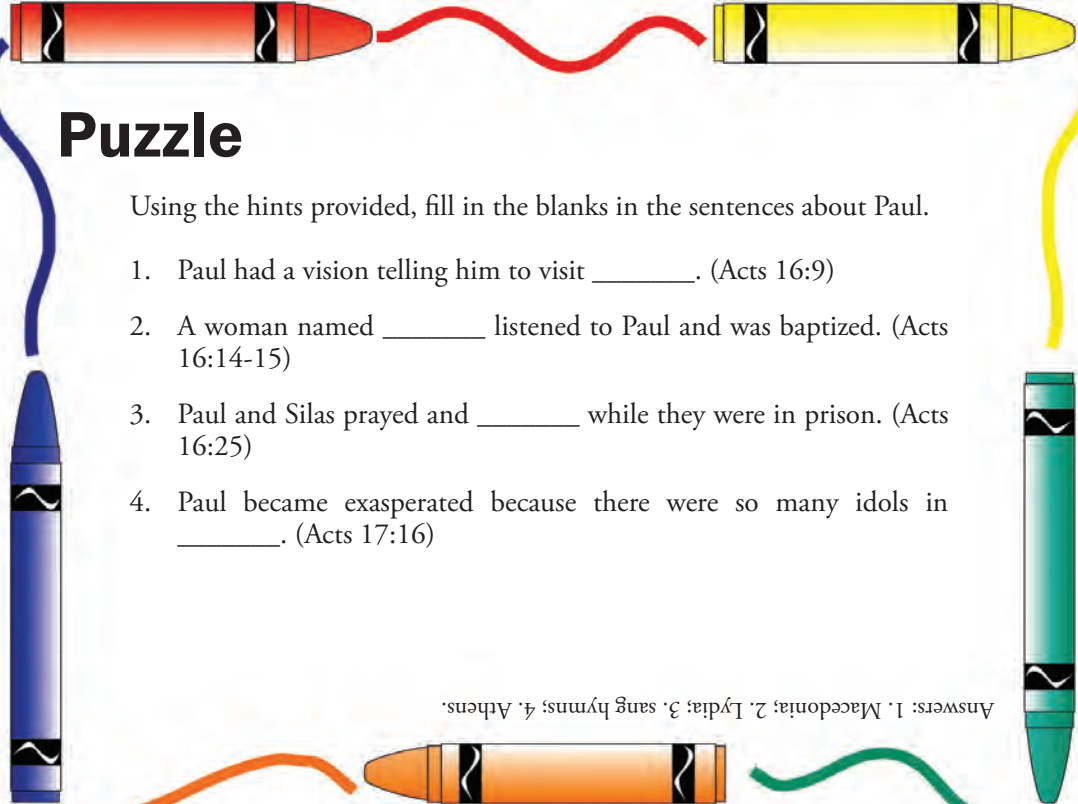



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Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences about Paul.

1. Paul had a vision telling him to visit _____. (Acts 16:9)
2. A woman named _____ listened to Paul and was baptized. (Acts 16:14-15)
3. Paul and Silas prayed and _____ while they were in prison. (Acts 16:25)
4. Paul became exasperated because there were so many idols in _____. (Acts 17:16)

Answers: 1. Macedonia; 2. Lydia; 3. sang hymns; 4. Athens.

Pope Francis on his relationship with Benedict: 'He always defended me'

By Justin McLellan
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

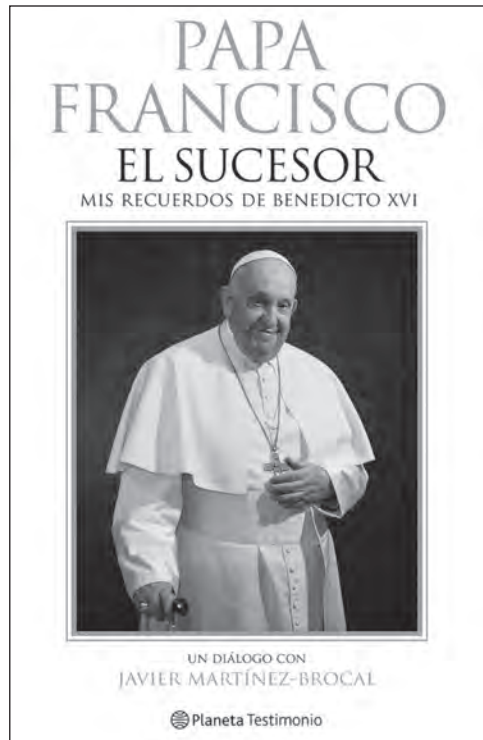
For the nearly 10 years that Pope Francis and retired Pope Benedict XVI lived on opposite sides of St. Peter's Basilica, the two popes' relationship was marked by a deep mutual respect and profound sense of solidarity, Pope Francis said.

The retired pope, he said, would even defend Pope Francis before his critics.

In a book-length interview, *El Sucesor* ("The Successor"), scheduled for publication in Spain April 3, Pope Francis recalled the support he received from his predecessor in specific incidents and throughout his pontificate.

