

Catholic Schools Week: School nearing capacity

Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School had an enrollment surge, and it's holding.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

January 19, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 15

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

SEEK24: Young adults answer call to 'Be the light'



**FOCUS holds national conference
with thousands in St. Louis**

**Many college students
from diocese attend**

Bishop McKnight hosts dinner

**Participants reflect on event's effect
on their relationship with God**

By Jay Nies and Annie Williams

Grace and blessings cascaded through the corridors and concourses of the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis.

Nearly 24,000 mostly college-age Catholics from all over the country were praying, worshiping, studying and forming unbreakable bonds of communion.

It was SEEK24, a five-day Catholic evangelization conference organized by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

Usually alternated among cities throughout the country, the event was held for the second year in a row in the St. Louis venue where Pope St. John Paul II celebrated Mass and visited the masses nearly a quarter-century ago.

This year's theme was "Be the Light," inspired by what Pope John Paul told young people on that occasion: "You are children of the light! You belong to Christ, and he has called you by name."

"All my friends are here for one thing: to worship the Lord and praise him, and that's just so amazing," said Austin Schuster, a senior studying communication and journalism at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

"It's adding fuel to the fire," said Mason Waltke, a junior studying computer science at Missouri University of Science & Technology in Rolla.

See SEEK24, page 17

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College students and seminarians from this diocese move as a group from the America's Center in St. Louis to a restaurant for dinner with Bishop McKnight, during the Fellowship of College University Students' SEEK24 conference. — Photo by Annie Williams

Remembering Pope St. John Paul II's 1999 visit

**Papal Youth Gathering, Mass the following day in St. Louis
25 years ago were pivotal moments for many who attended**

By Jay Nies

Rebecca Cassmeyer was a student at Saint Louis University and played the flute with the choir for the Sunday night Mass in St. Francis Xavier Church.

As such, she got to be part of the orchestra that accompanied Evening Prayer during the Light of the World Papal Youth Gathering with Pope John Paul II in St. Louis.

It was Jan. 26, 1999, the first day of the long-serving pontiff's historic visit to Missouri.

The youth gathering drew more than 20,000 high school and college age Catholics and their chaperones to the city's hockey arena.

Seven hundred fifty young people from the Jefferson City

diocese occupied two sections in the arena and spilled out into adjacent sections.

Another 250 from the diocese took in the festivities in the bustling "Papal Plaza" outside the building.

The rally took place the day before Pope John Paul offered Mass in the presence of about 100,000 people in the city's domed stadium.

"I never could have fathomed the depth of holiness I would experience that day," stated Ms. Cassmeyer, a member of St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend.

She said music has always been a source of connection to God for her.

"And that day, I truly felt that divine connection in the thousands of voices that joined together in praise," she said.

See JOHN PAUL II, page 19

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

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Pray for deceased priests

Jan. 23 — Fr. Kenneth E. Brockel, St. William, Perry; St. Frances Cabrini, Paris; and St. Paul Historic Church, Center (2002)
 Jan. 27 — Fr. Charles A. Pfeiffer, St. Stephen, Indian Creek (1999)
 Jan. 29 — Fr. William J. Berkel, Holy Spirit, Centralia (1959);
 Msgr. Joseph J. Morrell, St. Patrick, Rolla (1989)
 Jan. 31 — Fr. James M. Denner, St. Boniface, Koeltztown (1962)
 Feb. 2 — Fr. Francis J. Stangl, St. Jude Thaddeus, Mokane (2008)

Director of Youth Ministry

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, Mo. is seeking to fill the position of Director of Youth Ministry. To see a full job description, go to <https://www.comoneyman.org/job-openings/>

Principal Opening — Loose Creek

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

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 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.

Diaconate information meeting

DATE: February 24
TIME: 9:30 am - noon

The Office of the Diaconate for the Jefferson City diocese will hold an informational session on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at St. Pius X Parish, 209 S. Williams St. in Moberly.

Men who feel called to the Diaconate and their wives, or those who simply want to learn more are encouraged to come and find out about the life and ministry of permanent deacons, the application process and details concerning the formation requirements for becoming a deacon.

For details, visit: diojeffcity.org/event/information-session-on-the-permanent-diaconate-2/

Contact Deacon John Schwartze at jschwartz@diojeffcity.org or by phone at 573-635-9127 for information.

Carmelite prayer ministry email

The Carmelite Nuns' ministry is to pray for the intentions of the people and Church of Jefferson City. Please email them at: carmelofc.prayers@gmail.com.

The Catholic Missourian

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

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St. Clement one-day retreat on Eucharist

DATE: January 27
TIME: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Monsignor Eugene Morris, a dynamic presenter from the St. Louis archdiocese, will lead a one-day retreat on Saturday, Jan. 27, at St. Clement Parish in St. Clement.

It will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The topic will be: "The Most Holy Eucharist — Source & Summit of Our Catholic Lives."

"Iam sol recedit igneus"



"Now the fiery sun recedes." A radiant sunset embraces the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City the afternoon of Jan. 11.

— Photo by Jay Nies



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In MLK Day statement — Bishop McKnight cites vision of unity, respect for differences

The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, released the following statement in anticipation of the nation's observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 15:

I invite everyone to spend time today praying and reflecting on the courage, wisdom and words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom our nation honors on this day.

In 1964, Dr. King wrote

that, "Unity has never meant uniformity."

This sentence is quoted from Dr. King's book, *Why We Can't Wait*. In this chapter, Dr. King is referring to the many people who shared a vision — true equality for Black Americans — despite working toward that goal from different angles and perspectives. United in goal, they were far from uniform in their approach.

Dr. King saw this as a strength.

There is so much we can learn from this message in 2024 as we continue to battle the evils of racism, inequality and exclusion.

In a society full of pressures that reward division, we must instead seek out a deeper truth — God's truth — that unites us all.

Let us remember that all of us were made in God's image, and through our charisms and gifts we each reflect the light of God in unique ways.

Pope Francis recently made a point that a society formed in the image of God is not "one-dimensional" or "monochrome."

He said: "How much our human family needs to learn to live together in harmony and peace, without all of us having to be the same."

I invite all of us to spend



A plane flies over a 30-foot sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the National Mall in Washington Aug. 22, 2011, the year it opened. As the nation celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 15, 2024, both personal conversion and action are needed to build what the slain civil rights leader called "the beloved community," say Catholic clergy and lay leaders.

— OSV News photo/CNS file, Bob Roller

<p>Bishop McKnight's January prayer intention for our Local Church</p> <p>For the gift of patience; may we embrace poverty of spirit when suffering the shortcomings of others and ourselves.</p>		<p>Intención del mes de enero del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local</p> <p>Por el don de la paciencia. Que abracemos la pobreza de espíritu cuando sufrimos las deficiencias de los demás y de nosotros mismos.</p>
<p>Please be so kind as to make this a part of your group and private prayer.</p>		

Bishop McKnight's Calendar

JANUARY

Jan 19	Pontifical College Josephinum Advancement Committee Meeting, 10 am, Virtual; Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri On-Site Review, 11 am, Jefferson City
Jan 23	Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, 1:30 pm, Chancery
Jan 26	St. Joseph Cathedral School Mass, 8 am, Jefferson City
Jan 27	Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery; Installation of Very Reverend Christopher L. Cordes as Pastor, St. Andrew Parish, 5:30 pm, Holts Summit
Jan 28	Installation of Very Reverend Roberto M. Ike, PhD as Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 9:45 am, Columbia
Jan 30	Knights of Columbus Religious and Teachers Appreciation Dinner, 6 pm, Jefferson City
Jan 31	Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Executive Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm, Virtual
FEBRUARY	
Feb 1	Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, 11 am, Chancery
Feb 2-4	Pontifical College Josephinum Nunciature Visit, Washington, DC

Epiphany Proclamation: Announcement for Easter and moveable feasts for 2024

The Proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts on the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord dates from a time when calendars were not readily available.

It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date.

On the Epiphany of the Lord, after the proclamation of the Gospel, a deacon or cantor, in keeping with an ancient practice of Holy Mother Church, announced from the ambo the moveable feasts of the current year:

"Know, dear brethren, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Sav-

ior. this holiday honoring Dr. King by seeking out the light of God in ourselves and all of those around us — especially those who are excluded or seem different.

Let our hearts open to others, and begin to move away the separation and division

that hurt us.

The beauty of God is not uniform. It is written on 8 billion hearts in 8 billion ways.

Recognizing this beauty is the first step toward a stronger communion as God's children — and finally realizing the dreams of Dr. King.

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Catholic Schools Week — Jan. 28-Feb. 3: Diocesan Catholic schools see stable, growing enrollment

By Jacob Luecke

More families in the Diocese of Jefferson City are choosing a Catholic education for their children as diocesan schools have continued a multi-year trend of stable, growing enrollment.

Enrollment at diocesan schools this past fall surpassed 7,000 students

7,004.



— even as overall population in the 38-county diocese has declined.

“It’s so important to see parents in our diocese continuing to form their children in our faith by choosing to send them to a Catholic school,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City.

“Our schools have a long tradition of academic excellence — with a foundation in faith, charity and prayer,” he said. “Our enrollment trend is a reflection of

the outstanding work of the faculty and staff of our schools, the generosity of the parish communities that support them and the commitment of our parents to Catholic education.”

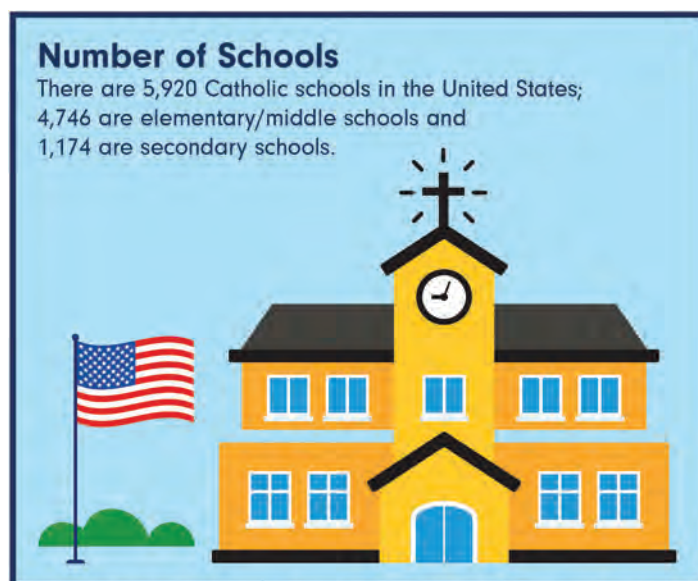
The Diocese of Jefferson City is home to 37 Catholic elementary schools, three Catholic high schools and two early childhood centers.

More than 700 faculty and staff are employed at the schools.

Catholic elementary schools in the diocese do not charge tuition to active parishioners. Rather, the entire parish community sponsors and supports children of the parish in receiving a Catholic education.

This is a benefit of the unique model for Catholic Stewardship utilized in the Diocese of Jefferson City.

In addition to helping parents form their children in our Catholic faith, Catholic



Sources: U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2022-2023: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing (NCEA).

ceive \$85,000 in scholarships on average.

“There are so many ways that you can measure the immense value that our Catholic schools provide, but nothing is more important than our work to support parents in forming their children in our Catholic faith,” said Erin Vader, Ed.D.,

diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools.

“We continue to be blessed in our diocese with outstanding educators and staff who dedicate themselves to preparing the next generation of Catholic Christians for their roles in the Church and the world,” she said. “It’s clear that Catholic education has a bright future in the Diocese of Jefferson City.”

Mr. Luecke is director of communications for the Diocese of Jefferson City.



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Fr. Tolton Catholic H.S. sustaining impressive enrollment gains

By Jay Nies

The leaders of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia choose a theme for each new school year.

