

## Citizen recognition

The Missouri Catholic Conference honored Ruth Wankum for 50 years of service to Birthright of Mid-Missouri.

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Buried treasure. . . . . Page 3

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RIP Sr. Angeline Marie. . . . Page 6

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

November 24, 2023 • Vol. 67 No. 11

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## NCYC participants return, determined to stay “Fully Alive”



About 250 high school teens from the Jefferson City diocese gather for a photo with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and several priests of the diocese on Nov. 17 during the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

By Jay Nies

Joey Jones was wearing a silly hat he'd been given at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis.

A man working at the venue said he liked the hat, so Joey let him have it.

“I had something that he didn't have, and when I gave it to him, he thought it was amazing,” said Joey, one of 250 high school age teens from this diocese who attended the massive Catholic youth event Nov. 16-18.

“I went to Indy feeling like I was lacking something important in my life, and God gave me what I needed while I was there,” he said.

“And now, he wants me to pass it along to the people I meet — just like that hat.”

Busloads of young people, adult chaperones and priests returned to parishes all over this diocese Nov. 19, filled with enthusiasm, joy and determination not to forget all that they experienced at NCYC.

The event, held every other year, consists of three days of inspiration, prayer, fellowship and fun.

The theme this year was “Fully Alive!”

“I don't think I've ever felt so fully alive,” said Olivia Monnig. “Now knowing what that really means, I've tried to do everything these past few days to be fully alive. It feels so good and I feel so happy.”

“One of the speakers told us, ‘If I'm alive, I can give others life,’” Catie Meystrik recounted.

“Everything feels more ‘right’ now,” said Anthony Baker. “I'm waking up and I've got a smile on my face. I feel like God is playing this role in my life,

See NCYC, page 21

## New Diocesan Pastoral Council officers see co-responsibility as a key to diocesan planning

By Jay Nies

The bylaws for the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) say any members can be elected to serve as chair and vice chair.

Both offices can be held by clergy, a Chancery employee, or a representative of one of the diocese's five deaneries.

Members at the Nov. 11 DPC meeting elected new officers, both from among the deanery reps.

Chairwoman Colleen Abbott, a member of Our Lady of Snows Parish in Mary's Home, represents the Southwest Deanery.

Vice Chairwoman Sarah Robinson, a member of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, represents the Central Deanery.

“I'm grateful to Colleen and Sarah for agreeing to share their gifts and experiences in these leadership roles,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

“I look forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit leads us as we discern how best to continue building up God's Kingdom in our parishes throughout the diocese,” he said.

The DPC advises the bishop on matters pertaining to the pastoral works of the Church in these 38 counties.

It is made up of two lay representatives from each deanery

(region). The representatives are appointed by the bishop after being nominated by their respective deans. Further membership is made up of a representative of the presbyterate, of the diaconate, one Newman Center student, and any other members the bishop wishes to appoint. Finally, there are several members who serve based on their position at the Chancery as *ex officio* members.

Mrs. Abbot and Mrs. Robinson see their election to these offices as one indicator of co-responsibility being practiced in the diocese.

Co-responsibility, meaning appropriate cooperation among clergy and laity in carrying-out the mission of the Church, is one of the pillars of the current diocesan pastoral plan and the parish pastoral plans that it flows from.

The other pillars are the cultivation of stewardship as a way of life in the Church, and the universal recognition of each parish as a center of charity and sanctuary of mercy.

These have also figured prominently into ongoing pastoral planning for parishes, the deaneries and the diocese.

See CO-RESPONSIBILITY, page 19

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11/24/23

## Pray for deceased priests

Nov. 26 — Fr. Leo A. Stamm, St. Joseph, Martinsburg (1975)  
Nov. 27 — Fr. Vincent A. Linnebur, Sacred Heart, Columbia (2007)  
Dec. 9 — Fr. Thomas L. Waickman, St. Joseph, Louisiana; and Mary Queen of Peace, Clarksville (2010)



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## Principal Opening — Loose Creek

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

## Controller



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

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

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

# Laurie parish and shrine host Festival of Lights through Jan. 7

## "O Holy Night" event Dec. 10

One of the longest running Christmas light displays at the Lake of the Ozarks is free and open to the public nightly, 5-10 p.m., through Jan. 7, 2024, on the grounds of The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, and St. Patrick Church.

Starting Dec. 1, on Fridays, there will be hot cocoa and candy canes for all, from 6-8 p.m.

On Dec. 10, from 4-8 p.m., during "O Holy Night," a live nativity will be on display, along with refreshments, carolers, St. Nicholas and a bonfire.

The live nativity includes a special appearance of Noah the camel, thanks to Sunrise Safari.

The church and shrine are located at 176 Marian Drive, off of Highway 5 in Laurie.

For information, [visit mothersshrine.com](http://visit.mothersshrine.com).

# Dec. 4-6 Women's Ministry Advent events with Patty Schreier

"Unwrap the Gift: The Joy of Being Catholic" will be the theme for four separate Advent evenings of fellowship with the women of this diocese.

Dates and locations are as follows:

- Monday, Dec. 4 in Rolla, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at St. Patrick Church, 17 Saint Patrick Lane;

- Tuesday, Dec. 5 in Boonville, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 322 Seventh St.;

- Wednesday, Dec. 6 in Jefferson City, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St.; and

- Thursday, Dec. 7 in Monroe City, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Holy Rosary Church, 405 S. Main St.

Patty Schreier will give the

reflection at each event.

The women's ministry team at each participating parish, in cooperation with the Diocese of Jefferson Women's Ministry, will add its own flair to the evening, inviting women from

throughout the diocese to join them.

There will be a \$15 fee for the catered dinner on Dec. 4 in Rolla.

Visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry) for information.

# Advent recitals, Vespers in St. Peter, J.C.

St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City will host a series of Advent recitals followed by sung Solemn Vespers at 5 p.m. on Sundays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 in the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter, 216 Broadway.

The events will last about an

hour. Featured recitalists will include:

- Dec. 3: Nicholas Liese, organ

- Dec. 10: Andrew Meagher, DMA, organ

- Dec. 17: Karen Bretz, baroque flute.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS HIRING

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

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

**Finance Manager** (Jefferson City) — directly responsible for all levels of bookkeeping, accounting, risk assessment and audit compliance

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

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### The Catholic Missourian

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight  
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# Bishop urges parishes to call forth, not bury, people's talents

**Encourages clergy, parish leaders to let 'Holy Spirit shake things up a little bit'**

By Jay Nies

Parishes should never allow their priceless treasures to be buried.

Namely, the talents and ideas of the people, which need to be called forward and cultivated for the building up of God's Kingdom.

"The Lord is inviting us to be more industrious and more diligent, to be more open, to be more resourceful, and to let the Holy Spirit shake things up a little bit," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight on Nov. 19.

He was preaching a homily on the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) while offering Sunday Mass Nov. 19 in Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City.

"God's a wise investor," the bishop noted. "He gifts us all with time, with money, with natural gifts and talents and with special charisms through our baptism.

"We are called to be industrious in using those gifts and talents for the purpose for which God has given them to us: to build up his Kingdom," he said.

No one has to do it alone.

God bestows a panoply of gifts and charisms among many people so they can work together to carry out the Church's mission.

"You can take great delight and great joy in seeing the gifts and talents and charisms of your brothers and sisters being utilized for the work of the Lord," the bishop stated.

He challenged the clergy and parish leaders to take risks and try new things when laypeople, through the Catholic Stewardship Renewal, offer new gifts and propose new ways of doing things.

"Be open to being surprised!" he said. "That's what the Lord is asking of us: to be willing to take that risk, to put yourself out there, to GROW a little bit in your relationship with God and in your relationship with this Church."

**"Why not?"**

As the Catholic Stewardship Renewal continues in parishes, Bishop McKnight asked everyone to continue discerning what they're doing with what God has blessed them with — "and maybe also to strive to do a little bit more, maybe one little more thing you can add to what you're already doing."



**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight preaches the homily at Sunday Mass on Nov. 19 in Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City. — Photo by Jay Nies**

He asked people to consider: "What am I doing with my time, with my talent, with my treasure? What am I doing with the charisms that God has given me? Am I using them in a way that's meaningful in the life and mission of the Church? And if not, why not?"

He urged pastors, associate pastors, deacons, parish leaders and parish stewardship council members to welcome the gifts and talents the parishioners offer to share during the renewal, "and to find ways to utilize those gifts, those talents, those charisms in a meaningful way."

He noted how easy it is to get locked into the same way of doing things.

"It's important that the parish learns how to utilize all the gifts that God has given us today and not just doing the same thing the same way, over and over again," he said.

**"Something new"**

The bishop reminded the young people of the parish — with their young eyes, young minds and fresh hearts — to help the older generations see new ways of fulfilling the Church's mission and becoming more effective centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy.

Likewise, he called on the

clergy and parish leaders to invite young people to play a meaningful role in the life and mission of the Church.

"Let us not squelch the Spirit," he said. "Let us not bury the talents that we have in our young people."

He called to mind some ad-

vice he received as a seminarian from the pastor of his home parish, the late Monsignor Thomas McGread: "The laity are going to ask you for so many things. Try your best to resist telling them no."

After all, he said: "It might actually work! Something new!"

Bishop McKnight noted that it can be hard to be open to new, more effective ways of fulfilling the mission of the parish when parishioners bring forth their gifts and talents.

It's also essential.

"Because every parish has room to grow," the bishop said. "Every parish has more that they can be doing — teaching the faith, ministering to the poor and becoming a sanctuary of mercy to those who are in need, or celebrating the Liturgy better.

"We all can do better!" he said.



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**NOVEMBER**

**Nov 29** Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Board Meeting, 11 am, Chancery; Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Executive Committee Board Meeting; 12:30 pm, Jefferson City; Immaculate Heart of Mary Early Childhood Board Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery

**Nov 30** Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, 11 am, Chancery

**DECEMBER**

**Dec 1** Blessing of St. Nicholas Academy, 4 pm, Jefferson City

**Dec 3** Installation of Reverend Stephen W. Jones as Rector of the Cathedral and Pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, 10 am, Jefferson City

**Dec 5-11** Lead Diaconate Ordination Retreat for the Diocese of Honolulu, HI

**Dec 13** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board Meeting, noon, Jefferson City

**Dec 15** Missouri Catholic Conference Meeting, 2 pm, Virtual; St. Andrew's Dinner, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence

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

For our family, friends and benefactors of our community who have passed from this world to the next; may they attain a share in eternal happiness through our Lord Jesus Christ risen from the dead.

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

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## Author of novel about St. Joseph to give proceeds to Catholic Charities

By Jay Nies

Catholic author Joseph Benevento Ph.D., author of a novel about St. Joseph and the Holy Family, is donating 100 percent of the royalties from the book in perpetuity to Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO).

"We were overjoyed when he wrote us to offer the proceeds of his book," said Ashley Wiskirchen, senior director of communications for CCCNMO. "It's a wonderful way for him to use his talent to help

the people we serve."

Dr. Benevento will read from the book, titled *My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son*, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Dr. Benevento, a member of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and a recently retired professor of English at Truman State University, believes this novel makes a good Advent read or Christmas gift, since more than a third of the story covers the traditional Biblical

Christmas narrative.

He is also writing a four-part series of Advent Reflections for Catholic Charities that dovetail with the novel. People can sign up to receive the weekly reflections by writing to [info@cccnmo.org](mailto:info@cccnmo.org) and putting "Advent Reflection" in the subject line.

"We're really excited about that, too," said Mrs. Wiskirchen. "We love having this opportunity to provide people with a genuine way to enter into prayer and reflection as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Savior."

Dr. Benevento released *My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son* near St. Joseph's feastday in March of this year, while preparing to retire after 40 years of teaching at Truman State.

He wanted to donate the proceeds from the book to a worthy cause. He knew about Catholic Charities because his father worked for a Catholic Charities affiliate on the East Coast.

To create this, his 16th book, Dr. Benevento drew upon humor, pathos, decades of literary prowess and a lifetime of being Catholic to give voice to a man who loves, doubts, obeys, laughs and occasionally weeps.

"St. Joseph is the only man in the history of the world to live with two perfect people,"

the author told *The Catholic Missourian* in an interview this past March.

"It had to be complicated," he asserted. "Jesus is divine, and Mary was conceived without sin. Joseph was just a regular guy. It couldn't have been easy."

He also is not quoted in

Scripture.

"So, the main idea of the book is that St. Joseph finally gets to speak," said Dr. Benevento. "It's just Joseph telling his story of how he did the things he needed to do."

See JOSEPH, page 27

## I went down to the grotto to pray



Catholics in Baring gather around their grotto and refurbished statue of the Blessed Mother on Nov. 8 to pray the Rosary. The stone grotto, built by parishioners in the 1950s, has stood for decades next to Sacred Heart Church, which became unsafe and had to be taken down this summer. The statue of the Blessed Mother withstood an Aug. 4 tornado that caused extensive damage to the surrounding town, except that the folded hands were broken off.

— Photo by Katie Delaney

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September 15-24, 2024



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David D. Cox

Join Monsignor Cox and the St. Stanislaus Parish on a sacred journey to Fatima and Lourdes. This tour will transcend the boundaries of time and faith, weaving together the threads of history and beliefs.

### Tour Highlights

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- Cathedral of Burgos
- Lourdes
- Grotto of Massabielle
- Barcelona
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## Advent communal Reconciliation services

Advent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Here is a partial list of Advent communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out. Additional services will be added to updated online versions of this article as they are publicized.

**Brookfield** — Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

**Canton** — Friday, Dec. 22, 6 pm, St. Joseph Church

**Columbia** — Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center

— Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church

**Edina** — Friday, Dec. 15, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

**Ewing** — Thursday, Dec. 14, 6 pm, Queen of Peace Church

**Fulton** — Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 pm, St. Peter Church

**Hannibal** — Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 pm, Holy Family Church

**Holts Summit** — Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7 pm, St. Andrew Church

**Jefferson City** — Sunday, Dec. 10, 2 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

— Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

— Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7:15 pm; Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 pm; Friday, Dec. 15, 9:30 am-2 pm, St. Peter Church

**Kirkville** — Sunday, Dec. 10, 2 pm, Newman Center

**Macon** — Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

**Marceline** — Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:30 pm, St. Bonaventure Church

**Meta** — Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7 pm, St. Cecilia Church

**Mexico** — Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 pm, St. Brendan Church

**Monroe City** — Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:30 pm, Holy Rosary Church

**Osage Bend** — Monday, Dec. 18, 6 pm, St. Margaret of Antioch Church

**Palmyra** — Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

**St. Martins** — Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6 pm, St. Martin Church

**Shelbina** — Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 pm, St. Mary Church

**Taos** — Thursday, Dec. 7, 10 am-noon; Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church

**Wardville** — Friday, Dec. 15, 6 pm, St. Stanislaus Church

## Bishops, priests of the diocese offer Mass for the souls of those who have gone before them

### Annual Mass for Deceased Priests celebrated in Cathedral

By Jay Nies

The bells of the Cathedral rang out the “Angelus” as priests of the diocese chanted the “Salve Regina” — “Hail, Holy Queen.”

A plea for intercession from the Blessed Mother in times of difficulty, it’s what the priests sing together whenever one of them passes from this life into the next.

“As celibate priests,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight noted, “we do not have progeny of our own to pray for us after we have gone to the Lord — except for the spiritual progeny of the members of the Church.”

Bishop McKnight, Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos and priests of the Jefferson City diocese offered a concelebrated Mass for Deceased Priests on Nov. 8.

It was the last day in the Octave of All Souls, a time when Catholics are especially encouraged to pray for those

who died and are preparing to share the fullness of their Master’s joy.

“As I always used to say at the end of Funeral Masses, ‘See you in heaven!’” said Father

diocese of Kottayam, India, has been serving in this diocese since 2011.

He recalled attending the first such Mass held in this diocese while he was in Columbia as a student about 20 years ago.

At that time, he was in residence with Father Edwin Cole, now deceased, who was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia.

“At the end of the Mass, the names of the priests who have left us were recited, and we

prayed for them,” Fr. Parakkacharuvil recalled. While it was for him at that time “a liturgically rich and spiritually moving celebration,” he had never met any of the priests whose names were spoken.

“I knew in my brain that they are my brother priests in this diocese, but I could not feel them in my heart,” he said.

Several years later, he attended another Mass for Deceased Priests after coming to minister in this diocese.

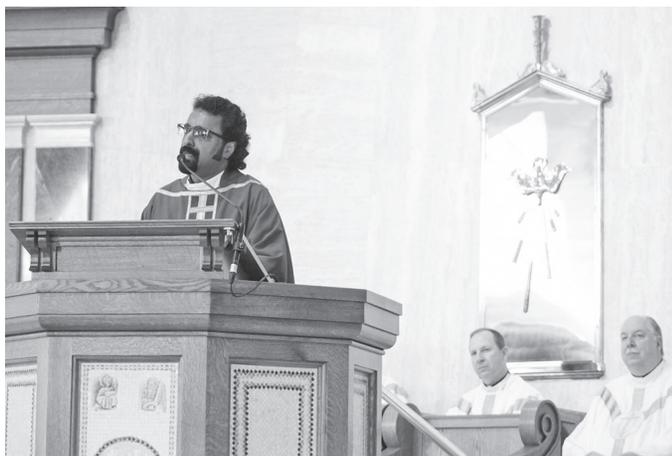
By then, Fr. Cole — who had driven Fr. Parakkacharuvil everywhere he needed to go, had invited him to family functions, and with whom he had enjoyed many meaningful conversations — had died.