Speaking with Spanish journalist Javier Martínez-Brocal, the pope pointed to the time he spoke favorably about French civil union laws during an airborne press conference returning to Rome from Slovakia. laws.

A group of cardinals went to the Vatican monastery where Pope Benedict lived and, he said, "practically put me on trial, and in front of him they



accused me of promoting homosexual marriage."

"Benedict was not shaken, because he knew perfectly well what I think," Pope Francis said. "He listened to them, one by one, calmed them down and explained everything."

Pope Francis said the situation made him realize that people around him were silently waiting for opportunities to attack him, but Pope Benedict "always defended me."

In three separate inter-

view sessions with Martínez-Brocal for the book, Pope Francis repeated several times that Pope Benedict never said he disagreed with him, but that the retired pope would sometimes encourage him to seek out more information or consider other points of view.

"He never took his support away from me. Maybe there was something I did that he did not agree with, but he never said so," Pope Francis recalled.

The pope traced Pope Benedict's support for him back to when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires. He said that as he was approaching 75 — the age at which all Catholic bishops must offer their resignation to the pope — a group of Vatican officials in the Dicastery for Bishops "had assembled a story so that the pope would accept my resignation as archbishop of Buenos Aires" and already had a replacement for him lined up.

"I don't know why Cardinal Bergoglio has so many enemies here," Pope Francis recalled his predecessor saying in a conversation with Cardinal Marc Ouellet, then-prefect of the dicastery, before deciding to postpone his resignation for two years.

Cardinal Bergoglio was elected pope less than 15 months after his 75th birthday.

On air





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Movie Ratings

 General Patronage	Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)
 Adults	The American Society of Magical Negroes (PG-13) Arthur the King (PG-13) Dune: Part Two (PG-13) Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (PG-13) Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG-13) Imaginary (PG-13) Irena's Vow (R) One Life (PG)
 Limited Adult Audience	Civil War (R)
 Morally Offensive	Abigail (R) Immaculate (R) The First Omen (R) Road House (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

"I experienced that decision as a demonstration of confidence in me that I was very grateful for," he said.

However, Pope Francis did not shy away from discussing tensions with Pope Benedict's aides. Praising Pope Benedict's meekness — which he insisted was not a weakness — Pope Francis said some people close to Pope Benedict took advantage of his kind nature, "limited his actions" and gradually "fenced him off."

Pope Francis called the supposed tensions between his supporters and supporters of Pope Benedict "nonsense," adding that some people in the Church use Pope Benedict to attack him only when they don't have real arguments to make against him, and that such people even "attribute things to Benedict that are not true."

"If there was a man than went forward, that was progressive, it was him," the pope said referring to his predecessor, noting how then-Father Joseph Ratzinger was "viewed with skepticism" during the Second Vatican Council for his advanced views. "Also, the decision to resign was very forward-thinking, very progressive."

While he noted that all

popes are in some way misunderstood, Pope Francis said that "in the case of Benedict, (people) did not understand that interior freedom that he had."

"His resignation was an act of integrity. He was a man that was not at all attached to power," Pope Francis said.

After being elected to succeed Pope Benedict in 2013, he said he never felt pressure from the retired pope, although they sometimes discussed issues together.

The German Synodal Path was of concern to Pope Benedict, he said, and they discussed the letter Pope Francis sent to German Catholics in 2019. However, he said, they did not discuss Pope Francis' 2021 apostolic letter "*Traditionis Custodes*" (Guardians of the Tradition) restricting the celebration of the pre-Vatican II Mass which Pope Benedict had expanded.

Pope Benedict died Dec. 31, 2022. Pope Francis said that while he was not involved in planning Pope Benedict's funeral, he said he has already made changes to simplify the papal funeral rites to bury popes "like any son of the Church."

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SUCCESSOR

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Among the changes, he said, popes will have a single wake during which the body will already be in a casket rather than lying on a catafalque for public viewing.

While Pope Francis said Pope Benedict fits the bill for being proclaimed a doctor of the

Church — a saint whose writings have had a particularly notable influence on Catholic theology or spirituality — he said the naming of new doctors of the Church is on hold since so many religious congregations request that their founders receive the title.

GOOD SHEPHERD

From page 3



LEFT: Father Steven Beseau, rector and president of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, presents Bishop W. Shawn McKnight the Josephinum's 2024 Good Shepherd Award. **RIGHT:** Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann, a seminarian and transitional deacon of the Jefferson City diocese who is to be ordained this spring, shares a reflection on his own time in formation at the Josephinum.

— Photos from the Pontifical College Josephinum

“No one knows as much about the history and mission of the Josephinum than our Good Shepherd Award recipient,” said Father Steven Beseau, rector and president. “He has been and continues to be a tremendous gift to the Church and, in particular, to the Josephinum, as a man of faith, integrity, prudence and joy.”

The event brought together hundreds of seminary friends and supporters and many honored guests, including bishops, religious and lay members of the Josephinum's Board of Trustees.