This year's theme is "Finding Joy" — something the administration, faculty, students and families have had good reason to do as of late.

"Our enrollment is up by about 40 percent since pre-COVID," said Jill Weimer, the school's vice president and director of advancement.

"That's a net increase of about 100 students," she noted.

Based on early applications, the school should be operating at full capacity for the 2024-25 academic year, with around 90 students in each of the four grade levels.

Tolton Catholic opened in 2011.

Much of its recent enrollment gain can be traced back to offering in-person classes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When COVID hit, a lot of people were looking to us as an alternative," said Laura Sasser, the school's admissions director.

"Due to our smaller class sizes, we were able to spread out, stay in session and offer in-seat instruction the whole time," she said.

All the while, the school has been hiring and keeping great teachers and staff and offering more electives, dual-credit and Advanced Placement (AP) classes.

"We've also been bolstering the clubs and activities we offer," said Mrs. Sasser. "And not just athletics — although we do have 19 state championships. But a full range of activities from a culinary club to philosophy club."

"We have something for everyone, and we've really excelled in those things," said Mrs. Weimer.

Tolton Catholic's distinctive House System builds up community, brings people from different grade levels together and helps welcome students who



Winners of the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School's house kickball tournament gather for a victory photo in the school's gymnasium. Tolton Catholic's distinctive House System builds up community, brings people from different grade levels together and helps welcome students who transfer from other schools.

— Photos by Laura Sasser

transfer from other schools.

The House System is student-driven, with oversight from Mrs. Sasser.

The school has six "houses," each with 50 to 55 students, including a mix of boys and girls from grades 9 to 12.

heart, mind and body," Mrs. Sasser noted. "That's attractive to a lot of parents."

Daniel Everett, Ed.D., president and principal of the school, concludes every message and announcement with "You are loved."

"From the moment they enroll to when they come through the doors and into the classroom and right up through graduation, that's something they definitely know and feel," said Mrs. Sasser.

Good reasons to stay

A spike in enrollment during a pandemic is one thing. Maintaining those impressive numbers is quite another.

"It's a credit to our administration, our teachers, really to everybody who has a hand in managing and serving this larger student population," said Mrs. Weimer.

"The staff really rose to the occasion to maintain the pre-COVID standards," she noted. "So, once people came here, they saw value in staying."

This has been especially true for families who aren't Catholic or who were concerned about making the finances work, she said.

About one-quarter of the students are not Catholic.

In addition to providing excellent instruction and extracurricular activities, Tolton Catholic thrives at developing

using your God-given talents and doing your best for God's greater glory," said Mrs. Sasser.

There are weekly all-school Masses, and each house has a second Mass on its own day of the week.

Each grade has a yearly faith-based retreat.

Mrs. Weimer and Mrs. Sasser host an orientation titled "Tolton 101" for freshmen and transfer students each August.

It includes one of the school's chaplains or another priest in Columbia leading the new students through a "Teaching Mass."

"Things like why you genuflect, what the Sign of the Cross means and how you're supposed to behave when you

See FR. TOLTON, page 12

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This was the winning house's entry in Tolton Catholic's door-decorating contest.

The houses meet several times each week and participate in contests and activities planned by the seniors on the school's executive council.

"It brings them together and helps them get acquainted and make friends," said Mrs. Sasser. "It really lets them have a sense of community and belonging."

It's all part of a larger picture.

"When they come through here, we talk about growing the whole person in spirit,



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J.C. native honored with his diocese's Teacher of the Year award

By Jay Nies

Jefferson City native Cam Branson wants his students to be “unapologetically Catholic.”

He longs for them to grow up into people whose faith is readily recognizable in what they say and how they act.

“Once you’re out of your Catholic ‘safe zone,’ you need to be strong and courageous to be unambiguously Catholic,” noted Mr. Branson, a junior high math teacher at St. Agnes Cathedral School in Springfield.

He is the recipient of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau’s 2023 Distinguished Teacher of the Year award.

Bishop Edward Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau presented the award to Mr. Branson at a diocesan faculty in-service in Joplin.

“It was very unexpected,” said Mr. Branson, a graduate of St. Joseph Cathedral School and Helias Catholic High School, both in Jefferson City.

His parents are Delbert and Joan Branson.

Mr. Branson has been teaching at St. Agnes since graduating from Missouri State University in Springfield 13 years ago.

Two longtime educators at St. Agnes are previous recipients of the award for the diocese, which spans all of southern Missouri: a first-grade teacher who recently retired after a half-century of imparting wisdom in her students, and an eighth-grade teacher who has been elevating her students’ minds and spirits for over 45 years.

“They are teachers I immediately looked up to when I first got into teaching — as in, ‘This is how you do it!’” Mr. Branson stated. “So, to be mentioned in the same conversation with them just blows me away.”

In fact, Mr. Branson grew up surrounded by great teachers who still give him inspiration.

“I was in good hands all through grade school, with good teachers who made it a safe place for me to learn, knowing that they all cared about me and wanted me to succeed,” he recalled of his years at the Cathedral school in Jefferson City.

“They were very good teachers and helped guide me by their example in the classroom,” he stated. “They influenced my understanding of what kind of teacher I should be.”

The faculty at Helias Catholic continued that witness for him throughout the four years following grade school.

“Helias held you to a high standard,” Mr. Branson noted. “I wasn’t the best student, but I did try my best to meet those standards. Because I know they weren’t asking me to do something they didn’t think I

could do.”

Being at Helias Catholic also helped him explore and understand his faith at a deeper level and eventually learn to defend it from the common misconceptions he would inevitably encounter in college.

Other mentors came later, including an education instructor at Missouri State who recognized Mr. Branson’s potential, gave him a second chance and helped him become the teacher he is today.

Partnership with parents

Mr. Branson pointed out that after growing up in a part of central Missouri where Catholics are very much in the mainstream, it felt very different to go to college in the southeastern segment of the state.

“Up there, you’re basically surrounded by it, and you don’t really have to ask questions about it. It just is!” he said.

He reiterated the Church’s insistence that parents are the primary educators of their children and are the first teachers of the faith.

Catechists and Catholic school teachers build on the foundation that parents give their children, in constant cooperation with those same parents and the rest of the faith community, he said.

“I’m a middle school math teacher,” he stated. “And you can see the students whose parents work with them at home. They’re generally more successful.”

He said that in that way, imparting the Catholic faith at home is much like helping children learn math.

“If you have questions, you do some research and you help your kids find the answers they’re looking for,” he stated.

“If you rely on it all getting done at school and then have (your children) go home to a lived experience that’s entire-



Bishop Edward M. Rice of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri, presents the diocese's Teacher of the Year award to Jefferson City native Cam Branson at a faculty in-service event in Joplin.

years from now if he and his fellow Catholic school educators are successful in their mission.

“If we do our job well, they’ll come out of the Catholic school system with a strong Catholic foundation that they’ll be able to use whatever gifts God has given them to the best of their ability and continue being unapologetically Catholic,” he stated.

“Mindful that all of our students are very unique and have received different gifts from God, they’ll be serving their family, their community and showing their faith in the way that God intended them,” he said.

Mr. Branson

asked for prayers for him and all Catholic school educators to show their faith fully while teaching — “basically, incorporating our faith and educational knowledge into our daily lessons.”

“We want the kids to be able to see that we’re living and practicing our faith,” he said.

And for his students, he suggested praying for something Bishop Rice often talks to them about: “being unapologetically Catholic.”

“Namely, being able to spread the faith,” said Mr. Branson. “Having the strength to say out loud that they’re Catholic and proudly raising their hand among friends and peers.”

It feels safe to do that in a Catholic environment with other Catholic students, but the world is much larger and more diverse.

“So, I would pray for the students to learn to be unapologetically Catholic at a young age, so when they get older and are not surrounded by Catholics and a strong Catholic family at that time, they have the strength to proclaim proudly that they’re Catholic in what they say and what they do,” said Mr. Branson.

ly separate from what they’re learning at school, what are they going to be able to get out of that?” Mr. Branson inquired.

He said he’s able to answer most of his students’ questions about Church teaching and their own budding relationship with God.

But not every question.

“We have a sheet of paper that I keep in my toolbox drawer that I teach from,” said Mr. Branson. “I write down the questions I don’t know the answer to. We save those questions for when our pastor comes to visit the class. He’s someone my students trust.”

Mr. Branson recalled that every teacher he had at St. Joseph Cathedral School and Helias Catholic understood their role as a Catholic educator.

“Even if they weren’t Catholic, they realized that their duty was to impart and strengthen the faith through whatever lessons they were teaching us,” he said.

That’s something Mr. Branson sets out to emulate every day he’s in the classroom.

Without apology

Mr. Branson predicted what his students will be like 10

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St. Patrick Early Childhood Center in Rolla opens

By Hannah Martinez

Rolla

St. Patrick Parish is built on layers of history, faith and sacrifice.

According to the parish website, the first parishioners were Irish railroad workers laboring in the frontier town during the Civil War in 1862.

Seventy-five years later, as Rolla's sons and fathers were being sent overseas to fight in World War II, the congregation had outgrown the original building, and a stone church was constructed in 1947 at its current location on U.S. 63 and St. Patrick Lane.

Over the years, the church has been expanded but also preserved, with a stained-glass window from the original 1800s church inside the chapel, as unbroken as Rolla's legacy of faith.

Outside, a statue, called "Christ of the Highway," raises outstretched arms as if pronouncing blessings on drivers leaving town.

The railroad and the highway have built and gathered a vibrant community of believers locally, but how do you maintain generations of faith?

For more than 50 years St. Pat's has operated a school to teach children that faith and education don't have to be mutually exclusive.

According to parents and educators, the school has a reputation for producing bright, well-studied minds.

Like the church, the school at St. Pat's has changed over time. No longer operated by religious sisters and clergy, the school has a diverse faculty of various faith backgrounds and disciplines teaching children from preschool through eighth grade.

Early last month, a ribbon-cutting celebrated the newest offering: an early childhood center.

The school's preschool operates in the rooms underneath the main worship area of the stone church, while a separate parish hall is used to instruct younger grades in the upper level and more advanced grade students in the lower level.

Space is limited, so certain subjects and electives share classrooms, the gym doubles as the lunchroom and every-

one within the school's community pitches in.

"Very much of what we do here is parent involvement," said Principal Anthony Arnold. "We couldn't do what we do without people wanting to be a part of it and give in any way they can."

Sacrificial gifts

According to Mr. Arnold, it's not only the parents who sacrifice, but also a team of well-educated and overqualified school staff who accept lower pay and professional benefits to teach at the school simply because they love it.

"Five of our teachers are alumni, who came back because they loved it so much," said Mr. Arnold. "They want to be a part of it."

Parents and staff actively propose and execute big ideas that transcend the limited space they share.

"We really kind of took a stone soup approach," Mr. Arnold stated. "You have an idea and you've got a piece and then everybody brings one of their pieces to it."

In recent years, some of the significant family-driven projects have been the school's highway-bordering privacy wall, playground and science lab.

For about four years, Mr. Arnold and Anna Starns, vice principal/preschool director, discussed the need for an early-childhood center to serve the needs of parents and staff who need reliable care for children too young for preschool.

But there was no room in the parish hall or main church.

Ms. Starns puzzled over the issue and came up with a solution. Across the highway from the "Christ of the Highway" statue is the parish center.

Ms. Starns observed that one side of the building, with a large meeting room, was being underutilized.

"I looked at how often is this room used? Hardly ever,"



St. Patrick School Advisory Council President Nick Girondo, St. Patrick Home and School Association President Sara Lovegreen, Cahill's Construction President Tonie Cahill, and Rolla City Administrator John Butz were among those present at the St. Patrick Catholic Early Childhood Center's ribbon-cutting on Dec. 5 in Rolla. Holding the scissors are St. Patrick School Principal Anthony Arnold, Vice Principal Anna Starns and Early Childhood Center Supervisor Alysia Cohen.