“I was not here for his funeral, but when they read his

name, I could feel that — my brain and my heart coming together,” he said.

Fr. Parakkacharuvil would hear another name in the necrology at this year’s Mass — Monsignor Michael Wilbers,

See PRIESTS, page 16



Father Joby Parakkacharuvil Thomas preaches the homily at the Mass for Deceased Priests on Nov. 8 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

— Photo by Annie Williams

Joby Parakkacharuvil Thomas, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Moberly, who preached the homily.

“That’s my greeting and farewell to all of our brother priests who have left us already,” he said.

Each year, the Memorial Mass for Deceased Priests includes the solemn reading of the names of the priests of the diocese who have died since the diocese’s founding in 1956.

Fr. Parakkacharuvil, a missionary priest from the Arch-



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# Carmelite Sr. Angelina Marie Milligan, 90, laid to rest

**Spent 75 years  
in communal prayer, sacrifice**

By Jay Nies

God bestows innumerable blessings on his Church through each of the women and men he calls to religious life in orders and congregations throughout the world.

So many unique gifts, so many conduits of grace. But only one Sister Angelina Marie of the Mother of God.

Sr. Angelina Marie, 90, who spent 75 years as a cloistered, contemplative Discalced Carmelite nun, died peacefully on Nov. 3 at Our Lady of Rickenbach in Clyde, Missouri.

"Sister was the happiest, most joy-filled person I have ever met," said Father Philip Niekamp, who spent a great deal of time with the Discalced Carmelites in Jefferson City before becoming a priest.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sr. Angelina Marie was celebrated on Nov. 10, with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presiding and Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos and priests of the Jefferson City diocese concelebrating.

"Through her active charity and life of prayer, Sr. Angelina Marie has actively followed the

Lord in her own life, to what God has prepared for her now in eternity," Bishop McKnight stated in his homily.

**"Follow me"**

"Our Lord tells us at different times in our lives, 'Follow me,'" Sr. Angelina Marie observed in 2017.

Born and raised in a devout Catholic family in Aragon, New Mexico, the former Juanita Eva Milligan, recognized her call to religious life while very young.

Discalced (or "shoeless") Carmelite nuns, so named because they wear sandals instead of shoes, spend their lives in a cloistered community.

They accept and embrace a joyful, ascetic, lifestyle as a wedding gift from Jesus, who is the source of their joy.

They follow a rigorous daily regimen of prayer and sacrifice, in addition to the Evangelical Counsels of poverty, chastity and holy obedience — all for the sake of bringing souls to Christ.

Their primary mission is to pray for priests, for the intentions of people who ask for prayers, and for the world at large.

Sr. Angelina Marie entered the Carmel of the Sacred



**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight incenses Carmelite Sister Angelina Marie Milligan's casket during her Funeral Mass Nov. 10 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.**

— Photo by Jay Nies

Heart of Jesus and Saint Teresa in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Oct. 28, 1948, her 15th birthday, and received the holy habit of Carmel a year and one day later.

She professed solemn vows, promising God to live the rest of her life under the rule of Carmel, on Oct. 28, 1954.

Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., founding bishop of Jefferson City, wrote to Bishop Edwin V. Byrne of Santa Fe and to Reverend Mother Mary Teresa DeLeon, founding prioress of the Carmel in Santa Fe, asking for the sisters to establish a Carmel in the Jefferson City diocese.

"They agreed to it, and he invited us to come here," Sr. Angelina Marie recalled in 2017.

The late Mother Mary Teresa, whom the sisters fondly remember as "Our Little Mother," asked for volunteers among the Santa Fe Carmel to join her in moving to Missouri.

Seven sisters joined her in May 1960. They lived in a home on West Main Street while their cloister was being built near the present site of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

The first Mass in the Chapel of the Carmel of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph was offered on June 10, 1962.

Over time, several of the sisters became ill and returned to Santa Fe. Sr. Angelina Marie, who had volunteered to move to Jefferson City with the first group, was asked to come in February 1963.

She played an essential role in the Jefferson City Carmel over the following 50 years.

"She spent time doing just

about everything in the monastery," said Carmelite Mother Marie Therese DuBois, prioress. "Whenever she saw a need, she responded with great generosity and joy.

"She worked in the garden, in the kitchen, as the sacristan, in the bread department, anywhere she was needed," Mother Marie Therese recalled.

That joy never waned as the years passed, several sisters entered eternal life, and life in the Carmel changed.

Monsignor Robert A. Kulwicki, vicar general of the Jefferson City diocese, has been interacting with the Carmelite sisters in various capacities for nearly four decades.

"As with any monastery, I found it first and foremost to be a house of prayer," he stated during the prayer service the night before Sr. Angelina Marie's funeral.

"That is always what struck me when you came in to Carmel — that this was someplace different, special, unique," he said.

"And the sisters who lived in Carmel, each was different in her very own way," Msgr. Kurwicki recalled. "Not everyone thought alike, acted alike, WAS alike. Each of their personalities beamed right through, and so did the faith."

In 2013, at the invitation of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Northwestern Missouri, the Carmelite sisters sold their monastery to the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish and moved to a separate home on the grounds of the Benedictine Monastery.

"It was hard when God said, 'Follow me to Clyde,'" Sr. An-

gelina Marie recalled in 2017. "It was not easy. But it was a great blessing."

**"Beautiful life"**

"Sr. Angelina Marie adjusted very well to the situation," said Sister Rita Dohn of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

"We all loved her as if she were one of our own," added Sister Cathleen Marie Timberlake, administrator of Our Lady of Rickenbach in Clyde.

In time, Sr. Angelina Marie was welcomed into the assisted living community at the Benedictine Monastery, where she continued offering her prayers and sacrifices in a larger community.

She never stopped radiating laughter and joy.

"She lived a full and blessed life, a beautiful life," Mother Marie Therese noted. "Seventy-five years in Carmel. I can't imagine anything else she ever wanted to do!"

**"A special gem"**

Sr. Angelina Marie's favorite prayer was the "Memorare," which calls to mind the Blessed Mother's unceasing intercession before the throne of God, and asks her to hear and present the intentions of the faithful to her Son.

"Her joy, her smile, her willingness to give — that's what I'll remember about Sr. Angelina Marie," said Mother Marie Therese.

"She'd do anything for you," the prioress continued. "It was her vocation. We enter Carmel to serve — to serve God and our community. That's what she did. She served God through her community."

In his homily at the Funeral Mass, Bishop McKnight spoke of how Sr. Angelina Marie reflected the Paschal Mystery of Christ in her humble, quiet life of prayer and devotion.

"As Church, we treasure every consecrated religious person as a special gem, since they reflect the multi-faceted grace of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, in living out intensely the Evangelical Counsels of poverty, chastity and holy obedience," the bishop said.

See SR. ANGELINA, page 23

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# Missouri Catholic Conference honors Jean Wankum for 50 years of service to Birthright

By Jay Nies

It's been a year like no other for Jean Wankum, director and cofounder of Birthright of Mid-Missouri.

The Immaculate Conception parishioner celebrated her 90th birthday, took part in 50th-anniversary festivities for Birthright, received special accolades from that organization for her decades of service, and was honored with the Missouri Catholic Conference's (MCC) Citizen Recognition Award for the Jefferson City diocese.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presented the MCC award during the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass on Nov. 19 in Immaculate Conception Church.

Birthright of Mid-Missouri, one of over 450 Birthright affiliates in the United States and around the world, gives pregnant women and families who do not want to have an abortion the choice to give life instead.

The nondenominational nonprofit is founded on the principle that "it is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child once conceived to be born."

For those involved, including Mrs. Wankum, Birthright is a ministry and a gift from God.

"Jean Wankum not only talks about her faith, she lives it," said MCC Executive Director Jamie Morris during the award presentation.

"Thousands of women, children and families all around the area have been directly impacted by the love, care and dedication Jean provided them," he stated.

Fifty years ago, shortly after the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions that legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, asked Georgene Bernskoetter and Catherine Schrimpf to look into chartering a Birthright chapter in the Capital City.

They put the word out that they'd need volunteers.

"Jean did not hesitate," said Mr. Morris. "As a mother of seven young children herself,

she realized the sanctity of every precious life and was determined to help any woman who wanted to save their baby's life."

Eileen Plassmeyer, Barb Schmitz, Mrs. Bernskoetter and Mrs. Wankum became the founders of Birthright in Jefferson City.

"Jean took the first call the day Birthright opened and is still taking calls today, 50 years later," said Mr. Morris.

Her gentle, reassuring manner has won the day for hundreds of mothers and the babies they would give birth to.

"Jean is a nonjudgmental, caring individual whose only goal is to love those who enter Birthright's doors," said Mr. Morris.

The MCC, public-policy agency of Missouri's four Roman Catholic dioceses, presents the Citizen Recognition Award each fall to highlight an individual, couple or group from each diocese who exercises faith and citizenship in an extraordinary manner.

Award recipients exemplify good citizenship and the promotion of Catholic values in the public-policy arena and in their local communities and parishes.

Mrs. Wankum's fellow parishioners stood up and applauded as the bishop presented the award.

## "They need help"

Birthright of Mid-Missouri celebrated its 50th anniversary April 23 in a Jefferson City park.

Mrs. Wankum was an honored guest.

"It was incredible to see so many people that Jean had helped," said Anne Rapp, a Birthright of Mid-Missouri volunteer.

Mrs. Wankum was quick to deflect any recognition onto other people.

"We've heard story of Birthright's founding for 50 years," she said. "People need to hear the story that's going on now."

What is that story?

"Right now, we're finding women who are really in stressful situations, and they're needing help figuring out how



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presents the Missouri Catholic Conference's 2023 Citizen Recognition Award for the Jefferson City diocese to Jean Wankum, who has been volunteering for Birthright of Mid-Missouri for 50 years, at Mass on Nov. 19 in Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Jay Nies

to get themselves on their feet and take care of their children," said Mrs. Wankum.

"And it's not just women," she pointed out. "Sometimes, the father is right there with her. They just need the help. Maybe we'll know someplace they haven't thought of to get the help."

"Just a hand-up — that's what I call it," she said. "That's what we're trying to do."

All of this matters because "you want to see the mom and the family having a better life, and you want to see that little one come into the world and not be as stressed-out as a lot of people are right now," Mrs. Wankum stated.

## Listening to understand

Before saying "yes" to Birthright, Mrs. Wankum discussed it with her husband, Ed. He said he'd give her all the help and support she needed.

Volunteers met regularly in each other's homes, learning from medical professionals and attorneys about how to help the women who needed it.

"One thing they told us was that it had to be confidential," Mrs. Wankum recalled. "That was a really big thing."

She started out scheduling appointments by phone from

her home, as she had several young children of her own at the time.

Many of the early clients were young and very naïve.

"Now, I would say the average age we're seeing are in their 20s," said Mrs. Wankum. "And it's often women with families. They're having trouble. It's not easy."

The first group of girls the chapter helped were a tremendous conduit of grace and affirmation.

"It was that great feeling of knowing you can help, that what you do can make a girl's life a little easier," said Mrs. Wankum.

Then as now, there was no guilt, no coercion — only listening and helping.

"If someone comes to talk to us, there's already something in her heart, telling her that having an abortion isn't what she wants to do," she noted.

Mrs. Wankum eventually became a co-director with Mrs. Schmitz and later took on the leadership role.

## Praying for answers

Mrs. Wankum talked about some of the women who attended the 50th anniversary celebration.

One was a mom who had

been told by doctors that she wouldn't be able to have any more children.

"She turned out to be pregnant," Mrs. Wankum recalled. "We helped her through the pregnancy. My husband and I took her to Columbia to have her baby. And after that, she had two more."

Another client was confused and miserable with morning sickness when she called.

"I suggested a box of crackers," said Mrs. Wankum. "She said she didn't have any. I took a box of crackers to her. We became friends. And her daughter is now studying in Boston. And the mother is now a nurse and furthering her own education."

Mrs. Wankum thought back to other clients who came for help with a pregnancy after having already had an abortion.

"It's been so hard for some of these girls," she noted. "It's very, very stressful. Some of the stories, you want to sit there and weep. I can understand how rough it is."

"It's by the grace of God that they have the strength to step back and say, 'This is what I want to do,' and then ask for the help they need," she said.

It's somewhat less difficult now because society is more accepting of a single woman being pregnant.

"I'm not saying it's easy, but it was a lot harder back in the day," she said.

She knows the look of terror that fills some women when they find out they're pregnant.

Sometimes, a woman just needs to talk through what she's feeling.

"When I meet someone who's at that place, I tell her that if she can feel in her heart of hearts that she wants to carry this baby, we will do anything we can to help her do that," said Mrs. Wankum.

Listening is often the most important step.

"Just to sit and listen to their story," she said. "And then you do a lot of praying that you

See WANKUM, page 19

## QUESTION CORNER

## Why can't the Church use disposable plastic cups at Mass?

By Jenna Marie Cooper  
OSV News



**Q: My parish recently returned to Holy Communion under the second species. A Eucharistic Minister holds one cup and one cloth and does one wipe after each serve. Most people are still not receiving it for fear of Covid or other illness. Why can't the Church can't simply use disposable plastic cups with the wine already in it? The priest could say the same blessing and the Eucharistic Minister could still distribute but holding a tray instead of a cup. The empty cup could be disposed of with the passing of germs reduced to almost nothing. (Lanesville, IN)**

**A:** What you describe — with the elements of Holy Communion pre-portioned in individual disposable packaging — is not uncommon in many non-Catholic Christian communities. However, there are several reasons why this would be inappropriate for Catholic worship.

For context, we need to recall that the Catholic theology of the Eucharist is radically different from the vast majority of Protestant understandings of Holy Communion. Many Protestant communities occasionally distribute bread and wine (or even grape juice) as a way of simply recalling and remembering Jesus' last meal and the friendship he shared with his disciples.

In contrast, a core central teaching of the Catholic faith is the doctrine of the "real presence," meaning that bread and wine literally become the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass when the priest prays the prayer of consecration. In technical philosophical terms this process is called "transubstantiation," and because of it the prayer of consecration is much more radical and impactful than a simple blessing would be.

Because we believe that Jesus is physically, bodily present in the "sacred species" (our term for the bread and wine which have been turned into the Body and Blood of Christ), we have several laws and customs pertaining to the Eucharist which ensure a sufficient degree of protection and reverence for Jesus' presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

For instance, it is required that the vessels used during the Eucharist such as the ciborium, paten, and chalice (the "plates" and cup) be made from worthy and suitable materials. As paragraph 328 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* tells us: "Sacred vessels should be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, they should generally be gilded on the inside." Clearly, this directive is incompatible with the use of disposable communion cups!

Additionally, during the Mass the priest must take care that every particle of the host and every last drop of the Precious Blood are reverently consumed. This is why, at the end of Holy Communion, the priest "purifies" the chalice, rinsing it with water that he then drinks himself. Even if disposable materials were allowed, there would be no way to be sure that absolutely all Precious Blood was actually consumed. As a result it would be impossible not to have some of the Precious Blood wind up in the trash. This would be at least de facto sacrilege.

It is certainly understandable that some Catholics might long for the fuller sign value of receiving Holy Communion under both kinds, while still having legitimate concerns about germs and the spread of illness. Still, it's good to keep in mind that few things worth doing are ever one hundred percent risk-free. Most things in this life involve some sort of tradeoff

See QUESTION, page 22



## Papal Audience November 22, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters!

In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we are reflecting on the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and its summons to proclaim "the joy of the Gospel." That joy is meant for everyone, since the risen Lord wishes to call all men and women to share in the fullness

of life. In fidelity to the mission we received in baptism, we have a duty to share the Gospel with all whom we meet, not excluding anyone, because Christ was born, died, and rose again for all. The Scriptures reveal that when God calls individuals to discipleship, he also sends them forth as witnesses of his redeeming love. The Church herself is "catholic," universal, for she has been entrusted with the mission of making disciples of all nations, while also fostering unity that respects and reconciles the rich variety of histories and cultures. May we who have experienced the beauty and joy of the Gospel become ever more conscious that its message is good news for all, and strive to show the face of a Church that is welcoming and embraces all.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially the groups from England, Finland, the Netherlands, Malaysia, the Philippines, Korea and the United States of America. Upon all of you I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

## Fr. Flatley: Perennial problem meets ancient wisdom

*This is the fourth in a series of teachings and reflections offered by the moderator of spiritual formation for the Jefferson City diocese.*

By Father Matthew Flatley

The Desert Ammas and Abbas (*Mothers and Fathers*) were the precursors of what we call Monks today.

These dedicated disciples of Christ fled into the deserts of Egypt and Syria in the Third Century A.D., after Constantine declared Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire.

They felt the Gospels were getting watered down too much, too quickly, and they sought a deeper experience.