Present at the dinner with Bishop McKnight were many priests and friends from the Jefferson City diocese, as well as numerous Josephinum classmates and former professors.

In the presentation of the award, Fr. Beseau spoke of Bishop McKnight's strong advocacy of the laity's role in the Church.

“He knows how important it is for all members of the Church to seek holiness and work together to carry out the Church's mission,” said Fr. Be-

seau, who then referenced the honoree's 2024 pastoral letter to his diocese titled *Shaping our Future Together*, which closes with a prayer:

“May we shape our future together by embracing our mission to be sanctuaries of mercy and centers of charity. Open our hearts and minds so that the parish communities will thrive with a spirituality of stewardship and with a culture of co-responsibility. May we be ever more strongly united in our Catholic faith, prayer, and communal life.”

“This a reflection of who Bishop McKnight has been all his life,” said Fr. Beseau, “a

man of mercy, charity, stewardship and co-responsibility, rooted in Catholic faith, prayer and the life of community.”

In addition to the award presentation, event highlights included toasts to the Holy Father, the United States of America, and the Josephinum,

as well as vocal performances by seminarians.

Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann, a seminarian and transitional deacon of the Jefferson City diocese who is to be ordained this spring, offered a reflection on his own time in formation at the Josephinum.

“Over the past four years I have been encouraged and supported by formators — both official and unofficial — as well as other seminarians, to be the man God is calling me to be,” he said. “It has

been a joy and honor to live in this House of Saint Joseph. After this time of ministry opportunities, classes, evaluations, trials, and lots of prayer, I am joyfully ready to be ordained by Bishop McKnight on June 1.”

The Good Shepherd Dinner is the Josephinum's signature fundraiser, the success of which is made possible by the many dioceses, parishes, organizations and individu-

More photos from this event will be posted with the online version of this story in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, cathmo.com.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Apr 28

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 9:26-31
Ps. 22:26-28, 30-32
1 Jn. 3:18-24
Jn. 15:1-8

Monday, Apr 29

St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church
Acts 14:5-18
Ps. 115:1-4, 15-16
Jn. 14:21-26

Tuesday, Apr 30

St. Pius V, Pope
Acts 14:19-28
Ps. 145:10-13ab, 21
Jn. 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker
Acts 15:1-6
Ps. 122:1-5
Jn. 15:1-8

Thursday, May 2

St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church
Acts 15:7-21
Ps. 96:1-3, 10
Jn. 15:9-11

Friday, May 3

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

Saturday, May 4

Acts 16:1-10
Ps. 100:1b-3, 5
Jn. 15:18-21

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for May:

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

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als who sponsor the event, as well as by the great generosity of those who attend. Proceeds support the seminary's mission to form holy, generous, adaptable and resilient priests for the 21st century.

“I firmly believe in the mission of the Church and in the mission of this ‘House of Joseph,’” said Bishop McKnight in his acceptance remarks. “In particular, I would like to recognize three individuals for

whom I am very grateful: Jefferson City seminarians Deacon Chris Hoffmann, Bryce Smith and Gabe Eckstein.

“I am especially appreciative to everyone at the Josephinum for what you are doing for them and their formation as priests. God bless you all!” he said.

Carolyn Dinovo is director of communications for the Pontifical College Josephinum.

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ANNE'S ANCHOR

From page 7

but as I prayed, I had this reassurance that everything was going to be ok. I just had to keep going," she stated.

She and her son moved to Anne's Anchor last July.

She knew she was entering a difficult but transformative phase of her life.

"The expectations are high at Anne's Anchor, along with all the day-to-day things like chores, curfews, house meetings, budgeting, and events we attend as a house and we are expected to take an active part in building or rebuilding our lives," Lizzy stated.

"There is an understanding at Anne's Anchor that it's going to be hard but that they are there for me and that makes a huge difference," she said.

It's a safe place, but she's also being pushed to improve herself and her life every day, including the spiritual aspects of healing.

"My faith is my compass and my greatest source of strength so putting in at the center of everything I do has been so rewarding in so many ways," she said.

She knows that pursuing higher education will help her as a single mother provide for her children.

"There is a go-getter attitude at Anne's Anchor and it's just

kind of part of the deal," she said. "I know it's going to be tough but it's worth it and that's what matters."

She's excelling in her studies, at her job, in learning life skills and saving up money and becoming an integral part of the Anne's Anchor community.

"The sense of community within the house is really strong partly because of the household responsibilities of cleaning and cooking house meals for one another," Lizzy said.

"This really adds to the sense of togetherness as well as reinforces the idea that we are there for each other in a meal or cleaning the house and knowing our house mate will do the same for us," she stated.

Memories of the past are fading into the distance, and she grows happier and closer to God each day.

"Time truly heals and I try really hard not to be defined by those parts of my past," Lizzy stated. "It's not a fast process but moving on is something I am very dedicated to so I know it will continue to get better and with God's help and Anne's Anchor, and by extension, all of you supporting me, I really feel there are many more victories to come."




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