— Photo by Hannah Martinez

she said. "If this was just an empty room, why not use it for something productive and help parents?"

All hands on deck

The project began taking shape about a year ago to turn the space into an ideal facility.

Early Childhood Center supervisor Alysia Cohen drafted a floor plan for the project and worked with Ms. Starns to assess furniture and equipment needs like cribs, bouncers, changing tables, etc.

Ms. Starns said that many 12-hour days were worked over the summer, getting the interior ready to accept kids in August.

Cahill's Construction put up drywall and framed doors and windows, and parents hung cabinets and curtains.

Ms. Cohen and other staff and their families painted alpine motif illustrations on the walls.

Boy Scouts refinished the deck outside while school custodian Irving Garcia created a custom gate to give the kids a safe, enclosed outdoor space to play.

The center has capacity for 20 kids from ages 6 weeks old to 3 years when fully staffed, with a teacher to student ratio of 1-to-4 for babies and 1-to-6 for toddlers.

The space is inviting, with clear walls and partitions and enough pastel gear to put Babies "R" Us to shame.

The facility has received a warm welcome from the com-

munity, with many signing up on the waiting list for future openings.

"It was a simple renovation to turn this underused facility into something that the community has really been needing for a long time, so we're really excited about it," said Will Benhardt, Ms. Cahill's director of business relations.

"It was my understanding that the city of Rolla had a need for about 200 kids in our community for this age group for childcare," Ms. Starns stated.

She said it was a funny coincidence because the center can handle 10% of that need, which is the Biblically mandated amount for church tithes.

"I really felt this was the right place and the right time, and I would love to be able to take more but we can't," she said.

In addition to physical space being a consideration for limiting enrollment for the school and early childhood center, Mr. Arnold and Ms. Starns said it's important to maintain the proper conditions to ensure the best possible care and instruction.

"Our teachers love doing what they do," said Mr. Arnold. "I don't want to wear them out, I don't want to take away from the quality of education. I want the students to get what they need."

Faith and love

So, do you have to be Catholic to send your kids here?

No, according to Ms. Starns.

Children and staff come from a variety of denominations, but everyone who teaches and studies belongs to the Christian faith, even the preschoolers.

"The lower grades we're not teaching major doctrine theology classes, but they definitely know that Jesus loves them," said Ms. Starns.

St. Patrick

School Advisory Council President Nick Girondo, Home and School Association President Sara Lovegreen, project Construction President Tonie Cahill and City Administrator John Butz were among those present at the early childhood center's ribbon-cutting on Dec. 5.

"This is the place where children can be loved and educated and adored on both sides of (Highway) 63," Mr. Butz, himself a St. Patrick parishioner, said of the school and center.

"Success is done at our businesses and our nonprofits and our churches," he continued. "That's really the movers and the shakers of our community."

For more information about St. Patrick School and its Early Childhood Center, visit school.stpatsrolla.org or contact ecc@stpatsrolla.org.

Ms. Martinez is a staff writer for the Phelps County Focus (phelpscountyfocus.com), which published the original version of this article on Dec. 7, 2023, and gave permission for this version to be published here.

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QUESTION CORNER

Everything Catholic: Is there a big source that explains it all?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: Is there an authoritative recommended single source of information on all the many Roman Catholic traditions such as behavior and rituals in church and prayers for appropriate occasions? (United Kingdom)



A: No, unfortunately there is no such resource.

Even when we're considering canon law properly so-called, there is no one single master document that contains every law in the Church. Although of course the *Code of Canon Law* is a good general starting place, there are many relevant laws which are not in the *Code*. For example, liturgical law is true law within the Church, but it is typically included within the context of the liturgical documents themselves rather than the *Code of Canon Law*.

Furthermore, there is such a thing as "proper law," meaning laws that apply only to a specific territory or group of people. For example, a diocesan bishop can issue proper law for his own diocese, and most religious communities have their own proper law in the form of their statutes and conditions. There are some instances when a local bishops' conference can make binding policy. A good example of this is how in 2011 the bishops' conference of England and Wales reintroduced mandatory Friday abstinence from meat for all Catholics in their territory. (And of course, many if not most unofficial traditions and customs have a strong local or cultural component.)

Besides law technically speaking, there are other kinds of documents, called "instructions," which determine specific ways in which a law is to be carried out. Less formal clarifications on questions of law from various Vatican dicasteries also need to be considered. Occasionally a Pope will modify the *Code of Canon Law*, meaning that the nearest hard copy of the *Code* might be obsolete in some sections.

But to attempt a more practically useful answer to your query, if you have questions about Catholic liturgy a good first step would be to check the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, (GIRM) which is essentially the "instruction book" for how Mass is to be celebrated. The GIRM addresses not only the actions of the priest, but also the role and participation of the faithful in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. The GIRM discusses some related issues as well, such as how the sanctuary should be decorated and maintained. If you have questions about other rituals or sacraments, often the liturgical text themselves will include a similar introductory section.

If your questions are more related to faith and morals, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* would be a helpful place to start. The *Catechism* is meant as a summary of core Catholic beliefs and is widely available both in print and online — and there are a few searchable web versions of the *Catechism* that make it fairly simple to navigate.

In terms of prayers for various occasions, there is a *Book of Blessings* that most priests would have access to. But if you as a layperson would like to pray in a way that is more in turn with the Church's calendar of liturgical seasons, you might try incorporating all or some of the Liturgy of the Hours into your prayer life. The Liturgy of the Hours is a series of liturgical prayers that are meant to be prayed at specific times of the day, and which also closely mirror the Church's cycle of seasons and feast days.

For "behaviors in church," I suppose at least some of this might be more a matter of courtesy and common sense more

See QUESTION, page 22

Papal Audience

January 17, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our catechesis on the virtues and the vices, we now turn to lust, which is opposed to the beauty of that love which the Creator has implanted in our hearts and called us to cultivate in our relations with others, especially by the responsible use of our sexuality. Lust poisons the purity of love by turning it from a chaste, patient and generous acceptance of another person in all the mysterious richness of his or her being, into a egotistic desire for possession and immediate satisfaction. God's gift of sexuality, which finds sublime expression in conjugal love, is at the service of human fulfilment and authentic freedom, whereas lust enchains us in selfishness and emptiness. May our hearts always treasure the beauty of love, which shares in the mystery of God's own unconditional love for us, created in his own image.

Tomorrow the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins, which this year has as its theme: "Love the Lord your God... and love your neighbour as yourself" (cf. Lk. 10:27). I invite you to pray that Christians may reach full communion and bear unanimous witness of love towards all, especially towards the most fragile. My Blessing to all!



Fr. Flatley: Three cheers for the Doctrine of Original Sin!

This is the sixth in a series of teachings and reflections offered by the moderator of spiritual formation for the Jefferson City diocese:

By Father Matthew Flatley

We learn in the exquisite creation stories from our Sacred Scriptures that our first parents walked through a beautiful, serene garden, hand-in-hand with their Creator.

However, because of the sin of pride, they fell from that perfect grace and unity and ran for cover with feelings of shame and fear.

Their disobedience is labeled Original Sin.

Our Sacred Tradition, handed down from generation to generation, teaches that we "inherit" this Original Sin, and we do not inherit this sin through any fault of our own.

It is crucial to understand this.

Dreadful misunderstandings of this doctrine have not always been helpful. This is especially unfortunate, because it is a doctrine that reveals the tender compassion and care the Father provides us through Christ.

God the Father thinks of everything.

Are we to despair because we are morally flawed? Have we been born in error, deserving of some punishment?

These ideas truly are a dreadful misunderstanding of this teaching.

Sisters and brothers, we are beloved children of God, the crown of creation!

In the ancient Greek language, which the New Testament was written in, the word *hamartia* is used for sin.

This same word is used in archery! It means "to miss the mark."

Let's be honest, we all miss the mark sometimes ... we are all sinners saved by grace.

In a dictionary, sin is defined as an immoral act, considered to be a transgression against divine law.

Sin can be individual and/or corporate or collective. We are responsible for our personal sins, and we are called to repent from them.

This Original Sin is not the result of any willful action of ours. It simply is ... it is universal, and it affects every human being.

It might best be defined as the *Universal Human Condition*.

It is our fallen nature, and it is very real.

Both Augustine and Aquinas define the consequence of this inherited condition as:

- Illusion* — we do not know where to find true happiness, and look for it in all the wrong places and ways;

- Concupiscence* — when we find something we think will make us happy, we can't get enough of it; and

- Weakness of Will* — here we identify with St. Paul, when he cries out, "I do not understand myself, for I do the very things I swear I will not do."

Many social sciences try to explain this human condition, as well. Philosophy, evolution and even modern psychology weigh in on this.

In recent years, we have heard from psychologists that 98% of families are somewhat "dysfunctional."

No one has ever met the other 2% that are not dysfunctional, because they do not exist!

Only Christian Faith offers the path out of this troubling human condition we inherit.

See FR. FLATLEY, page 23

Saluting the chroniclers: put 2024 on paper

By Christina Capecchi



He began at the beginning: “Left St. Paul Jan. 23rd 98 at 4:30 P.M.”

In a leather-bound journal, his neat cursive scrolled in pencil across graph paper, Frank Storms charted his epic pursuit: to strike gold in Alaska.

He arrived in 1898, in the middle of a stampede — some 100,000 prospectors who made up the Klondike Gold Rush. The Minnesota man was convinced he had what it took, attaching a newspaper clipping that quoted “the millionaire

miner” Dr. F.T. King: “No one should go to Alaska in the hope of finding gold unless he is possessed of a good physique, indomitable will and tenacity and a willingness to work long and hard and at anything that presents itself.”

Frank chronicled his travels in detail, providing summaries and lists. He noted all his supplies. He documented his Christmas menu: oyster soup, fish, roast, Alaska baked beans, creamed potatoes and mince pie, then a pipe with two friends. And he illustrated his odyssey, sketching tributaries of the Yukon River and “Old Sam’s Cabin” where he stayed.

Frank didn’t find gold, returning home due to a broken hip. But he did leave his family a treasure: his journal.

More than a century later, we pore

over his pages, awed by his daring and his diligence — the latter, necessary for us to learn of the former.

Every Christmas Eve we pause from our festivities to salute Great Grandpa Frank and the Knights of Pythias, the fraternal organization under which he traveled.

His story lives on.

I’ve been thinking about journaling, which is both a lost art and a spiritual exercise. Last May, in a fit of end-of-school-year sentimentality, I resolved to begin a simple family journal. I was pained by how quickly it all goes. Journaling felt like the surest way to slow time, to keep all the days from blurring together. They are too sacred to blur.

This was the underlying belief, a sense

of urgency and sanctity stirring deep within.

I’d purchased a leather journal and tried to replicate Frank’s pencil cursive. But what works for me is sitting down at my desktop computer and tapping a few quick sentences into a Google document. Sometimes right before bed. Sometimes in the window between turning on the stove and bringing water to a boil. Sometimes not at all. (That’s part of the deal — no pressure.)

I can think of no better way to launch a new year than to document it. Start with the simplest stuff: the date, the weather. Then keep it simple. What you did, what you ate, who you saw.

See CAPECCHI, page 23

God is calling your name. Will you respond?

By Gretchen R. Crowe
OSV News



Our sweetest not-such-a-baby anymore turns 20 months old this month. Like any proud mama, I could write an entire column on John Francis’s adorable qualities, like his propensity to silly dance anytime he catches a whiff of a beat, or how he quacks at anything that has wings, including, lately, the angels in Nativity scenes.