*As the Rule of St. Benedict, which governs the lives of most modern monks says in its first line, "Let them let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ."*

In our modern world, just as in the ancient desert, women and men are tempted toward sin. Remember, to sin is to move away from grace, and to repent is to turn back.

The ancients had a different understanding of the physical world. They believed thoughts which lead us away from grace were evil spirits lurking in the ether, tempting us toward sin. *Maybe they are.*

Here, their wisdom and practice can help! Their teachings include fascinating tools and strategies for how we can combat thoughts which are sinful.

These are the kind of thoughts which will take us down paths we do not want to go.

In particular, they engaged a three-fold method for turning away from sinful thoughts, and turning back to God.

The first step is to *Guard Your Heart*. This means to be on guard, noticing the moment you are beginning to think negative thoughts, and to be willing to drop them immediately.

With enough practice and the desire turn back to God, we can discipline our wills to do this.

*Imagine having the grace to drop, or turn away from a sinful thought, the moment it arises.*

The second step is to say an *Active Prayer*, which is to cry out a short ejaculatory plea to God, asking him to help you.

We can say this prayer over and over until it gets sewn into our hearts, and then it will say itself when we need it most.

*"Lord, teach me to love others, the way that you love me."*

The third step is to *Redirect our Focus our Attention*.

Rather than sitting there brooding, or chewing on some dreadful cud, for hours, days or years ... we can do something positive and useful.

*I think I'll go and weed that garden bed I have been meaning to get to.*

When we are angry with someone or a situation, or we are feeling challenged, we may be tempted to lash out, or to behave in ways, which we will later regret.

In the midst of such turmoil, we may find ourselves being swept away in a current of negative emotions and temptations, and thrown over an emotional waterfall into a pool of sorrow and remorse.

But this wonderful three-part practice invites the grace of God into the mix, allowing us to put the brakes on all of that.

God's blessing provides us the time and space to act with grace, instead of reacting in a sinful way.

*Once over the waterfall, you may find yourself saying, "Oops@ I could have turned to this ancient wisdom and practice instead."*

Let us strive to be open God's presence and action in the present moment, perhaps most especially in the midst of any stressful situation throughout the day.

*Fr. Flatley is pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.*

# Insta-culture and a powerful Advent lesson on delayed gratification

By Scott P. Richert  
OSV News



When my sisters and I were young, my mother would spend all of Advent baking cookies and making candy. That may hardly seem remarkable; after all, countless millions of Christmas cookies are baked and consumed every year between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. But my mother didn't eat any of the cookies she baked, and neither did we — not before Christmas, that is. Every sugar cookie, Polish wedding cake, fruit cookie, square of fudge, and chunk of peanut brittle was packed away in vintage green Tupperware or metal tins (depending on whether they were intended for us or for

relatives and friends), to be brought out only once Christmas Day had dawned.

Four or five decades later, that seems remarkable, because what economists call “delayed gratification” is simply not part of American life anymore — and that's as true of Catholics and other Christians as it is of the average American. Fifty years ago, the question “What do you want for Christmas?” meant something different than it does today, when a couple of clicks on Amazon can satisfy the desire of a child of any age with next-day (or even same-day) delivery.

When I was a child, I thought as a child, which meant that, of course, I wanted to eat just one sugar cookie hot out of the oven or sneak one piece of fudge. But Mom never let me do so, because satisfying my desire wasn't the point of her baking. In fact, if anything, the purpose of all of her preparations

throughout Advent was the opposite: to increase my desire, and to direct it toward its proper end.

If you eat it before Christmas, a Christmas cookie is just a cookie.

## A bigger lesson

My mother entered into eternal life in the early morning hours of Nov. 1, All Saints Day. Through the days and nights before she quietly passed from us, my father and my sister Monica and I held those hands that had mixed and shaped and baked all of those cookies just a few feet away from where the hospital bed was set up in the living room of the house that had been our family home for all but a handful of months of my parents' 56 years of marriage. Polish wedding cakes and peanut brittle were the last things on our minds as we prepared ourselves and one another for a life without her.

But a few days later, when Father Charles Hall, the priest who had anointed Mom seven weeks earlier and who would celebrate her funeral Mass on Nov. 6, asked us for a particular memory of Mom that would help him to understand who she really was, the first thing that came to mind was her Advent baking. Everything we do reveals something about where our heart lies. Too often, by necessity as much as by choice, we are caught up in the here and now. There's work to be done, bills to be paid, clothes to be washed, children to be fed.

But as much as necessity may seem to force our hand, there's an element of choice in our actions as well. And that choice involves not simply what we do but why we choose to do it. I do not know, and of course, I cannot ask her

See RICHERT, page 23

## A scoop of vocations with your

By Sister Constance Veit, lsp



Each November we enjoy fresh-picked apples, cranberries and pumpkin-spice everything as our excitement builds towards Thanksgiving. The Church in the United States observes another celebration this month promoting vocation awareness.

The National Religious Vocation Conference encourages us to take advantage of this special vocations promotion each November to celebrate religious life and each Christian's foundational calling to discipleship. And they invite us to do so with PIE!

PIE is an acronym that stands for pray, invite and encourage. It's a call to action for vocations in which we can all participate year-round for the good of the church.

### P stands for pray.

God hears our prayers. So, let's pray for an increase of vocations for the holiness of the Church and the service of God's People.

And let's pray for the priests and consecrated persons we know and love, that they will be faithful to their special call and that God will grant them the gift of perseverance in his service. The future of the Church depends on the generous response to God's call to priesthood and consecrated life in its diverse forms.

We might be tempted to think that young people are no longer entering religious life. This is not at all true!

Recent data shows that there have been 3,500 new entrants to religious communities in the United States in the

past 15 years, with an average of 200+ new professed members per year. Thirty-five percent of new members discerned for more than two years and about the same number discerned for about a year before entering a community.

Although 70 percent of entrants first considered religious life before the age of 21, the average age when one enters a religious community today is 28.

From these statistics we can see that new priests and women and men religious are not made overnight — there are no instant vocations!

Nevertheless, young people are still answering the call. These facts invite us to redouble our prayers for vocations.

If you know a young person considering a priestly or religious vocation, be patient. Pray for them each day as they clarify God's call for their lives!

### I stands for invite.

Among new entrants to religious life, 66 percent report that someone invited them to consider a religious vocation and that this invitation impacted them.

Whatever our own path in life, we are all called to be inviters!

We can share our faith and invite young people to pray with us, to attend Mass and other liturgies, to join in faith formation opportunities and to participate in service projects and works of charity. With us and through us, let them experience the joy of the Gospel!

For religious communities, nothing is more important in promoting vocations than welcoming young people into the heart of our communities.

Despite the abundant availability of social media and online content, recent surveys indicate that nothing can replace

See SR. CONSTANCE, page 23

## REFLECTION

### “Give one thing more”

By Mark Saucier

There's a story of the Irish writer Samuel Becket on a walk with a friend in Paris on a beautiful spring morning.

“Doesn't this just make you feel happy to be alive?” his friend asked.

“I wouldn't go that far,” Becket replied.

Perhaps that bleakness contributed to the Nobel winner's art, but most of us are not artists. We fight to keep our heads above the waves of hopelessness that pull us under.

No doubt, it was the same human drive that led to our celebration of Thanksgiving.

What happened 400 years ago has undergone a lot of scrutiny, and we find that narrative distorted by the bias of the victor.

Still, there was a feast celebrated by people utterly dependent on nature and their God.

Unlike Mr. Becket, they were just happy to be alive.

And it wasn't only at Plymouth Rock.

Before Sarah Josepha Hale wrote “Mary Had a Little Lamb” and then advocated for a national Thanksgiving Day, and long before Abraham Lincoln responded with a proclamation in 1863, days of thanksgiving stretched from St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565 to Newfoundland, Canada, in 1578.

And it wasn't just the Europeans. The Wampanoags and many other native tribes had their own feasts in gratitude for a bountiful harvest or other good fortune.

We now know scientifically what our forebears knew intuitively: gratitude is part of who we are, and it is good for us.

Gratitude adds to life. It improves our sleep, enhances our mood and strengthens our immunity.

It is also subtractive: decreasing depression, lessening anxiety and reducing the suffering of chronic pain.

We have so much to be grateful for. We have a roof over our heads, heat in the winter, air in the summer and food whenever we want.

We have the grace and the space both for memories and dreams.

We love and we are loved.

Still, our lives and our world often fail to reflect this bounty.

We can live with greater gratitude, but first we must let go of what we don't have and be mindful of what we do.

And if we need a little help, we might look to someone like George Herbert. As the priest, poet and Pilgrim contemporary prayed:

*“Thou hast given so much to me, / Give one thing more, a grateful heart ...  
Not thankful when it pleaseth me, / As if thy blessings had spare days,  
But such a heart whose pulse may be / Thy praise.”*

# Encounter

## Sharing in the Master's joy

### AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Tori Baker and Mike Maag

*During this season of giving and gratitude, we at Catholic Charities are reflecting on the profound impact that our community of volunteers and donors have made on the lives of those we serve. From the warm, smiling faces of our pantry volunteers to the donors who made it possible for our neighbors to visit us for financial counseling, each contribution has illuminated the path of hope for our neighbors in need.*

**A reflection from Board President, Mike Maag**

My name is Mike Maag, and I am truly honored to serve as President of the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. The Lord God has blessed me in my life and I've always felt it is my duty to pour those blessings back into the community. Because one of my passions is to help those who are underprivileged in our society, I have long supported the charitable works of Catholic Charities and find it to be an incredible organization making a real difference in the lives of those in need.

My involvement with Catholic Charities began eight years ago. While serving on the pastoral council for my parish, Our Lady of Lourdes in Columbia, I helped establish the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference there. Later, I

worked with Deacon Thomas Fischer to try to get other St. Vincent de Paul conferences established throughout the diocese. It was Deacon Tom who nominated me to the board of directors of Catholic Charities — leading to my appointment by Bishop John R. Gaydos in 2015.

I considered it a blessing to serve then, and a blessing I still enjoy now. Sometimes I'm asked, "why Catholic Charities?" That's a question I can answer pretty easily: I'm passionate about the programs that Catholic Charities offers to those in need. I have seen that the services like the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, disaster relief, and refugee resettlement efforts are making a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. When I think about that impact — I am proud to be a small part in the work the charitable arm of our Catholic Church does to advocate and serve the impoverished and those "on the margins."

Serving on the board of directors has given me a deep sense of purpose and personal fulfillment. In retirement, it has provided for me an outlet to put my skills to good use I learned throughout my professional career. And encountering others — those on the board, the staff, and even those we're serving — has added to that feeling of fulfillment.

In my time on the board of directors, I've learned a lot. From a more practical standpoint — like the demographics of the diocese, the needs of that population, and what the people that Catholic Charities



**President of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, Mike Maag, attends the annual World Refugee Day celebration in June of 2023.**

serves needs the most. In a more personal way, I've also learned about the importance of working together to make a difference. It's been one of my goals as board president to see the presence of Catholic Charities spread more broadly across the 38 counties of the Diocese of Jefferson City and for Catholics across the diocese to embrace this agency.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. I remain committed to making the most of this privilege and using my talents to further the agency's mission to provide compassionate social services to those who need them most. When asked to serve, some people may question, "Why me?" but I believe we should reframe that question to "Why not me?" If I don't serve, who will?

Just a few weeks ago we heard at Mass in the Gospel of Matthew, the parable of a master who entrusts his servants with talents before embarking on a long journey. Upon his return, he praises those who have multiplied their talents, saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant...Come, share your

master's joy.' That reading, and the homily at my parish that weekend really resonated with me. I aspire to serve in a way that mirrors the faithfulness of those servants, using my skills and experiences to make a meaningful impact. Through serving, perhaps I too can share in my Master's joy.

\*\*\*\*\*

As you find yourself busy and surrounded by bustling families, warm meals, and comfortable rest — consider pouring the blessings you've received into your community with a gift to Catholic Charities. Your time, your skills and talents, and the support of an End of Year donation, has real impact on those struggling to reunite their own family, ensure warm meals for their children, or rest in the comfort of a stable home.

Your Catholic Charities agency participates in two community giving events at the end of the year. A national Catholic initiative centered on Giving Tuesday called *iGiveCatholic*, and a local community giving event in the Columbia area called *CoMo Gives*.

*iGiveCatholic* provides a

unique opportunity for members of the Catholic community to express their faith through philanthropy. By contributing to this campaign, you directly support the continuation of our programs that make a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

*CoMo Gives* is an online fundraiser that supports 153 Columbia area non-profits. Your donation not only supports Catholic Charities but also contributes to the collective well-being of our community, fostering a spirit of unity and care.

Whether you give a gift of your time, talent, or treasure, you become a vital part of our Catholic Charities community — providing care and creating hope for those who need it most. You can find links to engage with us easily online at [ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give](http://ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give).

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# St. Raymond's Society opens preschool, infant care in Columbia

**Part of mission to help pregnant mothers who say yes to life**

By Jay Nies

Something amazing happens every time the founders of the St. Raymond's Society let God take control.

He ups the ante, with grace to spare.

"We've never had a need that God didn't show up to meet in a way that knocks our socks off," stated St. Raymond's Society (SRS) cofounder Mike Hentges.

This time, that meant space opening up next door to the society's commodious new home for mothers and children.

This has allowed the society to open Super Start Preschool and Infant Care (*superstartpreschool.com*), a thoroughly Christian environment for babies and preschool-age children of the women availing themselves of SRS's comprehensive array of services.

"We found childcare to be the No. 1 issue for the mothers we serve," said cofounder Steve Smith, a member of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City. "And out of the blue, God sends us a solution."

St. Raymond's Society is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that partners with new and expectant mothers to build a thriving future for themselves and their family.

Named in honor of a patron saint of pregnant women, preborn babies and childbirth, SRS was founded by Mr. Smith and Mr. Hentges from a clear directive to help pregnant



**LEFT:** The outside of the St. Raymond's Society's Super Start Preschool and Infant Care in Columbia. **RIGHT:** A classroom in the preschool.



women who are in crisis, along with their babies and young children.

"We were praying for an end to abortion, and basically God asked, 'Why don't you do something to help?'" said SRS Executive Director Mr. Hentges, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia.

**"Doing what's best"**

SRS started out as a loose network of volunteers who in various ways could help women in difficult circumstances say yes to life.

Before long, the founders had purchased a house in Jefferson City to provide safety and shelter for the women the society serves.

SRS then hired a program manager to help the women prepare for successful motherhood and life beyond the home.

Soon thereafter, the organization opened a second house in Columbia. With both houses full, SRS was faced with a decision to expand.

Last year, the SRS board authorized the purchase of a newer, much larger, and better

equipped home that had been serving as the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia.

This allowed the society to expand its reach and provide safe shelter and an affirming environment to more mothers and children, while expanding services SRS offers to non-residential clients.

"With staff offices being located in the home, surrounding the mothers with a community of love and accountability has never been easier," said Mr. Hentges. "This has been a great benefit to the program."

The goal of SRS's faith-based, comprehensive, whole-person program is for the mothers to not only be ready to be a parent but also navigate life beyond the home in a healthy way.

"We are not just transitional housing, but rather are more focused on the transformation that is possible," stated Mr. Smith.

The newest, most unexpected addition to the mix is the preschool and infant childcare.

"The primary reason the preschool exists is for our clients, because they simply could not find childcare," said Mr. Hentges. "It was not a 'want to.' It was a 'have to.' Mothers in our program who are unable to secure childcare are stuck. They need to be able to pursue an education or career path."

Mr. Smith noted that a year of proper childcare can cost more than a year's tuition at some colleges. One objective with this childcare center was to make childcare more affordable for SRS clients.

Super Start Preschool has capacity for 95 children, with 25 of those spots being reserved for St. Raymond's clients.

See SUPER START, page 16

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## Father Jason Doke enjoys preparing, sharing a meal

### Shares his recipe for Tiramisu

By Alexandra Greeley

Father Jason Doke is noted by friends, family and parishioners for his cooking, a passion that started in childhood.

“My mom cooked for us because she was a good mother, not because she enjoyed it,” said Fr. Doke, pastor of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins and St. Michael Parish in Russellville.

“But my brother and I were interested because we liked to eat,” he said.

Fr. Doke’s family moved from Springfield to St. Louis toward the end of his elementary school years.

Although Sunday Mass was a big part of his upbringing, the future priest never attended a Catholic school.

Throughout high school, he was interested in science and aspired to be a physician.

He quickly realized upon beginning college at the University of Missouri that “medi-

cal school was not in the cards for me.”

But he did continue his studies in biology, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in biology.

During his studies, he began a passionate interest in brewing beer and even started working at a yeast laboratory to learn how to work with yeast.

He was thinking of food even in his studies.

After graduation, he began a job in a molecular biology lab on campus. While in that position, he began working on his master’s degree in food science.

It was in these years that Fr. Doke began to discern a call to Priesthood.

His discernment involved daily Mass, Scripture study with his pastor, and two trips to World Youth Day, one in Toronto and one in Germany.

He eventually finished his master’s degree in food science after entering the seminary.

He was ordained to the

### Fr. Doke’s Tiramisu recipe

#### Ingredients

- 7 large eggs, separated
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons marsala
- 6 shots espresso plus 4 tablespoons marsala, combined
- 24 ounces mascarpone cheese
- Vanilla extract to taste
- About 1 pound Savoiardi ladyfingers (400 grams)

#### Directions

1. Whip the egg whites to semi-hard peaks. Over a double boiler, whisk the yolks with the sugar and 3 tablespoons marsala until pale yellow. Take the yolks off the heat and whisk in the mascarpone. Next fold in the whites and add a little vanilla.
2. Put a layer of mousse in a 9x13 pan.
3. Dip the ladyfingers in the coffee/marsala mixture, and place them in the pan.
4. Add a layer of mousse.
5. Add another layer of ladyfingers.
6. Add another layer of mousse on top. Chill overnight.
7. Sprinkle with powered cocoa and serve.

homemade meal of smoked pork, cheesy scalloped potatoes and grilled vegetables was great,” said Fr. Doke.

American food was a rare treat for the seminarians, so it was nice to be able to make some every now and then.

“I did that almost once a month and got pretty good at portioning for large groups,” he said.

#### Trying new things

Upon returning to the United States, Fr. Doke found that he really liked making pasta, especially ravioli, such as butternut squash ravioli.

“To make pasta dough,” he noted, “it’s just mixing flour and eggs together, and dribbling in water until it forms a ball. Let it rest, then roll it out until it is a sheet of pasta.”

He occasionally cooks for parishioners, and every year, he auctions off an Italian-style dinner with antipasto, pasta, a meat dish, and Tiramisu for dessert.

He also makes his own cured meats for his antipasto platter.

“I like to eat,” he said. “And I like to experience food and try things I have not had before.”

“Living in Europe, I traveled around and knew that you cannot experience a culture unless you experience their food,” he said.

He noted that sharing a meal is important because it was Christ who shared a special meal with his Apostles.

“It’s in that spirit of hospitality that I like to bring Christ to others,” said Fr. Doke. “I really enjoy cooking for others and being able to provide something that someone has never had before.”

*Alexandra Greeley, a convert to Catholicism, is a food writer, restaurant critic, and cookbook author, who is passionate about every aspect of the food world — from interviewing chefs to supporting local farmers and to making the connection between food and faith.*

*Greeley, Andrea: ©2023 EWTN News, Inc. Reprinted with permission from the National Catholic Register — ncregister.com.*

Holy Priesthood in 2013.

#### A taste of home

“When we were growing up, there was no cable or In-

ternet, so we watched cooking shows on PBS, and in college the Food Channel, and Emeril Lagasse,” Fr. Doke said of his brother and himself.

“We are both fairly hands-on, and wanted to try dishes, but there was a lot of trial and error,” he said. “My mom was willing and told us if we wanted ingredients, she would get them for us, and we would sit down and have dinner together.”

After attending Conception Seminary College in northwestern Missouri, Fr. Doke attended the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where his passion for food and cooking went up several notches.

“What really changed my cooking was when I was in seminary in Rome,” he stated.

He was in a class with 55 other men, and he was one of a few in his group who cooked.

“When we had an event,” he recalled, “they turned to me and often asked me to do a dinner for 40, 50 or 60 people. Once I made jambalaya for 300 people.”

In Rome, Fr. Doke even built his own smoker from an old water softener tank.

“When I was feeding a lot of people, I would buy pork loins because they were cheap,” he said. “So I figured I could feed 12 people per loin.”

“The guys just loved it: a

## Mass in historical Cedron church



About 150 people gather for Mass in historical Assumption Church in Cedron on Aug. 26. They were celebrating the 185th anniversary of the founding of the former Assumption Parish, which is one of the seven original missions founded by Jesuit missionary Father Ferdinand Helias (1796-1874), known today as the Apostle of Central Missouri.

The Mass intention was for the late Teel and Bertha Imhoff on their 99th wedding anniversary. The couple were married in the church in 1924 and raised eight children in the community. Three of their children attended this year’s Mass, along with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The parish was closed in the early 1990s after most of the nearby town was absorbed into the Prairie Home Nature Preserve. A group known as the Friends of Cedron Church oversees the maintenance of the 1910-vintage church building and nearby schoolhouse, which with the parish cemetery are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mass is celebrated twice a year in the church, in addition to funerals and other gatherings.

— Photos by Jay Nies



# In Advent message, patriarchs, Church leaders urge Holy Land's Christians to 'stand strong'

By Judith Sudilovsky  
OSV News

## Jerusalem

Christmas in Bethlehem and the Holy Land this year will be one of solemnity, prayer and fasting as the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem called upon the faithful to forgo any “unnecessarily festive activities” during the Christmas season this year and to “stand strong” with those facing the afflictions of war, focusing more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas.

“Since the start of the war, there has been an atmosphere of sadness and pain. Thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children, have died or suffered serious injuries,” they said in a Nov. 10 statement on the “Celebration of Advent and Christmas in the Midst of the War.”

“Many more grieve over the loss of their homes, their loved ones, or the uncertain fate of those dear to them. Throughout the region, even more have lost their work and are suffering from serious economic challenges,” the Church leaders stated.

Israel launched a military assault on Hamas after Hamas terrorists from Gaza breached a security fence on the southern border with Israel Oct. 7. Thousands of heavily armed terrorists infiltrated the border and attacked some 22 civilian agricultural communities and cities inside Israel.

Israel revised its official estimated death toll of the attack, lowering the number to about 1,200 people, down from the more than 1,400 initially cited, a spokesman for the country's Foreign Ministry said Nov. 10.

Almost 240 people, including babies and elderly, were kidnapped into Gaza.

Israel has continued with its military incursion against Hamas targets both on land and by air.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, which is governed by Hamas, more than 11,100 Palestinians have been killed since Oct. 7.

Although there is no breakdown available distinguishing between Hamas members and civilians, the World Health Organization has said that most

of the dead are women and children.

Israel charges that Hamas uses civilians as human shields. As of Nov. 13, 4,609 children have been killed in Gaza.

Despite their repeated calls for a humanitarian ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence, the war has continued, said the Church leaders in their statement.

They said that though the sacred Advent season is normally one of joy and anticipation in preparation for the celebration of Christmas including religious services as well as colorful public festivities, “these are not normal times.”

“We call upon our congregations to stand strong with those facing such afflictions by this year foregoing any unnecessarily festive activities,” the Church leaders said.

“We likewise encourage our priests and the faithful to focus more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas in their pastoral activities and liturgical celebrations during this period, with all the focus directed at holding in our thoughts our brothers and sisters affected by this war and its consequences, and with fervent prayers for a just and lasting peace for our beloved Holy Land,” they said.

They also invited the faithful to “advocate, pray and contribute generously” as they are able for the relief of victims of the war and the needy.

“In these ways, we believe, we will be standing in support of those continuing to suffer — just as Christ did with us in his Incarnation, in order that all of God's children might receive the hope of a New Jerusalem in the presence of the Almighty, where ‘death shall be no more, neither mourning, nor crying, nor pain, for the former things have passed away’ (Revelation 21:4),” they wrote in their statement.

## Call to prayer

Meanwhile, bishops around the globe joined prayers for peace in the Holy Land and condemned the violence.



A pilgrim lights a candle Dec. 17, 2016, in the grotto of the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank. Amid the ongoing Israel-Gaza war, Christmas in Bethlehem and the Holy Land in 2023 will be one of solemnity, prayer and fasting, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem said. They called upon the faithful to forgo any “unnecessarily festive activities” and to “stand strong” with those facing the afflictions of war, focusing more on the spiritual meaning of Christmas.  
— OSV News photo/Debbie Hill

On Nov. 10, the Australian bishops' conference issued a statement titled “Praying for a Lasting Peace.”

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe of Perth, president of the conference, said that “the Australian Catholic Bishops join with the Australian Catholic community in expressing our grief and anguish over the suffering of people in the Holy Land.”

Along with praying “for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land” and holding them “and their suffering in our hearts,” the archbishop called people of faith “to pray with us for a lasting peace and the triumph of human dignity,” encouraging the acts of charity “to provide for the material needs of people who are isolated and facing the greatest hardship. The need is urgent,” Archbishop Costelloe said.

In a powerful homily on Remembrance Day Nov. 11, Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta condemned both “those who enacted the attacks which lead to the death of ... innocent Israelis,” but also condemned those “who are causing the deaths of ten thousand Palestinians.”

In most countries, Remembrance Day is observed Nov. 11 to recall the end of First World War hostilities and honor the memory of those who served “and made the ultimate

sacrifice” to preserve freedom.

Lamenting the number of children killed, Archbishop Scicluna questioned by what logic one could reason that those children were terrorists.

In his homily, the archbishop urged his listeners not to forget the dignity of humanity, according to *The Malta Independent*, a national newspaper, adding that “we are currently living through a spectacle of barbarity and lack of humanity.”

“The tragedy is that those

who have the veto in the U.N. Security Council are not doing their duty. Today it is our duty to remember and to not forget,” Archbishop Scicluna said.

The French bishops also addressed the Israel-Gaza war during their Nov. 3-8 Lourdes plenary assembly.

The war in Gaza has many repercussions in France, where acts of antisemitism are reported daily.

“We call on all our fellow citizens, in France, not to give in to the simplistic logic of confrontation between religious communities,” Archbishop Éric de Moulins d'Amieu de Beaufort of Reims and president of the bishops' conference said on Nov. 8.

“The question of antisemitism has particular resonance for us Christians,” Bishop Pierre-Antoine Bozo of Limoges added, addressing the journalists.

“But we are also very touched by what hurts and bruises the Palestinians. We are not taking sides,” he said.

*Judith Sudilovsky writes for OSV News from Jerusalem. Caroline de Sury contributed to this report from Paris.*

## Pope: God's call to each person to be holy benefits everyone

Catholic News Service

### Vatican City

The holiness of individuals and families gives life to the entire Catholic community, Pope Francis said.

The call to holiness “is not only a personal event, but also a communal one,” he said in an audience at the Vatican Nov. 16 with people taking part in a conference promoted by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

The conference Nov. 13-16 focused on the communal dimension of holiness, particularly in marriages and families.

“When God calls the individual, it is always for the good of everyone, as in the cases of Abraham and Moses, Peter and Paul. He calls the individual for a mission,” he said.

“The encounter with Jesus has this communal dimension,” he said, as one's response to God's love represents “a dynamic of involvement and intercession.”

For example, St. Matthew, newly called by Jesus, invited his friends to encounter the Messiah, and St. Paul, after meeting the risen Christ, becomes the Apostle to the Gentiles.

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## U.S. Catholics Play Critical Role in Special Outreach to Provide Safe Shelter to Suffering Poor

Cross Catholic Outreach has launched a major effort to provide safe housing for destitute families in Guatemala's Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu, and they are asking U.S. Catholics to become part of that life-transforming mission of mercy.

The charity, which has been recognized by the Vatican for its relief and development work in more than 90 countries, is working to build 64 storm-resistant homes to benefit 317 family members in nine communities — as well as help needy families with nutritional, educational and health care needs. [See the related story on the opposite page.]

While Cross Catholic Outreach's "Rise Up With Joy" appeal has many technical objectives, the ministry president, Michele Sagarino, is more focused on the deeply personal stories of the poor families who will benefit.

"This is really about Nilson and Deini Alvarez and families like theirs. Nilson and Deini and their 3-year-old son live in extreme poverty, and the challenges they face every day are heartbreaking. They live in a flimsy home and fear for their son's health because rain often floods their house, turning the dirt floor to mud. It's also easy for vermin like scorpions and rats to crawl through the gaps in its walls," she said. "No one should have to live like that. It's a situation that must grieve God — so it should be unacceptable to us too!"

According to Sagarino, Cross Catholic Outreach has been working with Catholic leaders in the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu to find solutions for families like Nilson and Deini's, and the plans they have developed can produce life-transforming results — if U.S. Catholics will step forward to help fund the work.

"Our primary goal is to construct

durable, concrete block houses for the poorest families," she explained. "The homes will have two bedrooms and a common area that can serve as a dining room and living room. Each will have a concrete foundation and walls, a galvanized metal roof, a sanitary latrine, a secure metal door and shuttered windows, providing a level of comfort and safety these families have never experienced before."

Because the design is simple, the construction of one of these homes costs less than \$11,000.

"That is a large sacrificial gift for one person or family to make, but many have done that and were thrilled they got involved. Most had been looking for something specific and significant they could do to help," Sagarino said. "This outreach was exactly what they were looking for because a home does more than offer safe shelter. It gives families a foundation for building a better life."

Serving the poor through the local Church also has important spiritual benefits, according to Sagarino.

"When people learn local Church leaders love them and want a better life for them, it strengthens their faith and restores their hope," she said. "Many have felt isolated and unseen. They need to know we care about them."

**Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's housing programs and other outreaches can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02614, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. Those interested in making gifts on a monthly basis can indicate that on the brochure to become a Mission Partner, or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.**



*Above: The Alvarez family lives in a home that provides little protection from the weather or security from intruders. They and families like them will benefit from Cross Catholic Outreach's "Rise Up With Joy" appeal.*

*Below: This is one of the houses the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu built earlier with help from Cross Catholic Outreach. With your support, the diocese hopes to expand its housing program to provide 64 additional homes to families with urgent needs.*



## Unique Christmas Catalog Created to Bless Donors — and the World's Poor

If you are like most people, your mailbox has been choked with Christmas catalogs this year. In fact, their arrival has almost become a sign of the season, like the appearance of house lights and department store decorations.

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, Cross Catholic Outreach intends to offer a catalog too — but theirs is a very different offering with a very different purpose. It has been designed to bless both givers and receivers by using the holiday gift-giving tradition to help the world's

poorest families.

Rather than offer gizmos, gadgets, neckties and jewelry, the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Catalog gives Catholics with a concern for the poor an opportunity to share blessings in their lives with needy families by sponsoring practical and urgently needed items like medicines, milk powder, seeds for farming, access to safe water, or materials for roof repairs. Of course, it also offers special presents for children, including toys and sports equipment, so individuals can choose to sponsor both

practical items suitable for families and gifts to bring children joy.

"Like most Christmas catalogs, ours offers lots of items so donors can choose to give something very specific. That said, they can also make a general gift to address the poor's greatest needs," explained Jim Cavnar, CEO of Cross Catholic Outreach, the Catholic relief and development ministry offering this program. "When donors choose to give to Greatest Need, they provide global Catholic missions with the ability to address the most urgent needs wherever

they arise. The priests and religious sisters we support really appreciate that flexibility. It's the best way to empower their work among the poor."

This unique Christmas 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/Christmas.

"Our hope is that everyone will be blessed by the experience," Cavnar said. "It's the wonderful way for us to celebrate the birth of our merciful Lord!"

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# Good Samaritan Serves as Model to Catholics Encountering Brutal Poverty in Rural Guatemala

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus describes an encounter between three travelers and a man who has been wounded and left to suffer on the side of the road. In the story, two outwardly spiritual men demonstrate no compassion for this victim and do everything they can to avoid any interaction with him. Only one of the three travelers — a man who has no reason to be helpful — demonstrates Christlike love, doing what he can to comfort and care for the wounded fellow.

**“Imagine what a powerful testimony of God’s love that would be!”**

Michele Sagarino, President  
Cross Catholic Outreach

While it is a parable with several important meanings, it also contains an obvious point about the way Christ’s followers are expected to respond when they encounter an urgent or serious need. Rather than look the other way, we are to step forward and help the suffering, serving as God’s instruments of mercy.

Consider that calling now as we visit the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu and the countryside of southern Guatemala. On the road we are taking, you will see miles of thriving rubber tree plantations, teakwood farms and sugarcane fields — but you will also find hundreds of wounded and suffering families trapped in generational poverty.

“In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the injured man was a victim of robbers. In this rural part of the diocese, the harm has been done by a bloody civil war that displaced many families and left them mired in brutal poverty. In the end, the suffering is the same, and so is our call to be instruments of God’s mercy,” explained Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a Catholic relief and development ministry recognized by the Vatican for its effective humanitarian and spiritual programs. “When our ministry discovered the extreme needs of families in this diocese, we felt compelled to provide help — and our hope is that compassionate Catholics in the U.S. will want to get involved too.”

Sagarino said that many of the communities Cross Catholic Outreach wants to serve can only be reached over rutted dirt roads. These villages have little or no infrastructure, so parents there are raising their children in dirt-floored homes without running water, suitable



*Many poor families in the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu live in patchwork shacks offering little security or protection from the elements — but there is hope, thanks to the “Rise Up With Joy” appeal being launched by Cross Catholic Outreach.*

sanitation facilities or reliable electricity.

Most of the men and women in these rural areas are subsistence farmers who work long hours planting, tending and harvesting corn and beans, defenseless against unpredictable weather. Their hard work may provide simple meals for their children, but it is rarely enough to fully cover their housing, health and educational expenses.

Families without access to land for farming face even greater challenges. They typically take work as day laborers, earning about \$10 a day if they are lucky and jobs are available. The diocese reports that those families typically earn between \$125 and \$190 a month — far too little to afford adequate housing. Ultimately, these families must make do with what they have, cobbling together plastic sheets, scrap metal and wood planks to build flimsy, unsafe shacks.