But what is really making us laugh these days is his love of the family “roll call.” While our little guy isn’t talking all that much yet, what he does do — with gusto — is say the names of his favorite people on repeat. This means the soundtrack of our home in this season of life centers on the words DADA, MAMA, DOHDOO (that’s big bro Joseph) and NNNEH (big sis Anne). And he means business. When he calls your name, he expects acknowledgement and response, pronto, or the calls will continue, with increasing intensity. It reminds me uncannily of the movie “Star Trek 4: The Voyage Home,” in which a cylindrical probe in outer space in the year 2286 seeks response from humpback whales on Earth and, upon hearing none from the now extinct creatures, begins utter destruction of the planet. One must acknowledge the baby roll call or face a harrowing future.

God calls us to himself

While this has offered us much laughter at home, this game of call and response has also been tugging at my heart. Consider for a moment how endlessly the Lord, too, calls us to himself, and how greatly he wants us to respond. We have been created by God for life

everlasting with him, and he desires us more than anything.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* makes clear this probing love of the Father and how much he desires to bring all people to himself: “Man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer,” the *Catechism* says. “In prayer, the faithful God’s initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response. As God gradually reveals himself and reveals man to himself, prayer appears as a reciprocal call, a covenant drama. Through words and actions, this drama engages the heart. It unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation” (No. 2567).

These words are a reassuring balm to my soul. We are so beloved of God that, despite all of our human failings — despite all the ways in which we seek to hide from the Lord, or seek to blame him for abandoning us — he will lovingly and persistently call us to himself. He will tirelessly call our names, and, if we are listening and open, we will be led to respond.

Searching for God

As a member of the Pauline Family, I think this time of year about the call received by our founder, Blessed James Alberione, on the night of Dec. 31, 1900 — what is now known as the “Night of Light.” While praying before the Blessed Sacrament, Alberione heard the Lord call “Come to me, all of you...” From this distinct, life-changing moment, Alberione’s mission in Catholic communications was born and, more than a century later, continues to thrive. But it was not just the call that made it so; a call is nothing without a response. It was Alberione’s own fiat, his own obedience to the will of God,

that allowed for such abundant fruit.

We must do the same! And, thanks be to God, responding to God is inherent to our nature as human beings.

“Man is in search of God,” the *Catechism* reminds us. “Even after losing

See CROWE, page 23

REFLECTION

The darkest hour

By Mark Saucier

Raw. Bitter. Numbing. Brutal.

Take your pick, because this cold wave requires an adjective — an added word to communicate the life-threatening effects of sub-zero temperatures and abominable wind chills.

Some claim a cold snap is good. It kills off some of the invasive pests brought north by climate change.

The hard freeze improves the texture of the soil and ensures the dormancy plants need to marshal their resources for the warmth to come.

Still, it is hard on many. We are not as active, not out as much. A pall of grey covers the cold.

We are driven inside and driven inside ourselves.

This can be a quiet, reflective time for some. But for others — for many others — the cold confines them to a sadness that is much deeper, much lonelier.

For those who have lost a loved one, who struggle with depression, who grieve a broken bond, or those in pain over the sickness or addictions of someone close to them, the dark cold of winter is an unending, demonic night.

Bestselling author Abraham Verghese is also a medical doctor. He believes, as do his main characters who are doctors, that healers can best learn from their patients.

He tells the story of one of his, a hemophiliac who died on his watch after contracting HIV-AIDS from his numerous transfusions.

The young man came from a very poor family, and his disease was yet another stress on his overburdened parents.

As a child, he would suffer episodes of bleeding into his joints. At that time, before Factor 8, he would need to be hospitalized and receive plasma infusions.

Often, these bleeds would happen at night. He didn’t want to wake his parents because they would get up and spend the night applying ice packs and trying to comfort him. Both had two jobs and little enough sleep as it was.

So the child would stoic-up and, unable to sleep himself, play “Joy Comes In the Morning” over and over on his record player until morning did come.

“Hold on my child ... / Joy comes in the morning / Weeping only lasts for the night / Hold on my child ... / Joy comes in the morning / The darkest hour means the dawn is just in sight.”

Assailed by the chilling grief of winter, we need to find a faith, a song, a memory, or a friend we can hang onto until our morning again springs forth with joy.

And it surely will.

Encounter Seeking to understand poverty

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Paige Orscheln

Have you ever stopped to think, I mean really think, evaluate, even visualize, what the reality of poverty looks like in your local community?

What image comes to your mind?

Is it a person experiencing homelessness holding a sign at the intersection on your way to work?

Is it your co-worker, friend or family member waiting in line at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry for some grocery support this week?

The edges of need are so pervasive and sometimes blurry — you may not even know that your neighbor is seeking utility assistance just to keep the lights on in their home, or that a family member of your own is taking on credit card debt just to try and make ends meet.

In today's Encounter reflection, we're just scratching the surface of the uncomfortable truth of poverty.

While I have always considered myself an understanding person, thought I knew what poverty looked like and sought ways to empathize and help others who were experiencing hardships, my eyes were never fully opened until my work at Catholic Charities.

For a good portion of my life, I generally felt that a person was completely in control of, and even responsible entirely for,

their own financial situations.

It's taken some introspection for me to examine that understanding.

While I still believe that it can be true to an extent, it simply does not take into consideration the complex levels and situational experiences of poverty in our communities.

Having been blessed in my own lived experiences with good physical and mental health, and financial stability, it's an interesting lens to gaze through as I encounter so many seeking help from Catholic Charities, who don't even have a place to sleep at night.

Through my work as a HUD-Certified Housing Counselor at Catholic Charities — one of three HUD housing agencies for our entire service area — my understanding of poverty has evolved.

In my work, I experience many calls a day from people just like you and I, but who now have nowhere to call home, often due to not being able to afford their rent or mortgage anymore.

Many or most of these people have found themselves without the safety nets of family or friends to help them get back on their feet and into a new home.

They must now look for a shelter to stay at, most of which operate at capacity and around this time of year are completely full.

Then they may turn to staying in their car; one caller once asked if we could help purchase a tent for them to sleep in.

Going from the place you call home to leaving most of your possessions behind and living in your car or moving forward with no shelter at all in a matter of days — that is a lived reality for some across mid-Missouri.

Sometimes triggered by health issues, flooding or other weather events, the loss of a job, or even a family member — many people living in our communities and neighborhoods are one disaster away from poverty.

Some folks in this situation are working for low-pay jobs and the income simply cannot meet the expenses regardless of how much budgeting they do.

Finding a higher paying job can be nearly impossible if they are undereducated or lacking skills.

Picking up a second job with small children as a single mom and finding affordable child-care are non-starters — not to mention the difficulty of applying for work without a mailing address and showing up after sleeping in your car.

Some clients are unable to work and often have the additional burden of significant health struggles.

Some of these clients do have income and healthcare from the government, and some do not.

These clients are struggling

in the most difficult ways in life.

They are without a place to call home, they are physically unwell, and they don't know what comes next.

Can you imagine the stress and the effect of this stress on your already failing physical health?

Your mental health?

There is no denying that the need to care for these people is critical.

While eliminating all poverty is a mountain we will never climb, Catholic Charities' impact and the impact of other organizations can help alleviate this burden in our local communities.

While I do often feel overwhelmed with the need, I am also overwhelmed with the resources and the kindness and generosity of my colleagues, our volunteers, and our community partners who have the same goals in alleviating poverty and the suffering of those in financial hardship.

In my work, I assist many with finding a safe, clean, affordable place to call home as well as working with them on finances and credit and budgeting.

However, equally impactful to me is the ability to simply see and hear these people in need, and to honor their stories — stories that deserve to be heard.

It is really an encounter for me to lend a client the dignity of a helping hand and a listening ear.

Many of these clients have few to no family relationships or friendships.

They take on navigating this impossible burden alone until they do find the help that they need.

With me, they express gratitude, and find peace in having someone to accompany them, checking in when nobody else is.

While the financial need to support our agencies and the poor directly will always be there, I also know not everyone will be able to give financially.

Gifts of your treasure to support our work are wonderful, but equally important is a call that we can each answer: to not discount the poor.

To not assume you know each of their stories.

To let go of the assumptions and biases about how they found themselves in this place to begin with.

To take a pause and recognize that you may not know what they have been through and cannot imagine how difficult it is to be them.

This is the first step in honoring the Dignity of Human Life, and each of us can afford others the dignity they deserve as inherently worthy of what the Creator has made them for.


I encourage you to learn, grow, and keep an open mind — finding ways to pray for others and work to alleviate poverty where you can — whether by providing care materially or creating hope for those you see.

Paige Orscheln is the HUD-Certified Housing Counselor at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. As one of two HUD-Certified Housing Agencies for our 38-county diocese, her assistance in renter and homebuyer education, credit and budgeting counseling, and securing affordable housing are an integral part of our Community Services Program.

January is Poverty Awareness Month — a time where, in our abundance, we can seek to understand those who have little or nothing. Catholic Charities USA's mission is to reduce poverty in America, and at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri we also seek to alleviate the suffering of those experiencing poverty — lack of food, housing, security, healthcare, education, and more. You can join in our work by downloading this month's Menu of Engagement, and finding ways to See, Judge, and Act in response to poverty in our communities. Learn more at ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/menu-of-engagement.

January

SCAN HERE:




For access to links and resources for the items listed here!

MENU OF ENGAGEMENT


FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN MISSOURI

SEE	JUDGE	ACT
<p>» LEARN about poverty in your community with the Missouri Poverty Report.</p> <p>» EXPERIENCE Experience the challenge of living below the poverty line by playing the online Play Spent poverty simulator.</p> <p>» ENCOUNTER Encounter those in need in person by volunteering at Catholic Charities.</p>	<p>» REFLECT On scripture: 1 John 3:16</p> <p>» RELATE How would your life change if your income placed you at or below the poverty line?</p> <p>» UNDERSTAND Discuss with your family, classroom, or parish: In the face of poverty across our community, state, and nation what is the Church called to do?</p>	<p>» PRAY Pray this Prayer for the Care of the Poor from CCUSA</p> <p>» SERVE Sign up for your parish's social ministry committee — or become a Catholic Charities Parish Ambassador</p> <p>» GIVE Join Catholic Charities' Circle of Care — learn more online!</p>



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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Celebrating gifts while focused on goal

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

A major leap forward in Christian unity began with an embrace, as Pope Francis recalled.

Pope St. Paul VI and Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople met, and embraced, in Jerusalem in January 1964 and the following year they lifted the mutual excommunications their churches had issued in 1054.

Pope Francis marked the anniversary during his Angelus address Jan. 6, telling a crowd in St. Peter's Square that the two leaders had broken down "a wall of incommunicability that had kept Catholics and Orthodox apart for centuries. Let us learn from the embrace of those two great men of the church on the path to Christian unity: praying together, walking together, working together."

The praying, walking and working will be highlighted Jan. 18-25 as Christians around the world celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

After the embrace, Pope Paul VI had told the patriarch: "What can and must now commence to develop is that fraternal charity, which is ingenious in finding new ways of showing itself, and which,

taking its lessons from the past, is ready to pardon, more ready to believe good than evil, careful above all to conform itself to the Divine Master and to allow itself to be drawn to and transformed by him."

The prayers and reflections for this year's week of prayer — focused on the theme, "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself" — were prepared by an ecumenical group of Christians in Burkina Faso, which has been "experiencing a serious security crisis" since 2016. Christians have been the target of jihadist terrorist attacks, and hundreds of churches have been forced to close.

Yet, the materials said, the situation has prompted Christian communities not only to pray for peace, but to work together to care for people displaced by the fighting and to promote Christian-Muslim dialogue.

In Rome Pope Francis will be joined by Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury Jan. 25 for vespers closing the week of prayer and to witness just how much fraternal charity exists among bishops of their churches.