“Our ultimate goal is to improve living conditions in those communities. We want to help families break free from the cycle of poverty that has plagued them for generations,” Sagarino said. “We’ve learned that providing safe housing plays a major part in improving lives, so we are making that our priority. As families

are placed in safer, sturdier homes, their hope is restored and they have a foundation for building a better life.”

Through its “Rise Up With Joy” appeal, Cross Catholic Outreach is giving compassionate U.S. Catholics an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan, serving as God’s instrument of mercy by funding the construction of homes for the poor and by helping struggling families in the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu through other important humanitarian and spiritual programs. [See the related story on the opposite page.]

“The homes we will build are simple

but sturdy, secure and sanitary,” Sagarino said. “They will change the lives of these families in profound ways, and their benefits will carry over to the next generation too.

Generational poverty has been a major factor in the hardships these families have been facing. Opening this door to generational prosperity will be a major step in the other direction. My prayer is that American Catholics will want to play a role in that restoration of broken lives — just as the Good Samaritan did in the parable Jesus told. Imagine what a powerful testimony of God’s love that would be!”

## 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. AC02614, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on 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 is needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



## SUPER START

From page 11

“That means we can also help with the childcare shortage in the greater community,” Mr. Hentges said. “This resource will allow us to serve our client’s most critical need and also grow and advance the Kingdom.”

“It really was a Godsend,” said Mr. Smith. “Originally, we were looking to build a campus. The only thing our new home didn’t have was a preschool. We moved into our new home and God said, ‘Watch this!’”

Super Start Preschool provides a Christian curriculum to children ages 6 weeks to 6 years old and is inspired by the Reggio Emilia curriculum which believes children learn best through play and exploration.

“It’s not just for the women being served by St. Raymond’s,” said Mr. Smith. “We want to encourage people in the community and bring their kids there. It’s a good way for the women we serve to socialize with others from the community.”

“It fits our mission of doing what’s best for the mom,” said Mr. Smith. “We did it because the moms need it.”

“And it’s allowing us to give something back to the community as well,” Mr. Hentges added.

### “Stepping out in faith”

SRS’s founding principle is that it isn’t enough to say that abortion is wrong and simply wish a struggling mother well.

People need to cooperate actively with God’s goodness and work against the formidable forces that make many pregnant women feel they have no choice but abortion.

“So, as we’ve been doing

through this whole story, we’re stepping out in faith with this school,” said Mr. Hentges. “We are blessed to have a great director for Super Start Preschool. And based on how far SRS has come in the 13 years since we started, we’re confident it’s going to live on and thrive.”

He pointed out that within all the expansion efforts, SRS still operates its home in Jefferson City.

It’s smaller, quieter, and especially suitable for women who need for their location to be discrete, for mothers who have babies with special needs, or for mothers considering adoption.

“It’s an investment in the long-term wellbeing of the women and children we serve, and in our ability to serve people in the future,” Mr. Smith stated.

“Whether in our homes, program, or preschool — in all we do — we are focused on the mother. Conveying the support St. Raymond’s offers is at the core of our mission to help pregnant mothers-in-need say ‘yes’ to life and to motherhood,” Mr. Hentges stated.

Both founders asked for continued prayers for the safety and wellbeing of the mothers they are currently working with, all SRS alumni, the preschool, and children who are growing an learning there, and for the mission of SRS.

Visit [superstartpreschool.com](http://superstartpreschool.com) for information about enrolling in Super Start Preschool and infant care.

Visit [SRSupport.org](http://SRSupport.org) for information about the St. Raymond’s Society and ways to help, or follow St. Raymond’s Society on Facebook.



Mural in the lobby of the St. Raymond’s Society’s Super Start Preschool and infant care in Columbia.



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos and priests of the diocese concelebrate this year’s Mass for Deceased Priests on Nov. 8 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. — Photo by Annie Williams

## PRIESTS

From page 5

who was Fr. Cole’s closest friend.

Msgr. Wilbers died Sept. 19 of this year.

“He used to come visit at Sacred Heart, or we would go and visit him at Lake Ozark,” Fr. Parakkacharuvil recalled. “And this year, we remember.”

“These are people I knew, and they knew me,” the homilist stated. “They touched my life. They made my life different, and I think about them. I remember them. I pray for them.”

He said that in trying to help children understand “the end things,” he speaks of a house with three stories.

The first floor is analogous to people in this life.

The second relates to people who have died and are being perfected before being admitted to heaven.

The third floor is heaven, sainthood and the fullness of God’s presence.

The house also has a basement without windows and a door that only goes one way, he noted.

He placed before his fellow priests the idea that everyone carries a bit of that basement, that main floor and the two floors above it at any given time.

“It’s all in us,” he stated. “Where we end up just depends upon the yes or the no that we make in this life.”

### “Imitate what you celebrate”

Fr. Parakkacharuvil noted how stained glass windows, with radiant images of saints

and prophets, are all different.

“They all let the light of sun in differently, but they are all transparent to God,” he said.

“Allowing God to shine in us and through us — that’s what helps us get to heaven,” he stated.

He pointed to the example of St. Ignatius of Antioch, a priest who graciously declined all offers from those seeking to prevent his execution during the time of the Roman persecutions of Christians.

“His letter clearly states: Don’t do that. Allow me to be crushed by the teeth of the wild beasts, so that the wheat for the bread, I may become,” Fr. Parakkacharuvil noted.

The homilist reminded his fellow priests that they all celebrate the Eucharist, “even with all of our imperfections.”

“Many times, we bring with us all the brokenness,” he said. “Sometimes, even that wild beast attacking us in different ways, maybe breaking us into dust. Into flour.”

“We offer, we celebrate the Eucharist,” he said, “and we become the Eucharist.”

He thanked the priests of this diocese for being like Fr. Cole and Msgr. Wilbers.

“Each of you have made my life a blessing in different ways,” he said. “That’s the great thing about our brotherhood as priests. We are from different places, but in Jesus, we are brothers.

“And we make the Body of Christ present to anyone and everyone,” he stated. “And

sometimes, we, too, become the Body of Christ.”

### Called by name

After the homily, Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia and diocesan vicar for priests, and Father David Veit, pastor of St. Brendan Parish in Mexico, read the names of the deceased priests of the diocese.

Between each group of names, the priests and congregants sang the refrain from the Song of Farewell, “Receive their souls, O Holy ones. Present them now to God most high.”

After all the names were read, the cantors chanted the “*In Paradisum*” — an ancient Catholic hymn inviting saints and martyrs to lead a person who has died into heaven to be with God.

Deacon William Seibert and Deacon Brad Jones assisted at the Mass.

Julie Wilbers and Mary Helen Norfleet, sisters of Msgr. Wilbers, presented the bread and wine at the offertory.

Bishop McKnight; Bishop Gaydos; Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, vicar general of the diocese; and Fr. Cordes prayed part of the Eucharistic prayer.

After Mass, the priests gathered downstairs in Cana Hall to share a meal.

Laughter filled the room as they shared stories and memories of priests they had ministered with and been inspired by.

# Bishops engage in lively discussion of mental health and emphasis on evangelizing, during fall assembly

## Underscore threat of abortion as 'pre-eminent' issue in faithful citizenship

By Peter Jesserer Smith  
OSV News

Baltimore

Excitement about the impacts of the National Eucharistic Revival in local dioceses, support for the nomination of St. John Henry Newman as a doctor of the Church, and the approval of supplements to the bishops' teaching document on "Faithful Citizenship" featured strongly on the second day of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) annual fall plenary assembly in Baltimore.

The bishops engaged in vigorous discussions surrounding updates on the National Eucharistic Revival and the bishops' National Catholic Mental Health Campaign.

The Latin Church bishops approved U.S. adaptations to the Liturgy of the Hours, the public prayer of the Church proper to all the baptized, along with drafts for the blessing of an abbot or abbess; the consecration of virgins and the order of religious profession.

Those texts now go to the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for confirmation and recognition.

The bishops also approved a request to ask Rome to include "St. Teresa of Kolkata" as an optional memorial on the Roman Calendar for Sept. 5, and also heard that a request to include Salvadoran martyr St. Oscar Romero would have to be sent to the Vatican "accompanied by a robust letter of support from the president of the conference."

### Faithful citizenship

The bishops voted to approve supplements to the bishops' teaching document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," which consists of a new introductory note, bulletin inserts, a template video script and social media kit.

A majority of 225 bishops voted yes, 11 voted no and seven abstained.

Quoting Pope Francis'

2020 encyclical letter, "*Fratelli Tutti*" ("Brothers All"), the new supplements encourage Catholics to follow the example of the Good Samaritan and serve as neighbors to all, while underscoring the threat of abortion as "our pre-eminent priority because it directly attacks our most vulnerable and voiceless brothers and sisters and destroys more than a million lives per year in our country alone."

### A healer of division

The bishops also approved revised national statutes for Christian Initiation.

The U.S. bishops also voted nearly unanimously to support the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in their request for Pope Francis to name St. John Henry Newman a doctor of the Church.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, said the doctrine committee he chairs had studied St. John Henry Newman's writings and recommended the saint as "worthy of this high honor." Several bishops spoke from the floor about Newman's relevance to evangelization, the development of a synodal Church and his ecumenical admiration, including the respect he holds among the Eastern churches.

Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, also noted the saint unites Catholics on both the "conservative" and "progressive" sides.

"We should take advantage of that and study his writings. It might really help to heal the divisions in the Church," he said.

### Planning for mission

Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu gave a presentation on the bishops' pastoral care of Asian and Pacific Islander communities, which he said were the "third largest segment of the U.S.' Catholic population," and he thanked Cardinal Pierre for his work to have more Asian and Pacific Islander bishops appointed in the U.S.

The bishops also voted to replace the USCCB's current strategic planning cycle with a

mission planning process.

While emphasizing the work of streamlining, reducing spending and removing silos at the USCCB, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, the USCCB's new secretary-elect, said the new model would propose two aspects: the normal ordinary responsibilities of the conference and then "mission directives that evolve after a process of discernment."

Archbishop Coakley explained it provided an opportunity to put into action synodality by inviting feedback from bishops, who could be informed by their pastoral and presbyteral councils, with time set aside in regional meetings to distill insights into a few initiatives.

Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, and Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of Portland, Oregon, both expressed their support for the development.

"I think it gives us a chance to bring new wind into the life of the conference at a time when we're looking to do things more synodally," Bishop Seitz said.

Archbishop Sample said he appreciated the new process' more acute "sense of mission" and its ability to measure goals.

"I think it's a great way forward," he said. "I think it's going to refine and focus the work of the conference."

### Eucharistic revival

During a presentation on the National Eucharistic Revival, many bishops spoke about exciting developments taking place in their diocese.

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, gave an upbeat presentation, noting the bishops are "halfway through this National Eucharistic Revival."

He shared that attendees of the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 in Indianapolis now have the option of purchasing single-day and weekend passes, among other

provisions to make participation more affordable and flexible, including scholarship from the bishops' Solidarity Fund.

He also mentioned the Apostolic Penitentiary is going to grant a plenary indulgence

**"Particularly with young people, we have to find ways to draw them into an experience of the Gospel, an experience of Jesus Christ."**

— Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, USCCB president

to anyone who participates in one of the four legs of the pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress.

His figures also indicated the Church was also halfway there. Among the Catholic Church's 17,000 parishes in the U.S., the National Eucharistic Revival has "8,000 parish point persons" and over 10,000 downloads of its parish playbook, while the latest statistics on in-person weekly Mass attendance was hovering at 17%, below pre-pandemic levels.

### Toward greater knowledge

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, provided an update on the newly-launched Institute on the Catechism to the U.S. Catholic bishops, and said its vision of "evangelizing catechesis" intersected with the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival.

Peter Kilpatrick, president of The Catholic University of America, discussed the mission of the university and encouraged the bishops to learn more about the U.S.'s only pontifical university in Washington and engage in a "robust dialogue" about how it can be of greater service to the Church.

### Mental health crisis

The bishops also heard about the USCCB's mental health campaign from Metropolitan Archbishop Borys A. Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human

Development, and Bishop Barron, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

The campaign — announced Oct. 10 to coincide with World Mental Health Day — is a response to the "dire mental health crisis" the nation now faces, said Archbishop Gudziak in his Nov. 15 address to the bishops' assembly.

He cited data from the Centers for Disease Control indicating that more than one in five adults in the U.S. live with a mental illness.

The presentation evoked the most sustained discussion over the past two days from the assembly, with many bishops weighing in on the importance of addressing the issue.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, Texas, noted that Houston is "running out of psychiatrists, particularly for young people," and emphasized the need for Catholics to enter this profession.

"The lack of such help is very disturbing in the United States," he said.

### Evangelization and encounter

The day's session concluded with a presentation on how the new lay ministry of the instituted catechist established by Pope Francis can help the U.S. bishops give life to the "evangelizing catechesis" they're seeking to give their people.

During an interview with OSV News on the conference's second day, USCCB president Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services noted the unity demonstrated by the conference, but also emphasized the bishops most need wisdom and guidance on "how we draw people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

"Obviously, we have some ideas, but we're continually trying to reach out because we recognize that, particularly with young people, we have to find ways to draw them into

# Pope heads to climate conference to press for action

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

When Pope Francis visits Dubai in the United Arab Emirates Dec. 1-3 to address the opening of the U.N. Climate Change Conference, he will be the first pope ever to attend one of the global gatherings that began in 1995.

The visit marks yet another unique effort by this pope who — in honor of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi — has made caring for creation a hallmark of his pontificate and has repeatedly reminded people that actions speak louder than words.

His presence, anticipated speech and private bilateral meetings at the 28th conference, known as COP28, will add further strength to his many urgent appeals that nations reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition swiftly to clean energy sources and

compensate countries already harmed by the effects of climate change.

“We must move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes,” he wrote this year in “*Laudate Deum*” (“Praise God”), a follow-up document to his 2015 encyclical “*Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home.”

Pope Francis had timed the release of his 2015 encyclical on humanity’s responsibility to care for creation to coincide with final preparations for the COP21 conference in Paris. And a number of experts believe that document had a deep impact on the successful adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement, a binding agreement for nations to fight climate change and mitigate its effects.

The pope, likewise, timed the release of “*Laudate Deum*,”

which presented an even stronger critique of global inaction and indifference, ahead of the climate conference in Dubai,

saying the meeting “can represent a change of direction, showing that everything done since 1992 (with the adoption of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate

Change) was in fact serious and worth the effort, or else it will be a great disappointment and jeopardize whatever good has been achieved thus far.”

Some Catholic advocacy organizations that have been pushing for global action for years believe the pope’s participation at COP28 is going to help convince leaders to make stronger commitments.

Lindlyn Moma, advocacy director of the *Laudato Si'* Movement, told Catholic News Service Nov. 20, that “Pope Francis really recognizes that we are in a climate crisis and he is going to COP to make sure that everyone hears this message,” which is the same message in “*Laudato Si'*” eight years ago, but “not enough people have heeded to that call.”

What needs to be done at COP28, Moma said, is “an agreement that is very clear on the phase out of fossil fuels.”

The intergovernmental In-

ternational Energy Agency “has released countless reports since two years ago saying that we can have no more invest-

Al-Jaber met with the pope Oct. 11, just one week after “*Laudate Deum*” was released with its pointed mention that

“gas and oil companies are planning new projects” in the UAE, and its clear call for “decisive acceleration” in transitioning to clean energy sources.

“The fact

that (al-Jaber) went to meet him, immediately after ‘*Laudate Deum*’ was released, it really says that his message came out strong and clear,” Moma said.

Vatican News reported that during that visit, al-Jaber expressed the United Arab Emirates’ appreciation for Pope Francis’ “unwavering advocacy for positive climate change to advance human progress,” and they discussed the crucial role faith communities can play in addressing climate change.

COP28 will co-host a “Faith Pavilion,” which Pope Francis will help inaugurate Dec. 3. It is the first-ever pavilion of its kind at a COP event and will host events Nov. 30-Dec. 12 with religious leaders, faith-based organizations, scientists, political leaders, youths and Indigenous people.

The pavilion will also showcase the “Abu Dhabi Interfaith Statement for COP28,” which was signed by 28 faith leaders, including Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, at the end of a special summit there Nov. 6-7.

The statement called for “inclusive dialogue, during and beyond COPs, with faith leaders, vulnerable groups, youth, women’s organizations and the scientific community to forge alliances that strengthen sustainable development,” and it “demands transformative action to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach and serve affected and vulnerable communities.”

Pope Francis and Egyptian Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of Al-Azhar, are expected to sign the same statement at the COP28 summit.





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## CO-RESPONSIBILITY

From page 1

“I really believe in the bishop’s vision, and I think he’s doing an incredible job with our parishes becoming centers of charity and mercy,” said Mrs. Abbot. “We bring that about by caring for one another and using the talents we have been given.”

“This is an exciting time of change in the diocese, and it

all fits together well,” said Mrs. Robinson. “Change takes time, but I think Catholics in the diocese are embracing co-responsibility now more than ever.”

### Bringing people together

Mrs. Abbot gained experience leading meetings and facilitating discussions through her

job and volunteer experiences.

An ag teacher by trade, she currently works in administration in the Eldon School District.

She has taught religious education classes at church and served as a member and chair of the Our Lady of Snows Parish Pastoral Council.