Bishop Brian Farrell, secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, told



Pope Francis greets Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox students studying at Catholic universities in Rome and officials of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity during an audience at the Vatican Jan. 12, 2024. The students came to Rome as part of a project sponsored by the Catholic Committee for Cultural Collaboration, which was established 60 years ago.

— CNS photo/Vatican Media

Catholic News Service Jan. 9 that the pope and archbishop will formally send forth 25 pairs of bishops — an Anglican and a Catholic from the same region — who have promised to pray and work together, usually on a joint charitable project.

Pope Francis and Archbishop Welby sent forth a similar group of 19 Anglican and 19 Catholic bishops during a prayer service in Rome in 2019. The twinning is a project of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, known as IARCCUM. The teams of bishops will have sem-

inars in both Rome and Canterbury, England.

Some of the highlights in Vatican ecumenical relations

over the past year included: Pope Francis' ecumenical peace pilgrimage to South Sudan with Archbishop Welby and the Rev. Iain Greenshields, moderator of the Church of Scotland; the Vatican visit of Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria, Egypt, and Pope Francis' announcement that he added the 21 Coptic martyrs murdered by Islamic State terrorists in 2015 to the Roman Martyrology, the list of saints' feast days; and the ecumenical prayer vigil that preceded the opening of the Synod of Bishops on synodality.

Bishop Farrell said it is difficult to know what else to add because "visits, mutual support, ecumenical dialogues — it's all so normal now that

See UNITY, page 12

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MEMBER FDIC

Monroe City church renovations begin

Weekend Masses to be in Indian Creek



Young and adult volunteers from Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City help remove the pews from Holy Rosary Church on Jan. 15, as substantial renovations to the 55-year-old church get under way. Effective Jan. 20 and for the duration of the renovations, all three weekend Masses for the Monroe City parish and neighboring St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek will be celebrated in St. Stephen Church.

Mass times will be 5:30 p.m. on Saturday night, with Confessions being heard from 4 to 5 p.m. in St. Stephen Church. Sunday Masses will be at 8 and 10 a.m. Tuesday through Friday Masses in Monroe City will be in the Knights of Columbus Hall meeting room. Friday Masses (when school is in session) will be in Holy Rosary School Gym. The Adoration Chapel will move to Holy Rosary Convent.

Pastor Brandon Brosi from Life Redeemed Pentecostal Church has offered to shuttle parishioners from Monroe City to Indian Creek using his congregation's 15-passenger van.

"We can count on being out of Holy Rosary Church for at least 6-8 months," stated Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, pastor of the Monroe City and Indian Creek parishes.

— Photos by Donna Long

FR. TOLTON

From page 5

go to Communion," said Mrs. Weimer.

"It's not only good for our Catholic students to have a reminder of why we do what we do at Mass, but it also helps our non-Catholic friends to participate well in the Mass and have a better comfort level with it," she stated.

Mrs. Sasser noted that several non-Catholic students in the past few years have elected

to be initiated into the Catholic Church.

"So, Catholic identity is strong and visible throughout the building and throughout the community," she said.

Doors wide open

Mrs. Weimer was quick to point out that although Tolton Catholic is headed toward full capacity, families are still welcome and encouraged to apply

for enrollment.

With Catholic schools all over the United States preparing to celebrate Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 28 through Feb. 3, she suggested taking time pray for the teachers, staff and administration of

every Catholic school.

"They sacrifice a lot for the mission of Catholic education," she said. "Teaching and school administrating can be challenging. We should pray for all of them to stay true to the mission of Catholic education."

In keeping with this year's theme at Tolton Catholic, Mrs. Sasser suggested also praying for everyone associated with a Catholic school to "continue finding joy in all we do and to be our best for the students and their families."

UNITY

From page 11

we take it for granted."

"The challenge we have is to not get used to the good relations that we have and forget that we are on a journey toward full unity," he said. "This is the temptation of the ecumenical movement, to just kind of be happy with what we have achieved."

"We still are not being faithful to Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper that his disciples be one," the bishop said.

The global ecumenical movement also is increasingly focused on 2025, which is the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which gave birth to the Nicene Creed.

The anniversary, Bishop Farrell said, will be an opportunity for the Christian churches "to bring the fundamentals of the faith into the center of Christian life because we have a tendency, especially here in the West, to think of the church as what it does, but we forget the very foundation of what we're doing is our faith in God, the father, son and Holy Spirit."

Another Nicaea-related ecumenical hope is making less progress, Bishop Farrell said.

Different Christian communities celebrated Easter on different days until the Council

of Nicaea in 325 decided that for the unity of the Christian community and its witness, Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

But the Julian calendar, which is what Christians used in the fourth century and many Orthodox churches still use, was out of sync with the actual solar year, so March 21 — generally assumed to be the date of the northern hemisphere's spring equinox — gradually "drifted" away from the actual equinox.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII, relying on the work of astronomers, reformed the calendar, dropping 10 days and making the equinox fall on March 21 again.

While the World Council of Churches, the Vatican and a variety of Christian churches and ecumenical bodies have tried to get all Christians to agree on a common date for Easter, Bishop Farrell said that "not all the churches are willing to adapt or change."

However, an occasional coincidence in the Julian and Gregorian calendars means that even if they do not have an agreement for the future, Christians will celebrate Easter on the same day in 2025.

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DID YOU READ IT OR...

just sign it?

Missouri and Initiative Petitions

The initiative petition process gives Missouri citizens the opportunity to directly participate in government. Citizens have the opportunity to propose legislation as either a state law or a constitutional amendment. In recent years, citizens have used the initiative petition process to pass Medicaid expansion, medical and recreational marijuana, and "Clean Missouri" which was a campaign finance and redistricting amendment.

Over the last year, more than 170 proposals have been filed for the 2024 election cycle. Among the proposals are 17 that would seek to add abortion rights to the State Constitution in some form. There continue to be questions from Catholics as to what these proposals would do, along with concerns that one will ultimately end up on the November 2024 ballot. In this issue of Messenger, we will provide an overview of the initiative process, a description of what each abortion initiative will do, and an update on where the initiatives are in the process.

THE INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS IN MISSOURI

Citizens wishing to propose a constitutional amendment must first submit their proposals to the Missouri secretary of state's office. The office approves the petitioner's form and prepares ballot summary language while the state auditor prepares a fiscal note and fiscal note summary for the proposal. The secretary of state's office then certifies the official ballot title. After the official ballot title is certified, petitioners can circulate the proposed petitions which must include the full and complete text of the measure and the official ballot title and begin to collect signatures.

Petitioners must deliver signed petitions to the secretary of state's office no less than six months before the next general election.

For the November 5, 2024 election, signatures must be submitted by May 5, 2024. Petitions proposing constitutional amendments must be signed by eight percent of legal voters in any six of the eight congressional districts. This means that petitioners must collect a minimum of 171,592 signatures. The secretary of state's office will then distribute copies to local election authorities to verify signatures. Once signatures are verified, the secretary of state will determine whether there are enough valid signatures to place the petition on the ballot for the next general election.

PRO-ABORTION INITIATIVE PETITIONS

On March 8, 2023, Dr. Anna Fitz-James filed eleven initiative petitions with the secretary of state's office to add abortion rights

to the state constitution. The proposals, filed by a political action committee called Missourians for Constitutional Freedom, amend the constitution to declare that the government "shall not infringe upon a person's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which is the right to make and carry out decisions about all matters related to reproductive health care, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion care, miscarriage care, and respectful birthing conditions." Each proposal states that there must be "a compelling governmental interest" for abortion restrictions to be put in place; however, each differs as to the specifics of what is allowable.

Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft certified the official ballot titles for the 11 initiatives, all of which included this language:

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- allow for dangerous, unregulated, and unrestricted abortions, from conception to live birth, without requiring a medical license or potentially being subject to medical malpractice;
- nullify longstanding Missouri law protecting the right to life, including but not limited to partial-birth abortion;
- require the government not to discriminate against persons providing or obtaining an abortion, potentially including tax-payer funding?

Dr. Fitz-James, represented by the ACLU of Missouri, challenged the ballot summary language drafted by the secretary of state's office for six of the initiatives, claiming that the summary was misleading. Assistant Attorney General Jason

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ABORTION INITIATIVE PETITION LANGUAGE

Version 1 below is the original ballot language from July 26, 2023 as certified by Secretary of State Ashcroft. The final ballot language, as seen in Version 9, is what was approved by the court. Catholics should keep in mind that while the language that may be seen on the ballot in November 2024 may have changed the intent is the same.

Constitutional Amendment to Article I, Relating to Reproductive Health Care, version 1

2024-077

[full text] 

Submitted by: Anna Fitz-James

Anna Fitz-James
PO Box 2187
St. Louis, MO 63158

Official ballot title certified by Secretary of State on July 26, 2023.

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE AS CERTIFIED BY SECRETARY OF STATE

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- allow for dangerous, unregulated, and unrestricted abortions, from conception to live birth, without requiring a medical license or potentially being subject to medical malpractice;
- nullify longstanding Missouri law protecting the right to life, including but not limited to partial-birth abortion;
- require the government not to discriminate against persons providing or obtaining an abortion, potentially including tax-payer funding; and
- prohibit any municipality, city, town, village, district, authority, public subdivision, or public corporation having the power to tax or regulate or the state of Missouri from regulating abortion procedures?

State governmental entities estimate no costs or savings, but unknown impact. Local governmental entities estimate costs of at least \$51,000 annually in reduced tax revenues. Opponents estimate a potentially significant loss to state revenue.

Constitutional Amendment to Article I, Relating to Reproductive Health Care, version 9

2024-085

[full text] 

Submitted by: Anna Fitz-James

Anna Fitz-James
PO Box 2187
St. Louis, MO 63158

Official ballot title certified by Secretary of State on November 28, 2023.

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE AS CERTIFIED BY SECRETARY OF STATE

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- establish a right to make decisions about reproductive health care, including abortion and contraceptives, with any governmental interference presumed invalid;
- remove Missouri's ban on abortion;
- allow regulation of reproductive health care to improve or maintain health of patient;
- prohibit government discrimination against persons providing or obtaining reproductive health care;
- allow abortion to be restricted or banned after Fetal Viability except to protect life or health of the woman;
- allow General Assembly to enact parental consent requirements for abortions involving minors, with exceptions; and
- declare government funding of abortion is not required?

State governmental entities estimate no costs or savings, but unknown impact. Local governmental entities estimate costs of at least \$51,000 annually in reduced tax revenues. Opponents estimate a potentially significant loss to state revenue.

Krol Lewis, representing Secretary of State Ashcroft, argued that the petitions accurately “convey to voters the massive loopholes in the initiative petition that would bring access to effectively unregulated and unrestricted abortion in Missouri.” In addition, three pro-life advocates—Rep. Hannah Kelly (R-Mountain Grove), Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold), and Kathy Forck—filed suit against the state auditor, claiming that his fiscal summary ignores potential costs, including a possible loss of federal Medicaid funding and future tax revenue.

Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem ruled that certain phrases included in the secretary of state’s summary statements were “problematic” because they were “either argumentative or do not fairly describe the purposes or probably effect of the initiative,” including:

- “without requiring a medical license”
- “the right to life”
- “unborn child”
- “including a minor”
- “end the life”
- “at any time”

Judge Beetem also ruled that while the proposals would immediately impact abortion, the summaries should have also included references to “reproductive health care beyond abortion.” As a result, Beetem rewrote the six summary statements as had been requested by the plaintiff in the case. Judge Beetem also ruled against plaintiffs who had challenged the fiscal note summary of the initiatives. The Western District Court of Appeals upheld Beetem’s decision and the Missouri Supreme Court declined to hear Ashcroft’s appeal.

Six new pro-abortion initiative petitions were filed on August 30, 2023 by Jamie Corley, representing the Missouri Women and Family Research Fund. All six petitions add exceptions to the state’s abortion ban and, in three versions, explicitly legalize abortion in the first 12

weeks of pregnancy. However, all of the versions state that abortion is a “fundamental right” when there is a risk to a woman’s “health or safety.” While supporters of the proposals claim they offer a middle ground, vague language in the petitions would seemingly allow abortions for any reason and at any time. Specifically “health” and “safety” are not defined in any proposal, and there is no discussion as to who makes the determination of when either are at risk.

The secretary of state’s office released its summary for the six petitions in October. Corley quickly filed suit, claiming that Ashcroft used false and biased statements in his summaries. That suit is ongoing at the time of publication.

CURRENT STATUS OF ABORTION INITIATIVE PETITIONS

Both initiative campaigns can begin to collect signatures on any of the 17 proposals. However, there is a question as to whether either campaign has enough time and funding to mount a successful campaign. It appears that—unlike in other states where abortion advocates ran successful initiative campaigns—abortion groups cannot agree on the best strategy in Missouri.¹ Missourians for Constitutional Freedom has yet to decide on which of its 11 initiatives to pursue and the six proposals filed by the Missouri Women and Family Research Fund have drawn criticism from both pro-choice and pro-life groups.² With two opposing campaigns, 17 proposals, and a fractured abortion-rights movement in the state, there is no guarantee that any constitutional amendment will even make it to the November 2024 ballot.

Although no abortion initiative has made it to the ballot at this time, the Bishops of Missouri remind the faithful to remain alert, and

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to continue to do what they can to safeguard the fundamental principles of the right to life. This means being active and informed citizens, guided by well-formed consciences.

1. Abortion rights won big on the ballot in Ohio. But in Missouri, advocates remain divided; <https://missouriindependent.com/2023/11/17/abortion-rights-won-big-on-the-ballot-in-ohio-but-in-missouri-advocates-remain-divided/>
 2. "New initiative petitions draw criticism from both sides of Missouri abortion debate; <https://missouriindependent.com/2023/09/05/new-initiative-petitions-draw-criticism-from-both-sides-of-missouri-abortion-debate/>

SUBMITTING A PROPOSED PETITION


Step 1: A petitioner submits a proposed petition, in the form in which it will be circulated, and a petition submission cover sheet to the secretary of state's office, which issues a receipt to the petitioner. If a person or committee, other than the petitioner, is funding a portion of the drafting or submission of the sample sheet, the petitioner must also attach to the proposed petition a copy of the filed statement of committee organization required under Section 130.021.5, RSMo, showing the date the statement was filed.

Step 2: The secretary of state's office sends a copy of the proposed petition to the attorney general's office and the auditor's office.

Step 3: The proposed petition is posted on the secretary of state's office website for a public comment period.

Step 4: The attorney general's office reviews the form and forwards its comments to the secretary of state's office within 10 days after receiving the proposed

MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



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 600 Clark Avenue
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 P: (573) 635-7239
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Missouri Bishops Encourage Missourians to Safeguard Sanctity of Human Life

December 11, 2023, JEFFERSON CITY, MO - We, the Catholic Bishops of Missouri, are committed to promoting the sanctity of human life in every circumstance, from conception until natural death. In Missouri, the dignity of life in its earliest stages is being threatened by proposed amendments to the state constitution that would remove legal protections for women and preborn children.

Though several initiatives are being contemplated and none have yet to be finalized for the November 2024 ballot, we encourage all Catholics and people of good will to safeguard as much as possible the fundamental principle of the right to life. We also support efforts that seek to reduce or eliminate the underlying social causes for abortion by expanding care and resources available to mothers. Even with legal protections for the unborn, as we have in our state today, more can still be done to build a culture of life.

The Missouri Catholic Conference will continue to collaborate with diocesan pro-life offices and with other pro-life groups to protect the health and safety of women and their children. As we stated after Roe v. Wade was overturned, the Catholic Church stands ready to continue providing spiritual and material support to expectant mothers and their families through our parishes and ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their unborn children at the state and federal levels. We look forward to the day when every child, born and unborn, has the love and support needed to thrive and reach his or her full potential. Let us pray for a greater recognition of the gift of each and every human life in our society.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI

 <p><i>+ Mitchell T. Rozanski</i></p> <p>Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski General Chairman Archbishop of St. Louis</p>	 <p><i>+ James V. Johnston, Jr.</i></p> <p>Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr. Vice Chairman Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph</p>
 <p><i>+ Shawn McKnight</i></p> <p>Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight Executive Chairman Bishop of Jefferson City</p>	 <p><i>+ Edward M. Rice</i></p> <p>Most Reverend Edward M. Rice Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau</p>

petition. The auditor's office prepares a fiscal note and fiscal note summary and forwards it to the attorney general's office within 20 days after receiving the proposed petition.

Step 5: The secretary of state's office approves or rejects the form of the proposed petition within 15 days after receiving the proposed petition from the petitioner. The petitioner is informed of the approval or rejection.

Step 6: The secretary of state's office prepares a proposed ballot

summary statement and forwards it to the attorney general's office for review within 23 days after the approval of the proposed petition's form.

Step 7: The attorney general's office forwards its review to the secretary of state's office within 10 days after receiving the proposed ballot summary statement. The attorney general's office also forwards its approval or rejection of the fiscal note and fiscal note summary to the auditor's office within 10 days after receiving the proposed fiscal note and fiscal note summary. The

auditor's office then forwards the fiscal note and fiscal note summary to the secretary of state's office.

Step 8: Within 3 days after receiving the ballot summary statement, approved fiscal note summary and fiscal note, the secretary of state's office certifies the official ballot title, which consists of the ballot summary statement and fiscal note summary. The official ballot title is then posted on the secretary of state's website.

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“This Is My Body”

THE SHOCKING TRUTH

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

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



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SEEK24

From page 1

“There’s so much Catholicity here and so much energy and so many amazing speakers and so much to learn from people who know way more than I do and are way farther along the road to holiness,” he said.

Sara Figura, a senior studying psychology at Truman State University in Kirksville, said she’ll never forget the sound of thousands of people chanting the “Salve Regina” at the end of Mass each day in the Dome at America’s Center.

“There’s something about giving due praise to Mary that she gives to her Son,” said Miss Figura. “I can feel heaven rejoicing at all of us doing that.”

These are a few of the more than 200 Catholic students from colleges in the Jefferson City diocese who attended the conference.

Also present were priests, seminarians, Catholic school teachers and adult parishioners from several parishes.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight led Evening Prayer in the chapel on the middle night of the conference, hosted a dinner at a local restaurant for participants from the diocese, and heard Confessions with dozens of other priests during Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Banner-waving seminarians of the diocese led the way from the America’s Center to the restaurant.

At the dinner, Bishop McKnight visited at each table and presented each participant a note that said: “I am grateful for your ‘YES’ in carving out time to encounter the Lord and grow in faith. Our diocese is here to support you in this extraordinary experience of our Catholic Faith!”

“Only through God”

Libbi Keleitz, a senior studying health science at Truman State, plans to attend medical school in the fall.

She said she brought “a lot of anxiety” with her to SEEK24.

“I’m not very social by nature,” she noted. “But I’ve been overwhelmed with the welcome I’ve felt here.

“I know that every person in



LEFT: SEEK24 conference participants from the Jefferson City diocese walk together to dinner on the middle night of the national Catholic evangelization conference in St. Louis for young adults. RIGHT: The end of the group arrives at a restaurant at Laclede’s Landing, with the Gateway Arch visible through the alley. —Photos by Matt Williams

the crowd has the most important thing in common,” she said.

Namely, faith in God and a desire to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

For her, that has meant opening herself up to God and learning to depend on him fully.

“I’ve been able this week to really pump the brakes and say, ‘Yes, I’m capable, but I’m only

saints,” he said. “But so often, I want to do it myself, and I want to do it a certain way.

“That’s not how you do it,” he noted. “You have to let God make you holy. And he’ll do it the way he wants to.”

Raised without much of a faith life, Mr. Waltke started asking hard questions in high school.

“I began thinking more deeply about things and taking the secular worldview to its logical conclusion,” he said.

He found that it ultimately yields no meaning, no objective truth and no reason to be alive.

“Everyone at the very least has a desire for meaning,” he noted. “And when they don’t have that, it’s considered wrong and disordered.”

He reasoned that if the conclusions of the secular philosophy are false, “the grounds that form it must also be false.”

He signed up for a world religions class, which required him to attend several religious services.

He was particularly intrigued by the Catholic Mass.

“I didn’t understand any of it at all, but I was really attracted by it,” he said. “It made me want to learn more.”

He studied everything Catholic that he could get his hands on.

“I just kept learning more and more and decided that ‘yeah, I want to be Catholic,’” he said.

More photos from this event have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian’s* online edition, cathmo.com. Select “Photo Galleries” from the “Multimedia” tab on the menu bar.

capable through God and because of God,” she said.

She hopes to become the kind of doctor that can bring “true love and patience and nonjudgmental and unbiased goodness to every person.”

Toward that end, she wants to develop a relationship with God that is totally open — “laying everything bare to him and more importantly, being able to listen to what he has to say and what he has to offer.”

Foundations

For Mr. Waltke, one of the most important lessons from SEEK24 was about losing control.

“I’m in pursuit of holiness, I want to sanctify myself, and I love reading things about the



He discovered the Newman Center upon arriving at Missouri S&T in Rolla.

“I’ve found it to be the bright light of my college experience and got as involved as I possibly could,” he said.

Now president of the Rolla Newman Council, he asks for prayers for conversion throughout the Church.

He believes that prayer will only be answered if people live out their faith intentionally every day.

“The spiritual battle for conversion isn’t won as one momentous herculean effort,” he noted.

“It’s a slow, grinding war of attrition. And you have to be present and intentional every day, in every moment, with every interaction you have.”

All that matters

Roman Vecerra said he was keenly aware of God’s presence throughout the conference.

“It’s awesome to have so many young Catholics come together, to see that it’s a growing and living Church rather than what the people in today’s culture say,” said Mr. Vecerra, a junior studying civil engineering at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

He planned to return to campus with a deeper conviction to live out his faith more authentically, bolstered by the witness of old and new friends in Christ, and “staying focused

on our one shared goal of living with the Lord in heaven for all eternity.”

Matthew Newkirk, a senior at Mizzou, was attending his second SEEK conference.

He planned to return to Columbia with a renewed sense of how many young people truly want to know God.

“I’m not journeying on my own but with a lot of my friends here and from across the country now,” he said.

“Ultimately, we’re all on the journey to heaven. We’re all called to be saints, and ultimately, nothing matters but the Lord.”

Unconditional love

This was Miss Figura’s fourth SEEK conference, although the first two were substantially modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, she learned a lot about simplifying the time she sets aside to spend with God.

“I’m trying to learn to just sit with the Lord and love him and allow him to love me in return,” she said.

She plans to remain Catholic for the rest of her life.

“I’m part of the body of the Church, so it’s not just me relying on the Church; the Church is relying on me, too,” she said.

“So it’s my duty to love as much as I can and to receive love from the Church so we

See **BE THE LIGHT**, page 27

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

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To report abuse, call the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline:

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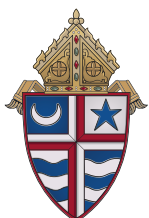
Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-800-392-0210

Any known or suspected abuse or neglect of children or adults should be immediately reported to the appropriate legal authorities.

To report concerns or suspected abuse by diocesan personnel, also contact:

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Here are some of the photos from the Jan. 26, 1999, Light of the World Papal Youth Gathering in St. Louis that were published in the Feb. 5, 1999, edition of *The Catholic Missourian*.

JOHN PAUL II

From page 1

Yet, her most profound memories from the day came when Pope St. John Paul II stepped up onto the platform in the arena.