As a deanery representative to the DPC, she has helped facilitate surveys and town-hall meetings in search of ways to keep parishes vibrant and focused on their primary functions.

This is part of the deanery-based planning process known as Shaping Our Future Together.

Chief among the parish functions are worshiping God, preaching and teaching the Gospel, and helping people in need.

“The people are excited and engaged with the Shaping Our Future Together planning pro-

cess and finding ways for parishes to collaborate better,” said Mrs. Abbott.

Mrs. Robinson has also noticed energy and excitement in the parishes of her deanery as they take part in Shaping Our Future Together.

“It’s positioning our parishes to help each other and grow stronger together,” she said.

Likewise, the last and largest group of parishes has been ushered into the stewardship model for supporting the work of the parishes and the diocese.

This and the annual parish Catholic Stewardship Renewal process has helped identify resources and areas of need, said Mrs. Robinson.

“It also has everyone thinking about how they can contribute,” she stated.

### Good people

Mrs. Abbot said she sees effective lay involvement unfolding organically in parishes in her deanery.

“I think it’s the Holy Spirit working within those people and within those parishes,” she said.

“But also, it really does make a difference when the laity feel like they can be a part of the process and contribute something meaningful,” she stated.

“It’s everybody working together under the leadership and direction of a priest, who are under the direction of our deans and our bishop,” she said.

“Having the laity there saying, ‘these are our needs and

these are how we can help other people with their needs’ is essential,” she stated.

Mrs. Abbott said important conversations took place and good data was collected in the initial phase of Shaping Our Future Together this year.

“I’m convinced that the Holy Spirit is moving these conversations,” she said.

Getting parishioners actively involved in the process has been healthy, “and they want more,” she stated.

“I’m excited about it, excited about what we’re going to do, how we’re going to make the parishes more thriving,” she said.

She emphasized that now is not the time for misplaced nostalgia or bitterness over things that can no longer be the way they used to be.

“We really have to focus on: What are the positives? What is my relationship with Jesus? How am I being transformed into his likeness?” she stated.

Mrs. Abbott said humility in leadership is a basic building block of co-responsibility.

“You can’t have all the answers,” she said. “You have to leave room for faith and the Holy Spirit. Together, we’re going to figure it out.”

She’s pleased at all the offers of help and cooperation that she and Mrs. Robinson have received from their fellow DPC members.

“We have a lot of work to do, but we have a lot of good people to do it,” she said.

## BISHOPS

From page 17

an experience of the Gospel, an experience of Jesus Christ,” he said.

He was paraphrasing an insight from the 2007 Aparecida document then-Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Pope Francis) helped draft: “the best thing that has ever happened to a Catholic is to know Jesus Christ. And the best gift he can give to another is to share that experience with him or her ... I think that’s what we’re all striving to do.”

*Peter Jesserer Smith is the national news and features editor for OSV News.*

*OSV News national news reporter Gina Christian contributed to this report.*

## WANKUM

From page 7

find the right answer. I’ve said many a prayer!”

### “Very rewarding”

Louise Summerhill started the Birthright movement in Toronto, Canada, in 1968.

It has spread to more than 450 chapters — including several very successful Birthright affiliates in this diocese.

Birthright of Mid-Missouri is a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides confidential information and resources to women.

These services include free pregnancy tests, maternity wear and baby items.

Birthright volunteers offer support and access to available community resource tools, addressing prenatal care, childbirth, adoption, child safety, parenting skills and referrals for medical support, financial, legal and employment resources, housing and counseling.

The Supreme Court reversed the *Roe* and *Doe* decisions last year, and Missouri banned elective abortions in the state.

But the work of helping mothers of pre-born babies remains urgent and necessary.

Birthright of Mid-Missouri helped over 500 individuals in 2022, including distribution of donated diapers, maternity clothes, baby formula, baby clothing, layettes, car seats and portable play yards, along with utility and rent assistance and other financial help.

Through the generosity of many, the group is on target to meet or exceed those numbers this year.

It remains the work of many committed volunteers.

“If it were not for all those women who said

yes, I don’t know what we would have done,” said Mrs. Wankum.

She’s convinced that God transforms difficult situations into proof of his endless fidelity.

“He’s always there, he always wants to help,” she said. “And you can see that with the many, many women who have come to work at Birthright through the years. Each of our volunteers has beautiful stories to tell.

“And the contributors: People are so generous,” she stated. “It’s through those generous donations that we’re able to assist so many people and make such a difference.”

She asked for special prayers for families of pregnant girls.

“That they will see fit to be supportive of the girl who is pregnant,” said Mrs. Wankum. “So often, the families are not very supportive. Especially with the younger girls, that can be very tough.”

Mrs. Wankum gives thanks for all the help Birthright of Mid-Missouri has been able to give to women and girls these past 50 years.

“And I pray that more young people will be able to volunteer their time,” she said. “Volunteers are not easy to find these days. We could use some volunteers in the office.

“It’s a wonderful thing to do,” she stated. “There are some ladies who have volunteered almost as long as I have. If you talk to any of the volunteers, they’ll tell you it’s very rewarding.”

The Birthright of Mid-Missouri office is located at 1006 E. High St. in Jefferson City.

Individuals seeking help may call the 24/7 free Helpline at 1-800-550-4900.

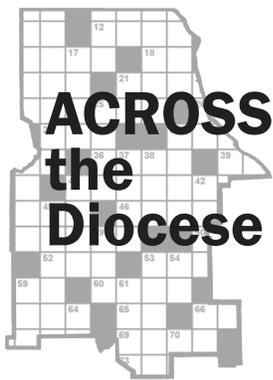
For more information about volunteering or for local services, call 573-635-8822.

## Pilgrimage to Cathedral



Members and families of Knights of Columbus St. Patrick Council 2627 in Rolla enjoy a tour of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City Nov. 14 as part of the council’s annual pilgrimage.

— Photo by Joseph Dalton



By Father Donald Antweiler

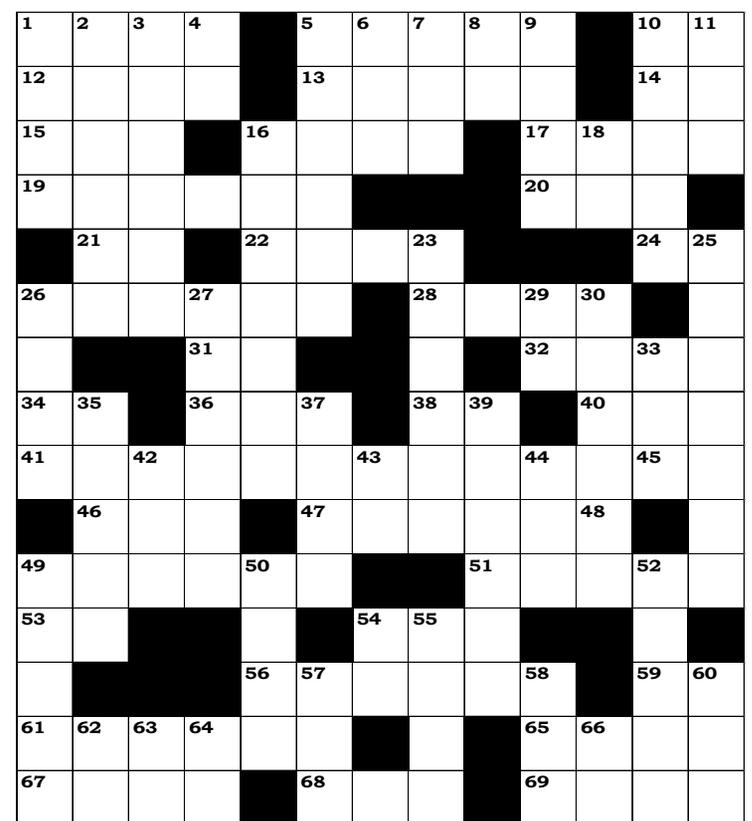
### ACROSS

1. Missouri has many animals, birds, fish etc. of course. This puzzle features what some of them are called when in a group. Some words will be familiar, some not. Starting out easy (hopefully), a group of cows is called a \_\_\_\_ of cattle.
5. Moonshiner's equipment.
10. "You watch out. And give your pretty lady a kiss from \_\_\_\_," said the stevedore. 'I'll do that.' And any number of candles to the Virgin Mary, added January silently, if I catch up with that boat," —*Dead Water*, Barbara Hambly.
12. Spans of time.
13. A group of quail.
14. "A dog-face gets just as tired advancing as he does retreating, and he gets shot \_\_\_\_ both ways," —*Up Front*, Bill Mauldin.
15. Dog comment.
16. "\_\_\_\_ Me Not On The Lone Prairie"; cowboy folk song, sung by Johnny Cash, Tex Ritter, Roy Rogers and others.
17. Royal ruler in India.
19. A group of puppies or kittens.
20. "You can either be a host to God, or a hostage to your \_\_\_\_," —Wayne Dyer.
21. Periodic table letters for neon.
22. Part of a BA college degree.
24. Letters for Recording Secretary.
26. On the table was \_\_\_\_ boat which matched the china plates perfectly (2 wds.).
28. In 1863, the Mo. Legislature adopted a \_\_\_\_ of gradual emancipation to begin in 1870. Mo. slaves did not desire to wait 7 more years for freedom. "The slaves are leaving by the hundreds every day," —James S. Rollins, Mo. Congressman, MU founder, in *The Fiery Trial, Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, Eric FONER.

31. The new i-Phone \_\_\_\_ (Special Edition) is said to have greater battery capacity and a better camera.
32. Restaurant list.
34. Letters for Northern Ireland, where St. Patrick is buried.
36. Abbr. for seniors.
38. On an eye prescription, letters for Oculus Sinister (i.e., left eye).
40. "I take a \_\_\_\_ of pride in what our flag and our anthem stands for," —Mike Schultz.
41. "...then gifts of healing, \_\_\_\_, administration and varieties of tongues," (1 Corinthians 12:28).
45. Six points in football.
46. \_\_\_\_ Cruces is the second largest city in New Mexico (over 100,000). Literally, its name is "The Crosses," after 3 crosses once located just north of the town.
47. A son of Shem and so a grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:22).
49. A group of otters.
51. "A human being needs to endure something in \_\_\_\_ to assess himself correctly," —*Last Testament*, Pope Benedict XVI.
53. In law, letters for Law Minor, referring to any lawsuit seeking less than \$50,000.
54. \_\_\_\_ Zedong; founder and long-time Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party.
56. A group of geese.
59. Woman's narrow shoe width.
61. "I have set before you life and death... \_\_\_\_ life then, that you and your descendants may live..." (Deuteronomy 30:19).
65. Men.
67. "I like him all right, but he was one of those cocky little fellows who ask for it. You know the \_\_\_\_\_. They always know everything," —*The Guns of William Longley* by Donald Hamilton from the *Black Hats* anthology.
68. "What, on this stretch of the river? \_\_\_\_ twenty feet of bottom we've got and not a (sand) bar in sight..." —*Dead Water*, Barbara Hambly.
69. A group of dogs.

### DOWN

1. "...a royal official went to (Jesus) and asked him to come and \_\_\_\_ his son, who was near death," (John 4:47).
2. He is \_\_\_\_ on the side of caution, always a good practice in our construction business.
3. A group of turkeys.
4. On an eye prescription, letters for Diopter Sphere (i.e., no treatment necessary for stigmatism).
5. A group of squirrels.
6. High craggy hill.
7. All 8 \_\_\_\_ League schools are private and located in the Northeast. They include Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, Yale, Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth and the University of Pennsylvania.
8. Jerome \_\_\_\_ Royer de la Dauversiere (1597-1659); a devout Catholic, he consecrated his family to the Holy Family; very unusual for a layman at that time, he founded a religious order, a Confraternity for lay people and supported evangelization in Quebec, Canada; he is Venerable, the first step in canonization as a saint.
9. "Give thanks to the Lord on the harp; on the ten-stringed \_\_\_\_ offer praise," (Psalms 33:2).
10. In 2023, a devout Christian said, vs. the State of Colorado, it was against her conscience to make specific messages on wedding cakes for homosexual couples. The Supreme Court said the First Amendment generally protects an individual from being required by the gov't. to voice a specific message, being a matter of free speech. The State cannot "force an individual to speak in ways that align with its views but defy her conscience about a matter of \_\_\_\_ significance." It was considered a victory for religious liberty.
11. Letters in an airport for Estimated Time of Arrival.
16. Although famous for dam building, in Mo.'s faster and fluctuating streams they usually excavate a den in a high bank.
18. Abbr. for agricultural or antigen.
23. "The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our \_\_\_\_," —Ralph Waldo Emerson.
25. A group of pigs.
26. New Testament prophetess (Luke 2:36-38).
27. Francis of \_\_\_\_, sometimes called the patron saint of



- ecology.
29. "If there is a worse place than Hell," said Lincoln upon learning of the disaster at Fredericksburg, 'I \_\_\_\_ in it,' —*Battle Cry of Freedom, the Civil War Era*, James McPherson.
30. "You can see I am weaving my web around Thaddeus. The \_\_\_\_ begins to close upon him," —Sherlock Holmes in *The Sign of the Four*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
33. "The North's financial advantage over increasingly hungry Southern citizens proved decisive; the war was won \_\_\_\_ on the battlefield, but in the Treasury departments," —*Ways and Means, Lincoln and the Financing of the Civil War*, Roger Lowenstein.
35. Mohammed's religion.
37. "The alternative (to a plane) said an Alaskan homesteader, is to \_\_\_\_ put in your cabin watching the porcupines gnaw on your ax handle and the moss grow on your roof," Ketchikan, Alaska; Charles Kural's "America."
39. A group of fish.
42. America's uncle.
43. "Nothing united the Lincolns so much \_\_\_\_ their love for their children," —*The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage*.
44. Abbr. for Europe.
48. Related to Hwy., St., Ln., etc.
49. A group of chickens is called a brood or \_\_\_\_.
50. "Benjamin Franklin sat back in the chair, adjusted the discomfort in his \_\_\_\_\_. 'I am indeed forsaken. Alone and...coffeeless,'" —*The Glorious Cause*, a novel of the Revolutionary War; Jeff Shaara.
52. The Economic and Policy Analysis Research Center (\_\_\_\_) at the Univ. of Mo. provides research support to business from agencies at the local, state and federal levels, including the 4 campus Univ. of Mo. system.
54. Famous British sports car brand.
55. "Now he belongs to the \_\_\_\_," —*Secretary of War* Edwin Stanton's words after Lincoln took his last breath.
57. Abbr. meaning "of age or aged," from the Latin "aetatis."
58. 6th sense.
60. "Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we \_\_\_\_ or imagine...to him be the glory..." (Ephesians 3:20-21).
62. \_\_\_\_-Ho crackers sadly were discontinued after fierce competition with Ritz crackers.
63. "\_\_\_\_ Top of Old Smokey," 1951 folk song by the Weavers.
64. On an eye prescription, letters for Oculus Dexter (i.e., right eye).
66. This State bordering Mo. has one of the largest gold-domed State Capitol buildings in the U.S. (abbr.).

ANSWERS on page 23

## NCYC

From page 1

to help me come back stronger than I was before I went to NCYC.”

### “God is in all”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight spent a day and a half at the event, attending the Friday morning session in Lucas Oil Stadium, being introduced with the other bishops, and sitting with this diocese’s contingent of about 250 young people and adults.

He offered Mass for the group on Friday evening, the feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

Preaching on the day’s readings, he urged the young people to behold with awe God’s sovereignty made evident in every aspect of creation.

“And if you can see God in nature, just think for a moment of what might be revealed to you in the human heart!” the bishop stated.

Seizing upon the “Fully Alive!” theme, he noted that each person has unique gifts and abilities given by God for the purpose of helping to accomplish his will.

“We are called to be revealers of the mystery of God,” said Bishop McKnight. “When people see the beauty of our Catholic faith fully alive in us, when they see us making sacrifices for someone else, that’s what catches their attention.”

God, therefore, calls everyone to be faithful witnesses of his Gospel, his mystery, his life, his light and his peace.

“When we celebrate the Eucharist, we not only celebrate a profound mystery of bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ,” the bishop noted.

“We celebrate the miracle and the mystery of US becoming Eucharist for others!”

### “God in the room”

Mariah Van Leer had been to Confession two days before leaving for NCYC. But when a friend invited her to receive the sacrament while they were at Adoration inside the massive stadium, “I felt compelled to go,” she said.



Thousands of Catholic teens take part in a general session during this year’s National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

The result: “It felt like the Holy Spirit hit me with a semi. I can’t even put it into words.”

She recognized God speaking to her through the priest as he pronounced the words of absolution.

From then on, everything at the conference seemed like a window to the divine.

“God said, ‘You want a moment with me? You’ve got a moment with me!’ she recalled.

During Mass and Adoration with 13,000 other Catholics

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

her age, “you could FEEL God in the room!” she said.

### Never the same

Josie and Catie Meystrik, who are sisters, attended NCYC together.

“I’ve never been to a Mass that big,” said Josie. “And everyone was singing and praising God.”

“I feel fully alive,” said Catie. “I know the life I experienced there at NCYC, and seeing the other people being fully alive.”

She said even the group she traveled with proved to be a gift from God.