"I knew, without a doubt, that I was in the presence of holiness," she recalled.

"I was truly inspired by that day," she said. "I felt so honored and truly blessed to experience Christ's love poured out from that saint."

"It was magnificent"

Pope John Paul II (+1978-2005) was one of the longest-reigning and most influential popes in the Church's history.

He was beatified in 2011, six years after his death, and declared a saint in 2014.

Many who were present during his visit to Missouri — his final trip to the United States — 25 years ago look back to that moment as a major turning point in their lives.

Father Paul Clark was in fifth grade at Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville when word came that the pope was coming to Missouri.

"I had in my heart a burning desire to witness and see him," said Fr. Clark, who is now vocation director for the diocese and chaplain at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City.

He had no idea where that desire was coming from, nor the words to describe it.

"But I did know that the diocese was sending people from each parish," he recalled. "I was too young to go to the big youth rally the day before the Mass, and I was thinking, 'Aw, man! I don't want to miss out!'"

Through arrangements with the St. Louis archdiocese, every

parish in central and northeastern Missouri received a certain number of tickets for people to attend the Mass in what is now known as the Dome at America's Center.



It was up to each parish to determine how to distribute the tickets. Fr. Clark's home parish, St. Joseph in Edina, held a lottery.

The future priest submitted his name and was overjoyed to have it chosen.

"Looking back, I'm convinced that it wasn't a matter of happenstance," he stated. "It was either the work of the Holy Spirit or of certain people in the parish seeing a young person who was excited about experiencing the universality of the Church, and finding a concrete way of encouraging it."

"Or maybe both!" he said.

The day of the Mass found him and fellow parishioners in the "nosebleed seats" in the Dome.

"I remember how steep and crazy it was," he said. "I'm afraid of heights."

Yet, after the orderly chaos of getting tens of thousands of people through security and to their seats, "the moment Pope John Paul walked into that giant stadium, there was a presence, and everybody felt it."

"Even though he was so far away and people had binoculars to see him better, even though he was like a speck down there, his presence and

the light he brought into that dome was immense," said Fr. Clark. "It was magnificent!"

The priest returns to that thought often, especially while sharing his call story with the middle-schoolers at the diocese's Camp Lolek summer camp.

The name comes from the childhood nickname of Karl Wojtyla — later known as Pope John Paul II.

"It was nothing that he did that made him saintly — it was who he was," said Fr. Clark. "It was him owning his identity. He lived it so freely. That sonship, it just radiated, and it was felt throughout the Dome."

Making good time

The papal visit, specifically the Youth Gathering, became a milestone in Father Mark Smith's Priesthood and ministry.

"It was quite a week!" he stated.

Fr. Smith, then a priest of only two-and-a-half years, was serving as associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

His pastor, Father (now Monsignor) Gregory Higley, and he had spoken about leading a group of young people to St. Louis for the Papal Youth Gathering. But no tickets had been made available to parishes outside the St. Louis archdiocese.

"Only a week or so beforehand, we got notification from the Chancery that yes, there were some tickets available," Fr. Smith recalled.

He remembers mentioning to Msgr. Higley over breakfast in the rectory dining room, "It would be great if we had a bus to go to the Mass with the Pope at the Dome."

Msgr. Higley said it would be even better to arrange transportation for the teens in I.C. and surrounding parishes to get to the Youth Rally.

"That's what I'd like you to do," the pastor told the associate.

Fr. Smith immediately thought about sign-ups and permission slips and finding chaperones, not to mention chartering a bus.

"I don't see how I can do it," Fr. Smith replied. "I just don't have time for it."

"Go get your appointment book," the pastor said with a smile.

Together, they went through the following week's appointments.

"Okay, I can take care of this for you," Msgr. Higley told him. "And you can cancel that, and we'll find someone else to do that. ... Now, do you have time?"

Fr. Smith asked if the parish staff could assist him, and hearing "yes," he agreed.

Meanwhile, Msgr. Higley set out to charter a bus for priests to get to the Dome to concelebrate the Mass with the Pope.

The next few days were a cyclone of phone calls, paperwork and multitasking.

"We got the word out and filled all 50 seats on the bus," said Fr. Smith.

He spent a morning at He-

lias Catholic High School, handing out forms, permission slips and information to students who signed up for the trip.

A camera crew from KRCG-TV News followed him through the preparations.

Soul having been seen

Maureen Quinn was a freshman at Helias Catholic.

A cousin, who was a senior, passed by her in the hall, saying, "Are going to see the pope? I'm going! You should go."

Mostly out of respect to her cousin, Mrs. Quinn said yes.

"And that decision has shaped the rest of my life," said Mrs. Quinn, who's now director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry for this diocese.

"That 'yes' is the 'yes' that brought everything else," she said.

She remembers sitting in the arena's upper mezzanine during the Youth Gathering, not yet fully aware of the event's significance.

"But the music was really good and the Holy Spirit was very present that day in my life — more than I even recognized," she said.

When the pope arrived several hours later, she was taken up in the frenetic chanting of "J-P-Two! We-love-you!"

See 1999, page 21



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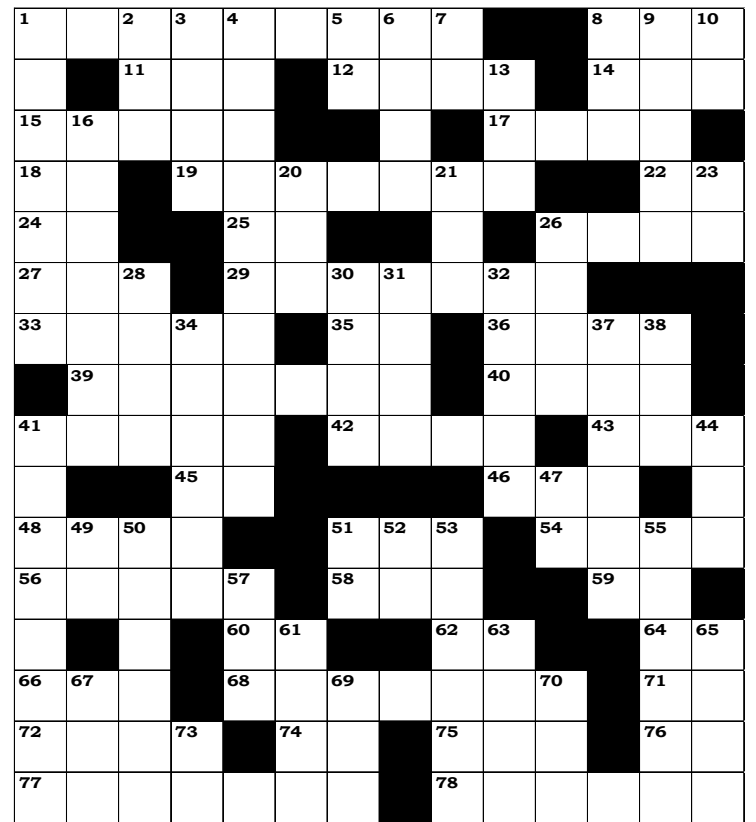
1. Monsignor L. Curtis Tiernan was a much ____ chaplain in the U.S. military in both WWI and WWII.
8. "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very ____ of committing adultery," (John 8:4).
11. Daisy ____; Lil Abner's girlfriend.
12. Dog food brand.
14. "I didn't mean to be ____-mannered, but I didn't know the half of this you've been telling," —*Personal Reflections of Joan of Arc*, Mark Twain.
15. The whole school was evacuated when a student accidentally set off the fire ____.
17. Four ____ twelve is three.
18. Abbr. for the Pelican State.
19. Harry Truman's rise to the top began as Judge of Jackson Co., Mo., U.S. ____ from Missouri, Vice President of the U.S., and finally President of the U.S.
22. Dir. from Ss. Peter and Paul in Cole Camp to St. Robert Bellarmine in St. Robert.
24. ____ *Cum Spiritu Tuo*.
25. Possible abbr. before a man's name.
26. "And your Father who ____ what is hidden will repay you," (Matthew 6:18).
27. "Granville's ____-gold hair and beard seemed faded, and there were smudges of weariness under his piggy, hazel eyes," —*Dead Water*, Barbara Hambly.
29. Truman was a life-long ____ who believed "that sect gives the common man the shortest and most direct approach to God." Though he was an irregular churchgoer, he had a deep personal faith and knew his Bible.
33. In India, a challenging game bird due to its alertness, camouflaging color and erratic flight behavior. A ____ hunt in the U.S. is a practical joke in which an

- unwitting victim is sent in pursuit of something that doesn't exist.
35. Letters for United Airlines, a major U.S. carrier based in Chicago.
 36. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ____; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him," —first line of a speech by Mark Antony in the play "Julius Caesar" by William Shakespeare.
 39. Tom Pendergast, ____ boss of Kansas City; promoted Truman's political career. Despite being baptized, married and buried as a Catholic and with strong Irish ties and even officially a Knights of Columbus member, Pendergast's surface Catholicism and unscrupulous lifestyle would have had, if any, an unsavory Catholic influence on Harry Truman.
 40. Cupid, symbol of romantic/erotic love.
 41. ____ *eleison* (Lord, have mercy); *Christe eleison* (Christ, have mercy); etc.
 42. Letters for School Sisters of Notre Dame; historically this congregation of consecrated religious has had the largest number of sisters ministering in our diocese.
 43. Pig place.
 45. Abbr. for education.
 46. "They are like the wild waves of the ____, foaming up their shameless deeds..." (Jude 1:13).
 48. "Almond Joy has ____, Mounds don't," —memorable candy jingle.
 51. Give me an answer! Is it ____ or nay.
 54. By the end of WWII in 1945, (now Msgr.) Tiernan had become chief of ____ chaplains in Europe.
 56. Though not a Catholic, Willa Cather in 1927 published ____ *Comes For the Archbishop*, a novel based on early historic events and people in the then barely known Santa Fe, focusing on a bishop and a priest, and the heart & soul of the Church.
 58. Abbr. for religion.
 59. "I know every trail in the Lone Star State. 'Cause I ride the range in a Ford V-8. Yippie ____ yo kayakah," —from Bing Crosby's 1936 song "I'm An Old Cowhand."
 60. The Great Atlantic & Pa-

- cific Tea Company, better known as ____, was, from 1915-1975, the largest grocery company in the U.S.
62. Abbr. for light.
 64. Bible abbr. for Tobit, 17th book of the Bible.
 66. An extension at right angles to another building.
 68. "I got a ____ of 'em!" —Jimmy Durante.
 71. Slangy "thank you" in Britain.
 72. "Even if this should ____ impossible in the eyes of the remnant of this people, shall it in those days be impossible in my eyes also, says the Lord of hosts?" (Zechariah 8:6).
 74. Letters for Executive Orders, the means by which the U.S. President, for ex., manages the gov't.
 75. Letters on airports' flight information.
 76. Comparative suffix.
 77. Nuns.
 78. In 1948, the year Harry Truman was elected President for his ____ term, Truman invited his friend Msgr. Tiernan to give the prayer for the veterans of their WWI battery unit.

DOWN

1. For car ____, the most significant factors determining supply and demand trends are "Vehicle Sales Prices" and "Days on Lot."
2. Letters for Country Music Awards which began in 1967; this year's big winner: Lainey Wilson won 5 trophies including Entertainer of the Year.
3. Necessary for rowboat propulsion.
4. Fr. Tiernan had deep roots in St. Louis and Kansas City and was a great serving and successful pastor but is most ____ for his friendship with Harry Truman.
5. 7th note.
6. The Magi came from this direction.
7. Letters for Direct Message, mode on social media in which only you and the recipient can see the content.
8. A small island.
9. Fr. Tiernan and Harry Truman developed a ____ friendship.
10. In linguistics, letters for target language (informal) or translation (internet).
13. Abbr. for the book of Sirach, 28th book of the Bible.