“It was judgement-free,” she stated. “People affirmed each other and prayed with each other.”

Josie felt the weight of her sins being lifted from her shoulders in Confession.

“God has forgiven me and I feel clean now,” she said. “It’s a wonderful thing that I hope everybody gets to experience.”

“I know I’ll never go to Mass the same way as before,” she said. “I’ll never pray the prayers and sing the songs the same as before,” she said.

“I’m going to enter a new chapter in my life.”

### “All through God”

“It was pure joy there,” said Joey. “It was awesome.”

Because of the set-up, not only could he receive the Sacrament of Confession, he could see all the other people coming to do the same thing.

“All these people sinned. I’m not alone in Confession,” he said. “I’m seeing all these people receiving forgiveness, too.”

Each was given a sticker that said, “I’m forgiven.”

“It was like your bandage,” said Joey. “If you saw that on someone, you know they experienced the same feeling.”

Olivia spoke of bonding with the people she traveled to NCYC with.

“It was all through God,” she said, “realizing how much God really loves us and how much he’s given to us and how grateful we should be.”

She said there were so many ways to be moved throughout the event.

“Jesus is anything but boring!” she proclaimed. “During Adoration, I sat in silence and had the time of my life.”

“It was an extremely powerful experience,” said Anthony.

Mass and Adoration were “massive,” he said.

### Letting go

Granger Sedore might have been one of the newest Catholics at NCYC.

He was initiated into the Church this past Easter in St. Pius X Parish in Moberly.

The death of a beloved uncle and sadness in his family had sent him on a search for renewal.

He found solace in the Catholic practice of praying for the repose of the souls of those who have died.

“And seeing that grace, seeing that hope, that love for everybody, not just for ourselves but also those outside the Catholic faith, it just felt like home,” he said.

He related to the Prodigal Son being welcomed home by the loving father.

He was searching for healing and restoration within his growing relationship with God, and he found that at NCYC.

During Adoration with thousands of other Catholics in the stadium, he followed a group down the stairs in order

to kneel closer to the Blessed Sacrament.

When the crowd stopped moving, he knelt down on the metal stairs and stayed there, absorbed in prayer.

A man from Jacksonville, Florida, happened by and asked to pray with him.

“This man came up and put his arms over me and asked God to cure my anxiety, my disappointment, my missing my family back home,” Granger recounted.

“He read me like a book,” he said. “The experience was so profound, I didn’t even realize I was weeping until I put my hands to my face and saw that it was soaking wet.”

From that moment forward, Granger was fully engaged at NCYC.

In Confession, he asked if he could kneel in front of the priest.

With that arrangement, there was no barrier between minister and penitent.

“I could see him nod as I confessed these things and not look at all upset at me but happy that I was letting go of my sins,” said Granger.

The priest then congratulated him for coming to Confession and offered him advice for conquering his sins.

“The grace and love I felt during this experience was so uplifting that I took every opportunity at the conference to point people to Confession,” he said.

On the way home, he set out to reconcile with his brother, and there has been peace in his home for the first time in a long time.

“The whole family came together for the reunification brought forth by the Holy Spirit,” he said.

### Sent forth

Maureen Quinn, director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry for the diocese, hopes the young people will remember what Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis said during the opening prayer service:

“You are not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to en-

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

## Fundraisers & Social Events

**Nov. 23-Jan. 7**

**Laurie**, Festival of Lights display, 5-10 pm each evening, the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church and St. Patrick Church

**Nov. 25**

**Starkenburg**, Sounds of Starkenburg Holiday Concerts, 2 pm & 5 pm; soup supper & vendor market, 1-5 pm

**Dec. 2**

**Shelbina**, K of C Farm Toy Show, 9 am-2 pm, Father Buhman Center; **Wardsville**, St. Stanislaus Parish Winter Market, 9 am-2 pm, school gym

**Dec. 9**

**Holts Summit**, St. Andrew Parish Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale, noon-5 pm

**Dec. 10**

**Belle**, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Laurie**, "O Holy Night" live nativity with refreshments, carolers, St. Nicholas and bonfire, 4-8 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

**Dec. 11**

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School Music Department Christmas Concert, 7-8 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center

**Dec. 12**

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School & Interparish Bands Christmas Concert, 7-8 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

**diciembre 1-3**

**Gibsonia, Pa.**, Retiro de Servidores, The Ark and The Dove, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a [ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com](mailto:ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

**diciembre 16**

**Sedalia**, Retiro Parroquial: Buena Administración, 9 am-3 pm, Parroquia San Vicente de Paúl, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a [ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org](mailto:ecas-tro@diojeffcity.org)

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

**Every Tuesday**

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

**Every Friday**

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

**Nov. 27**

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

**Nov. 28**

**Jefferson City**, "Seasons of Christmas" Spirit-filled evening presented by Arise Women's Ministry, 6-8 pm, St. Peter Parish's Selinger Centre, for info call 573-690-2882, to register email [RegisterAriseEvent@gmail.com](mailto:RegisterAriseEvent@gmail.com)

**Dec. 3**

**Columbia**, "Biblical Healing, Then & Now," with Dr. Mary Healy, 1-6 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, for info or to register visit [comonewman.org](https://comonewman.org)

**Dec. 3 & 4**

**Taos**, "Do you believe in Miracles?: Seeing is Believing" with evangelist Tim Francis, Sun 1-3:30 pm and Mon 6-8:30 pm

**Dec. 4**

**Rolla**, "Unwrap the Gift: The Joy of Being Catholic," Women's Ministry Advent Night of Reflection, 5:30-7:30 pm, St. Patrick Parish, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry](https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry)

**Dec. 5**

**Boonville**, "Unwrap the Gift: The Joy of Being Catholic," Women's Ministry Advent Night of Reflection, 6 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry](https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry)

**Dec. 6**

**Jefferson City**, "Unwrap the Gift: The Joy of Being Catholic," Women's Ministry Advent Night of Reflection, 6:30-8 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry](https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry)

**Dec. 7**

**Monroe City**, "Unwrap the Gift: The Joy of Being Catholic," Women's Ministry Advent

Night of Reflection, 5:30 pm, Holy Rosary Parish, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry](https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry)

**Dec. 8-10**

**Eureka**, "Coming Home to Christ" Advent Retreat, led by Fr. Tom Santen and spiritual directors Lucia Signorelli and Steve Givens, Marianist Retreat and Conference Center, for info or to register, visit [marianistretreat.com/events/advent-retreat-2023](https://marianistretreat.com/events/advent-retreat-2023)

**Dec. 11**

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

**Dec. 14**

**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>

**Dec. 18**

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

## Liturgical

**Nov. 26**

**Starkenburg**, 150th Anniversary Mass of St. Martin Church, 8:30-9:30 am

**Dec. 3**

**Jefferson City**, Advent recital series and Solemn Vespers, featuring Nicholas Liese, organist, 5 pm recital, 5:30 pm Solemn Vespers, St. Peter Church

**Dec. 8**

**Holts Summit**, Annual National Night of Prayer for Life, with

Adoration, Rosary and silent prayer at top of each hour, 8 pm-midnight, St. Andrew Church, for info call 573-821-5130

**Dec. 10**

**Jefferson City**, Advent recital series and Solemn Vespers, featuring Andrew Meagher, organist, 5 pm recital, 5:30 pm Solemn Vespers, St. Peter Church

**Dec. 3**

**Jefferson City**, Advent recital series and Solemn Vespers, featuring Karen Bretz, baroque flute, 5 pm recital, 5:30 pm Solemn Vespers, St. Peter Church

## Youth & Young Adults

**First Wednesdays each month**

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

**Third Sundays each month**

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

**Dec. 6**

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

## Health & Wellness

**Nov. 30**

**Columbia**, Blood drive, 9 am-.3 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Jefferson City**, Blood drive, 10 am-4 pm, Helias Catholic High School; **Laurie**, AGINGbest "Keeping Your Keys" aimed at helping seniors stay medically and physically fit to drive, to be able to prepare for driving retirement and give the tools and resources to help keep you safe on the road, 1-2 pm, St. Patrick Church

# cathmo.com

## QUESTION

From page 8

of risks versus benefits. Catholics who piously desire to receive the Precious Blood should prayerfully consider whether, in light of their own personal health status and spiritual needs, it might make sense for them in their own circumstances to brave the possibility of catching a bug in order to receive from the chalice.

In any case, we should always remember that in receiving the Eucharist under only one species, bread or wine, we nevertheless receive the entirety of Christ.

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

## Though retired, Bp. Perry will continue to lead USCCB's anti-racism committee

OSV News

Baltimore

Despite his Sept. 25 retirement as a Chicago auxiliary, Bishop Joseph N. Perry, 75, may continue to serve as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, completing a two-year term he began in May.

The bishops voted Nov. 14 during their fall plenary assembly in Baltimore to approve a one-time suspension of their handbook rules prohib-

iting a retired bishop from serving as a committee's chairman.

The bishops also voted to reauthorize the ad hoc anti-racism committee for two more years, with a mandate of determining whether it should become a permanent part of the conference structure.

Bishop Perry, who is African American and experienced racism as a child in 1950s Chicago, is co-postulator for the sainthood cause of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, a Missouri native.

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

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

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

## Anniversaries

**Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Center**  
Jack & Jackie Cruise, 60 years

**Hermann, St. George**  
Steve & Gloria Isaak, 50 years

**Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
Doug & Connie Smentkowski, 45 years

**Linn, St. George**  
Ron & Veronica Hoffman, 40 years

## Baptisms

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Adalina Burmeister**, daughter of Michael & Theresa Burmeister; **Angel Mendez**, son of Jesus & Suzy Mendez; **Rory Mustain**, daughter of Will & Rachel Mustain; **Braxton Townsend**, son of Zach & Katie Townsend

Hermann, St. George — **Curtis Justin** and **Mack Austin Ruediger**, sons of Brady & Christin Ruediger; **Amelia Ann Schowe**, daughter of Craig & Ashley Schowe

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **JJ Stephen Kempker**, son of Joe & Rachel Kempker

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Henry Robert Belew**, son of Kenneth & Elizabeth Bellew; **Luke Simon Strobe**, son of Simon & Anne Strobe

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Emersyn Grace Henke**, daughter of Derek & Hailey Henke

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Conway John Bernard Wilbers**, son of Ashton Wilbers

## Birthdays

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Mary Ann Link**, her 91st on Dec. 3

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Diocese of Jefferson City

## Deaths

**Paul Oligschlaeger**, 81 — father of Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek — on Nov. 13. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 20 at Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Jefferson City.

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Ron Flatt; Carole McVay**

Cuba, Holy Cross — **Michael Dunakey**

Hermann, St. George — **Nellie Walkenbach**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Cartalene Ruddell**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Kevin Almazan; Lloyd Best**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Alma Koetting**

Rosati, St. Anthony — **Jean Crafton**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Diann Jacobs**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Arnold Wieberg**

## SR. CONSTANCE

From page 9

direct personal contact with consecrated persons and communities in supporting vocational discernment.

Meetings with a member(s) of a religious institute, opportunities to share in communal prayer and meals, invitations to special occasions like professions and jubilees and meeting individually with a vocation director are all considered more helpful by young adult discerners than websites and social media.

### Finally, E stands for encouragement.

Although most religious communities in our country are becoming smaller and older, young members of these institutes report that smaller numbers and aging members did not deter them.

The majority of young religious report that the encouragement of others was an important factor in their vocation discernment. This encouragement comes from members of their institute, vocation ministers and spiritual directors.

## SR. ANGELINA

From page 6

“We are closer to God because of their presence among us,” he stated. “It is our sure and certain hope, that as Sr. Angelina Marie has lived a life of solitude — not simply to be ‘lonely’ but intentionally ‘alone with the Lord’ — she now benefits by remaining with him until the resurrection of the dead.”

He emphasized that to consecrate oneself to Christ means to place oneself unreservedly in God’s hands.

“It is a humbling act,” the bishop stated, “but one that opens a wide vista of spiritual insight and opportunity for the grace of God to be at work.”

### Decades well-spent

Mother Marie Therese said Sr. Angelina Marie epitomized the life of all women and men religious, who accept God’s invitation to lay down their own lives for others.

“Like Mother Therese of Calcutta said, ‘We’re the pencil in the hand of God,’” the prioress stated.

“Sr. Angelina Marie said ‘yes’ to God, which made her a beautiful instrument, and wrote 75 years’ worth, and she did that faithfully,” she said. “Because it was all about him.”

Burial was in the Carmelite Cemetery in Jefferson City.

“God gave her a wonderful life,” Msgr. Kurwicky stated. “How appropriate that she’ll be laid to rest in the part of the earth in which she spent decades of her life, contemplating God, praying for others, sacrificing for the Church and building up her community of faith.”

But new members in religious institutes also report that they received encouragement from those with whom and to whom they minister, diocesan priests, people in their parish and friends.

Unfortunately, many younger consecrated persons did not receive a great deal of encouragement from parents, siblings and other family members early in their discernment, but this support seemed to grow after they entered religious life.

Whether you prefer pumpkin, apple or mincemeat, I hope you have ample opportunities to enjoy homemade pie this holiday season.

And with each bite, I hope you will remember to pray, invite and encourage vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life!

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

Mother Marie Therese believes Sr. Angelina Marie would have encouraged any young woman who believes she’s being called to contemplative religious life to inquire and try it out.

“You don’t lose anything by trying, by giving God a chance,” Mother Marie Therese noted.

The Carmelite nuns continue to pray for the bishop, priests and people of the diocese. All are invited to send prayer requests to them at [carmeloffc.prayers@gmail.com](mailto:carmeloffc.prayers@gmail.com) or mail them to 31970 State Hwy. P, Clyde, MO, 64432.

## RICHERT

From page 9

now, whether Mom intended to teach us a lesson with her Advent baking. But as we talked with Fr. Charles, we realized that she had done just that. To be a Christian means to live always with a sense of longing, of that joyful expectation tinged with sorrow that comes from knowing that the greatest desire of our heart will never be fulfilled in this earthly life. That, perhaps more than any other part of the Christian experience, is a reality that the modern world rejects.

A few hours after our mother passed from this life, my sister and I stood beside our father in the church where we had first received the gift of faith, and we sang with all the saints in glory of the life yet to come. And as we prayed for the repose of my mother’s soul, we gave thanks for the years we had spent with her, and for the cookies and candy through which Mom had prepared us all for living that day and the rest of our lives in the deep longing for, and joyful expectation of, our reunion before the throne of God.

*Scott P. Richert is publisher for OSV.*

## Crossword puzzle answers

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

# All ye holy men and women, saints of God ... pray for us!



Students at Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain dress up as their patron saints on Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All saints.

— Photo from the Holy Family School and Parish Facebook page

Dressed as their patron saints, the students of St. Pius X School in Moberly gather in the sanctuary of St. Pius X Church after Mass on Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All Saints.



Students of Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia celebrate All Saints Day dressed as their favorite saints on Nov. 1.

— Photos by Jennifer Calkins

## Keeping drugs out of the picture



LEFT: Students at St. Joseph School in Marshall display their "Be Kind to Your Mind: Say No to Drugs" sign during Red Ribbon Week.

— Photo by Carol Wolfe



## Bible Accent

In Daniel 2, we read that Daniel interpreted a dream for King Nebuchadnezzar.

The king had asked the wise men of Babylon to interpret the dream for him without actually telling them what it was about.

Daniel learned of the king's request and asked for time to interpret the dream. During the night, God gave Daniel a vision in which the dream and its meaning were revealed.

Daniel asked to see the king. He described the king's dream, which was about a very large and bright statue with a head of gold; a chest and arms of silver; a belly of bronze; legs of iron; and feet that were partly iron and partly tile.

Daniel explained that the statue's head represented Babylon, and the other parts represented various kingdoms that would take Babylon's place. A stone that struck the statue's feet and made the entire thing crumble represented the kingdom that God would create to put an end to other kingdoms and that would not be destroyed.

The king was so pleased that he made Daniel ruler of the whole province of Babylon.

## St. Juan Diego

St. Juan Diego was a native Mexican who was born near present-day Mexico City in 1474. He converted to Christianity and was baptized at the age of 50. On Dec. 9, 1531, he was walking to Mass when Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill. She asked him to ask the bishop to have a shrine built there. The bishop asked for a sign that would prove the request was from Mary, so Juan returned to the hill on Dec. 12, 1531. Mary told him to pick flowers that were blooming atop the hill and carry them in his cloak to the bishop. When Juan opened the cloak, the flowers fell out, revealing the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorning his garment. Juan lived the remainder of his life as a hermit near the first chapel built on the hill. He died in 1548, and we remember him on Dec. 9.



## The king of Babylon sees a hand writing on the palace wall

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic Courier

One day, King Belshazzar, the pagan king of Babylon, gave a great banquet at his palace for 1,000 of his lords.

During the feast, the king ordered that gold and silver vessels be brought in so that he, his lords, his wives and the entertainers could drink from them.

These vessels were very special. One of the previous kings of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, had taken them from the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem when he ransacked the city and brought its citizens to Babylon as captives.

As the people drank from the sacred vessels, they praised their pagan gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone.

Suddenly, the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing in the plaster on the wall.

When the king saw the hand, the color drained from his face. He was so terrified that the joints of his hips shook and his knees knocked together.

The king ordered Daniel to be brought before him. Daniel was a Jew who had been brought to Babylon as a captive. He also was a prophet of God and, in the past, had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

The king said he would give Daniel valuable items and a position of power in the kingdom if he could reveal the meaning of the words written on the wall: MENE, TEKEL and PERES.

Daniel refused the king's gifts but said he would read the words and tell him what they



Illustration by Linda Rivers

meant.

"You have rebelled against the Lord of heaven," Daniel said, explaining that the king had praised false gods while drinking from the Temple vessels. "But the God in whose hand is your life breath and the whole course of your life, you did not glorify. By him were the wrist and hand sent, and the writing set down."

Then Daniel interpreted the meaning of the three words that had been written on the wall.

MENE, he said, meant that

God had numbered Belshazzar's kingdom and put an end to it.

TEKEL meant that Belshazzar had been weighed on the scales and was found wanting.

And PERES meant that the kingdom of Babylon had been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

### Read more about it... Daniel 5

1. What did the king see on the wall?
2. Who did the king ask for help?



**What happened to King Belshazzar after Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall?**  
(Hint: Daniel 5:30)

**Answer: He was slain that night.**

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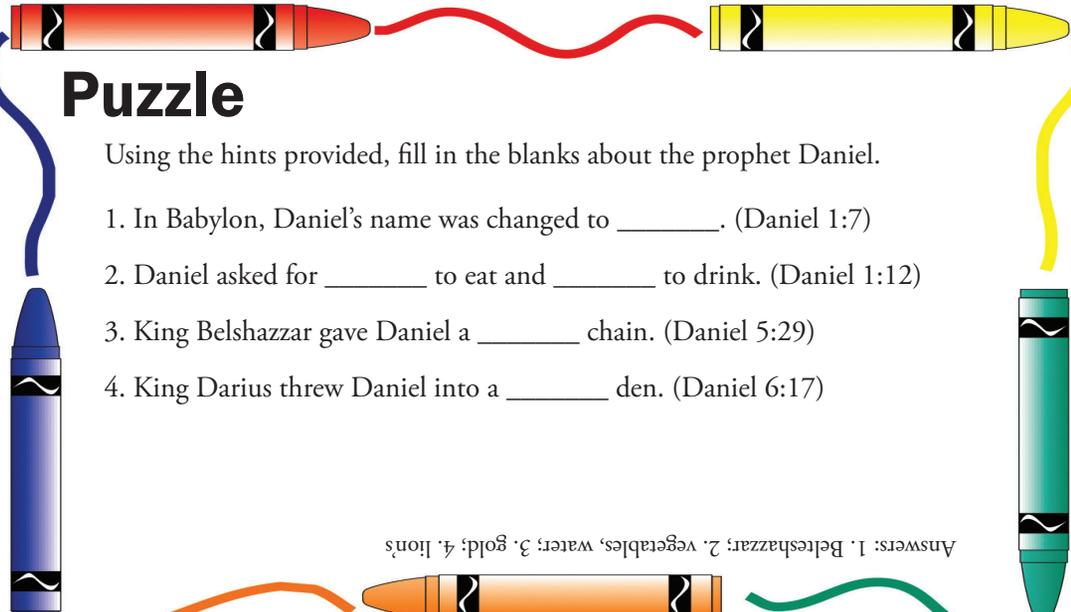


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## Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks about the prophet Daniel.

1. In Babylon, Daniel's name was changed to \_\_\_\_\_. (Daniel 1:7)
2. Daniel asked for \_\_\_\_\_ to eat and \_\_\_\_\_ to drink. (Daniel 1:12)
3. King Belshazzar gave Daniel a \_\_\_\_\_ chain. (Daniel 5:29)
4. King Darius threw Daniel into a \_\_\_\_\_ den. (Daniel 6:17)

Answers: 1. Belshazzar; 2. vegetables, water; 3. gold; 4. lions

## Brooklyn parish musician on a mission to revive S.H. devotion

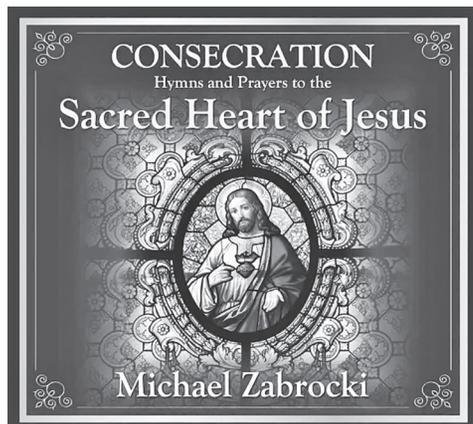
Christian Newswire

Whitestone, N.Y.

Michael Zabrocki, director of music ministries at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Whitestone has produced a CD with original and traditional hymns, along with spoken word prayer tracks.

"My devotion began in my heart during the COVID-19 lockdown when I was introduced to Sister Susan Marie and the Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary at Brooklyn Visitation Monastery," Mr. Zabrocki stated.

He created online video Masses for their nine-day Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with the Father Joseph R.



able happened: His twin brother and fellow musician, Ron, passed away in May.

"Along with the emotional impact, Ron was also my producer, guitarist, arranger and much more," said Mr. Zabrocki.

"I lost my studio and production staff," he said. "I now had to go it alone for the first time after 30 years of recording Catholic music."

He started a crowdfunding effort which resulted in 100% of production costs to be met in the first two months.

Then, award-winning Christian music pioneer John Michael Talbot offered to play guitar on a few tracks.

This was followed by Lenney Smith, composer of the beloved hymn "Our God Reigns," offering Mr. Zabrocki the opportunity to be the first to record a new version of the hymn, transforming the song to true worship.

The new album is titled "Consecration: Hymns and Prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus" and includes nine original and traditional hymns and five spoken word prayer tracks.

Sr. Susan Marie shared the first review of the album, writing: "These gentle flowing hymns of divine love, including original creations and traditional Catholic works, truly permeate the soul."

Mr. Zabrocki noted that

Gibino, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Brooklyn.

"Their community's history and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus deeply moved me to learn more about St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the others whom Jesus used to bring this devotion to the world," Mr. Zabrocki stated.

"Over time, it became the focus of my own spiritual life."

He wanted to begin making the album about two years ago, but other commitments kept cropping up, causing delays. In April 2023, he formerly committed to having the album recorded and released by the Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in October.

But then, the unthink-

## Movie Ratings



General Patronage

Journey to Bethlehem (PG)  
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG)



Adults

The Creator (PG-13)  
Freelance (R)  
Killers of the Flower Moon (R)  
The Marvels (PG-13)  
Priscilla (R)  
Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Dumb Money (R)  
Napoleon (R)



Morally Offensive

Deliver Us (R)  
The Exorcist: Believer (R)  
Saw X (R)  
Thanksgiving (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

many people associate the Sacred Heart of Jesus only with a painting hanging in their home.

"It is so much more than that!" he said.

"I pray this collection of my new compositions and selected traditional hymns, along with prayers that have found a home in my heart, will help in

some small way to spread this devotion again," he stated.

The album was published Nov. 21 on all streaming platforms and wherever digital music is sold online.

Those wishing the physical CD can purchase it at [michaelzabrocki.com](http://michaelzabrocki.com), where the title track, "Only You (Consecration)," can also be heard.

## Dietrich von Hildebrand book on gratitude

Hildebrand Press recently released *Gratitude*, with essays by Dietrich von Hildebrand, Balduin V. Schwarz, Joseph Ratzinger and Romano Guardini.

"This slim, accessible book provides complementary insights, inviting us to a deeper appreciation of the essential and transformative role of gratitude in our lives, revealing to us truths about ourselves, our relations to one another, and ultimately, our relationship to God," the publisher stated.

Dietrich von Hildebrand possesses an unrivaled skill for bringing to light essential truths of the human experience that often get taken for granted. In this essay, he illuminates the distinctive qualities of gratitude as value-response, both as it relates to gratitude among persons and gratitude to God.

Balduin V. Schwarz, a leading student of Hildebrand in Europe, carefully considers the paradoxical nature of gift-giving, thanking and receiving, with a view to the ways gratitude enriches human life, building ultimately to the intimation of gratitude as an argument for God's existence.

The philosophical essays by Schwarz and Hildebrand are enriched by accompanying selections from Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) and one of his most important teachers, Romano Guardini.

## On air

**Mustard Seed**  
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## FULLY ALIVE!

From page 21

encounter.”

Small-group meetings among the NCYC attendees focused on how to keep the spiritual momentum going after the teens went home and settled back into their daily lives.

“One of the most important parts of the conference but probably the most difficult was at the end when we had to leave,” said Catie.

“We were being sent forth to bring back to the world and our families and schools and churches all that we felt and witnessed,” she said. “I wanted to go back and relive it all again on replay, but I know I’m made for his moment, and I have a mission that I’m being sent on.”

Echoing the words of keynote speaker and homilist Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Espaillat II of New York, they talked about radiating reverence and joy to the people around them.

“His main point was that to live a Christ-filled life, we have to have faith, have fun and have a community of family and friends to support us,” said Mariah.

And you can’t keep it to yourself.

“If you have an encounter with God at an event like this, it’s so important to keep that fire burning and spread it to other people,” she said.

Olivia said helping each other stay accountable will be an important part of life after

NCYC for her and her friends.

### Joyful Savior

Bishop Espaillat talked about how Jesus had a sense of humor and a joyful disposition — “how he was funny and told jokes and stories and enjoyed having fun,” said Josie.

When Bishop Espaillat finished speaking during Adoration, he reverently removed the Blessed Sacrament from the ornate monstrance on the altar and held Christ close to his heart as he processed out.

It was a loving gesture the young people will never forget.

Anthony said he wants to remember Bishop Espaillat’s five-step advice for praying for a person who’s in need of a miracle:

“Ask for permission to pray. Praise God. Thank God for who you’re praying for. Call on the Holy Spirit, and pray for their intentions.”

Anthony also recalled the three steps suggested by Gian Gamboa, campus minister at St. Dominic Savio High School in Austin Texas, for growing in faith every day:

“Find people who bring you closer to God. Embrace the struggle — meaning let God be your strength, and talk to Jesus through prayer.”

The next NCYC will be held in Nov. 20-22, 2025, in Indianapolis.

*ncyc.us*

## JOSEPH

From page 4

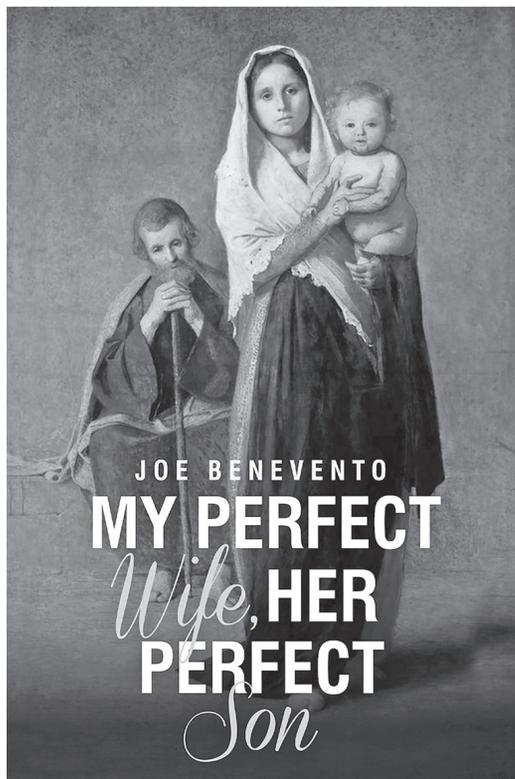
The story begins with the Annunciation and continues to the moment of Joseph’s death — “which is a little bit before Jesus’s ministry, so it covers essentially 30 years,” said Dr. Benevento.

The reader follows Joseph from frustration, doubt and confusion to a deeper, more complete relationship with Mary, along with clear determination that he hasn’t lived in vain.

The novel, written with respect to Scripture and the Deposit of Faith upheld by the Catholic Church, has found strong support from members of the Catholic community.

It recently received a five-star review on Amazon from Jesuit Father Patrick Gilger of Loyola University of Chicago.

Fr. Gilger told Dr. Benevento that it “feels like an experience of Ignatian prayer at



JOE BENEVENTO  
**MY PERFECT  
Wife, HER  
PERFECT  
Son**

times” — which includes immersing oneself in the stories of the Bible as an active participant.

Hosffman Ospino, Ph.D., chairman of the Department of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston

College, plans to dedicate the March installment of his syndicated column to a review of the novel.

Gary Jansen at Loyola Press has also spoken highly about the book, which he concludes is a “rich, majestic and relevant read.”

Two chapters from the novel have been accepted for publication as stand-alone stories in the Catholic magazine *New Oxford Review* and the Christian magazine *Foreshadow*.

“Though the novel has some comic elements, it is never irreverent and actually follows through completely and consistently with Catholic doctrine,” Dr. Benevento noted.

*My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son* is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target and other online outlets and at Dr. Benevento’s book-signing events.

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Nov 26

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
KING OF THE UNIVERSE  
Ez. 34:11-12, 15-17  
Ps. 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6  
1 Cor 15:20-26, 28  
Mt. 25:31-46

### Monday, Nov 27

Dn. 1:1-6, 8-20  
(Ps.) Dn. 3:52-56  
Lk. 21:1-4

### Tuesday, Nov 28

Dn. 2:31-45  
(Ps.) Dn. 3:57-61  
Lk. 21:5-11

### Wednesday, Nov 29

Dn. 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28  
(Ps.) Dn. 3:62-67  
Lk. 21:12-19

### Thursday, Nov 30

St. Andrew, Apostle  
Rom. 10:9-18  
Ps. 19:8-11  
Mt. 4:18-22

### Friday, Dec 1

Dn. 7:2-14  
(Ps.) Dn. 3:75-81  
Lk. 21:29-33

### Saturday, Dec 2

Dn. 7:15-27  
(Ps.) Dn. 3:82-87  
Lk. 21:34-36

### Sunday, Dec 3

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Is. 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7  
Ps. 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
1 Cor. 1:3-9  
Mk. 13:33-37

### Monday, Dec 4

St. John Damascene, priest and  
doctor of the Church  
Is. 2:1-5  
Ps. 122:1-9  
Mt. 8:5-11

### Tuesday, Dec 5

Is. 11:1-10  
Ps. 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17  
Lk. 10:21-24

### Wednesday, Dec 6

St. Nicholas, bishop  
Is. 25:6-10a  
Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Mt. 15:29-37

### Thursday, Dec 7

St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor  
of the Church  
Is. 26:1-6  
Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a  
Mt. 7:21, 24-27

### Friday, Dec 8

THE IMMACULATE CON-  
CEPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
(Patronal Feastday of the U.S.)  
*Holiday of Obligation*  
Gn. 3:9-15, 20  
Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk. 1:26-38

### Saturday, Dec 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin  
Is. 30:19-21, 23-26  
Ps. 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
Mt. 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

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

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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## Biblical Healing presentation in Columbia

**DATE: December 3**  
**TIME: 1-4:30 pm**

Bestselling author and international speaker Mary Healy Ph.D., a professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, will give a presentation titled “Biblical Healing, Then and Now,” from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, in the St. Thomas More Newman Center, 602 Turner Ave. in Columbia.

The event will include two talks, a healing prayer service. Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m.

Dr. Healy is a consultant to the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

She is one of the first three women ever to serve on the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

## National Night of Prayer for Life, in Holts Summit

**DATE: December 8**  
**TIME: 8 pm - midnight**

St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit will host an observance of the National Night of Prayer for Life from 8 p.m. to midnight on Friday, Dec. 8. It will include Adoration of

the Most Blessed Sacrament, praying the Rosary and Prayer to St. Michael, silent prayer and hymns.

The final hour will be an Hour of Unity, during which people throughout the world will be united in prayer.

Priests, pro-life organizations, Knights of Columbus councils and parish groups and families are encouraged to take part.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the gathering space of the Church.

All nations of the world are invited to participate and beseech the Blessed Mother to protect all human life and the family; to renew the Church, establish peace, and inspire courage in the soul of this nation.

Even though the Supreme Court has overturned *Roe v. Wade*, much more needs to be done to protect the unborn in each state.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023 6:30 P.M. Cathedral of St. Joseph 2305 W Main St Jefferson City, MO	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 5:30 P.M. Holy Rosary Parish 405 S Main St Monroe City, MO

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(Inclement Weather Date: December 17)





## Dr. Mary Healy

### Biblical Healing, Then and Now

Sunday | December 3, 2023 | 1 PM - 4:30 PM

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish  
 602 Turner Avenue, Columbia, MO

1:00 - 1:50 pm - Talk #1 (Church)  
 1:50 pm - Break (refreshments in the Gathering Space)  
 2:00 - 2:50 pm - Talk #2 (Church)  
 2:50 pm - Break (refreshments in the Gathering Space)  
 3:00 - 4:30 pm - Healing Prayer Service (Church)  
 5:00 pm - Mass

Dr. Mary Healy is professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and a bestselling author and international speaker. She is one of the first three women ever to serve on the Pontifical Biblical Commission and is a consultant to the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.



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