16. The doctors said the infection may return after a period of ____ (i.e., of being dormant or hidden for a while).
20. Gun club.
21. Japanese sash.
23. Prefix for cape or teem.
26. "Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a ____ that had fallen from the sky to the earth," (Revelation 9:1).
28. Christian ____ was a very famous fashion designer, best known as founder of one of the world's top fashion houses.
30. Young dogs.
31. Makes lace.
32. "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the ____ that you plant," —Robert Louis Stevenson.
34. Harry Truman became Captain of a "burly" WWI Field Artillery battery, with many Irish and German Catholics. Here he met Jesuit ____ and chaplain of the unit, Fr. L. Curtis Tiernan.
37. When Mary appeared to the children at Fatima in 1917, she identified herself as the Lady of the ____.
38. Supersonic transport ____.
41. Truman regarded Fr. Tiernan as "one of the best-informed men he knew" and one with the greatest ____.
44. Word excitedly expressing triumph or approval, like hooray!
47. Abbr. for each.
49. Letters for Union Electric, former name of Ameren Corp.
50. "He overturned the ____ of the money changers..." (Mark 11:15).
51. Abbr. for year.
52. Wide shoe.
53. President Truman in 1945 invited Msgr. Tiernan as his personal guest to the Potsdam Conference where the ____ planned the WWII postwar peace.
55. A glove with two sections, one for the thumb and the other section for all four fingers.
57. A son of Noah (Genesis 5:32).
61. Dock.
63. "____ that barge, lift that bale, get a little drunk and you land in jail," —lyrics from "Ol' Man River," Paul Robeson, in the 1936 movie "Showboat."
65. Poet, esp. in old England and Wales; e.g., Shakespeare is popularly called the ____ of Stratford on Avon (where he was born and raised).
67. Hawaiian necklace.
69. ____ Angeles, CA is the 2nd largest city in the U.S.
70. Letters for North American College, the home for American seminarians studying in Rome.
73. Abbr. for the first book of the New Testament.

See ANSWERS, page 23

1999

From page 19

The crowd erupted as the pontiff entered the building.

"And I started weeping," said Mrs. Quinn. "To this day, I don't know what was happening. But even then, I knew I was in the presence of a living saint.

"I'll remember that forever," she said. "The Holy Spirit became so strong that it transformed my soul from that moment forward."

Back home, she set out to learn the source of Pope John Paul's unmistakable stature and authority.

She spent years reading his books, documents and homilies.

"It's now clear to me that he radiated what he wrote," she stated. "And it was just so clear how deeply he could love others.

"And he could see the good in others in the way he was capable of seeing the soul before he saw the exterior," she said.

"The pope is yours"

Fr. Smith — who's now pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Boonville and St. Joseph Parish in Pilot Grove — remembers leaving early in the morning with the students and chaperones, parking at a suburban parking lot and riding a shuttle together to the Gateway Arch.

He remembers passing Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and seeing the flag of the Holy See waving with that of the United States on one of the flag stands.

"My heart just swelled at the sight of it," he recalled. "The head of state of the Holy See and his delegation would be here soon, and they were being honored with this flag flowing in the breeze."

From the Arch grounds, the group walked about 10 blocks with thousands of other young people to the sports venue now called the Enterprise Center.

Fr. Smith joined dozens of other priests in hearing Confessions for several hours in the concourses and private suites in the arena.

He said the prayer service



LEFT: Pope St. John Paul II celebrates Mass in St. Louis on Jan. 27, 1999. **RIGHT:** Young people from the Jefferson City diocese hold up signs that say "JPII, we love you!" during the Papal Youth Gathering on Jan. 26, 1999, in St. Louis.



with the pope was incredible.

"The crowds, the praying and singing, and the guest speakers — it was super moving," he recalled.

He remembers John Paul proclaiming: "Tonight, the pope is yours!"

"That was a supreme, special moment," Fr. Smith stated. "Just recalling it, I still get choked up."

After the rally concluded, the group walked back to the Arch, boarded a shuttle and made it back to Jefferson City by 11:30 p.m.

Fr. Smith and Msgr. Higley had about 45 minutes to rest and get ready to board a bus back to St. Louis for Mass with the pope the following morning.

Fr. Smith got selected to distribute Holy Communion to a section of people.

He's still amazed that with all the advance planning, it took less than 20 minutes for nearly 100,000 people in such a massive building to receive Holy Communion.

"To see the whole Dome full, and just processing in and walking by and seeing everybody was terribly moving," he said.

Generation to generation

Luke Dalton isn't old enough to remember the Pope's visit, but he feels a strong connection to it.

His grandfather, Deacon Michael Dalton, was a permanent deacon for the St. Louis archdiocese and was slated to serve as an ordinary minister of Holy Communion at the Papal Mass in the Dome.

"Sadly, he became sick before the Mass and ended up needing to stay in the hospital," Mr. Dalton, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Rolla and a seminarian for the Jefferson

City diocese, noted.

"He could not serve at the altar with Pope St. John Paul II."

After Deacon Dalton died in 2000, Mr. Dalton's parents received his vestments and a special cross fashioned of nails made to look like those from the Crucifixion.

Mr. Dalton received the cross, which his grandfather wore every day, as a gift.

"Now, I wear it any time I am altar-serving, to feel closer to my grandpa and to serve as he did," the seminarian stated.

Earlier this month, Mr. Dalton and the other seminarians of this diocese attended the Fellowship of Catholic University Students' national SEEK24 conference in St. Louis.

They attended Mass each day in the same building where Pope John Paul II had celebrated Mass a quarter-century earlier.

"It was also revealed that the altar and presider's chair were used by Pope St. John Paul II at the same Mass!" Mr. Dalton noted.

"I had the privilege each day to serve at the altar by ushering priests to their stations to distribute Holy Communion, all while wearing my grandfather's cross," he said.

"It was a reminder to me that God can reveal His love in many ways, even little ways, to bring us closer to Him," he stated.

"Reflect the light"

Jacob Luecke was a junior at St. Francis Borgia High School in Washington, Missouri, when the pope came to St. Louis.

Now a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish and director of communications for the Jefferson City diocese, Mr. Luecke says the Papal

Youth Gathering was a pivotal moment in his journey toward God.

"I jumped at the chance to be a part of something that felt historic," he recalled.

"I felt lucky I was able to get a spot," he said.

He remembers making the 50-mile trip to St. Louis by bus the morning of the youth rally, and being taken up in the festivities and concerts that were getting under way in the parks outside the sports arena.

Many of the specifics of the day now escape his recollection, "but one thing I can never forget is the incredible energy."

"I've never been in such a charged space like that!" said Mr. Luecke. "The excitement and positive energy was way beyond any sporting event or concert I've ever attended."

He recently re-read the Pope's remarks from that day, and several passages jogged his memories, especially:

"On the horizon of this city stands the Gateway Arch, which often catches the sunlight in its different colors and hues. In a similar way, in a thousand different ways, you must reflect the light of Christ through your lives of prayer and joyful service of others."

"The idea that each of us has a different mission and calling has always been important to me," Mr. Luecke noted. "And serving with joy is something that I focus on. I think hearing those words from the Pope on

that day helped ingrain those concepts inside of me in a powerful way."

Being there also expanded his perception of the universality of the Church.

"Up until that time, my experience with faith was all centered on my home parish," he said. "I knew the Church was universal, but on that day, I could truly experience it!"

"Christ is calling you"

Alex Reel was a freshman at Knox County R-I High School in Edina when she attended the Papal Youth Gathering in St. Louis.

"I didn't realize it at the time," she recalled, "but that night would set the course for the rest of my life."

Specifically, it piqued her curiosity about the mind and heart of the man who had been leading the Church for longer than she had been alive.

"I very distinctly remember a few sentences that he said that I have clung to," said Mrs. Reel, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Edina.

One was the pope's emphatic exhortation: "Remember: Christ is calling you; the Church needs you; the Pope believes in you and he expects great things of you."

Four years after the papal visit, Mrs. Reel was staying on campus during the summer between her freshman and sophomore years at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

A friend in the Theater Department was preparing

See REMEMBER, page 23

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Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Jan. 19

Jefferson City, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie and Auxiliary #2693 fried chicken lunch/dinner, quilt drawing & silent auction, lunch 11 am-1:30 pm, dinner 4:30-7:30 pm, 1411 Missouri Blvd.; **Westphalia**, K of C pre-Lenten drive-thru fish fry, 4-6:30 pm

Jan. 20

Fulton, K of C Ladies Auxiliary annual Candlelight Lasagna Dinner, 6-8 pm, St. Peter Multipurpose Building; **Linn**, Taste of Italy dinner & auctions, 4-9 p.m., St. George School Activity Center

Jan. 21

Krakow, St. Gertrude Parish & School sausage dinner, 11 am-6 pm; **St. Thomas**, K of C pancake & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30 am, K of C Hall

Jan. 29

Jefferson City, Winter cleanup at Resurrection and St. Peter Cemeteries

Feb. 2

Westphalia, K of C pre-Lenten drive-thru fish fry, 4-6:30 pm

Feb. 4

Argyle, Argyle/Koeltztown Volunteer Fire Department

annual pancake, sausage & egg breakfast, 7:30-11 am, K of C Hall

Feb. 11

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

Feb. 16

Holts Summit, K of C Lenten Fish Fry, 3:30-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, K of C Council #1054 Lenten Fish Fry, 4:30-7 pm, 1822 Tanner Bridge Rd

Feb. 23

Holts Summit, K of C Lenten Fish Fry, 3:30-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, K of C Council #1054 Lenten Fish Fry, 4:30-7 pm, 1822 Tanner Bridge Rd; **Russellville**, K of C Lenten Fish Fry, 4:30-7 pm

Meetings & Conferences

Jan. 18

Jefferson City, Faith-based health ministry meeting for those interested in health ministry in parishes, 10 am-2:30 pm, Catholic Charities office, to RSVP call 573-696-1424 or email devaney.susan@gmail.com

Feb. 1

Boonville, Mid-Mo Ultreya for Cursillo and soup supper social, 6:15-8 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Hall, for more info call 573-999-5066

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Tuesday

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

Every Friday

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

Jan. 20

Columbia/Jefferson City/VIR-TUAL, "Living Flame 1" 7-session program on in-depth spiritual study and enrichment of centering prayer, 9 am-2 pm; participants may join via Zoom or in-person at Broadway Christian Church in Columbia or Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City; to register visit cocemo.org; **Eureka**, "Seeds of Healing through Faith, Hope and Love" retreat for those who have lost loved ones through tragic death, 9 am-7 pm, Marianist Retreat and Conference Center, for info or to register call 314-910-3942 or visit marianistretreat.com/events/seeds-of-healing-retreat-2024

Jan. 27

St. Clement, "The Most Holy Eucharist - Source & Summit of Our Catholic Lives," presented by Msgr. Eugene Morris, day begins with 8:30 am Mass, St. Clement Church, for info call 573-795-5076 or email susan_mudd@hotmail.com

Feb. 8

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

Feb. 10-11

Jefferson City, Marriage Encounter Weekend, Best Western Capital Inn, for info or to register visit jeffcityme.com

Feb. 17

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

Liturgical

Feb. 18

Jefferson City, Rite of Election, 3 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Feb. 21

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

Youth & Young Adults

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

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

Health & Wellness

Feb. 7

Jefferson City, CPR class, 5:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info or to register contact dhilke@icangels.com or 573-690-8077

QUESTION

From page 8

than adherence to official written policy. Canon law doesn't explicitly tell us to be generally quiet and reverent in church, but it makes obvious sense to do this out of respect for those who come into church to pray.

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.

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St. Gertrude Parish and School

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Cemetery Clean-Up

Monday, January 29, will be the WINTER CEMETERY CLEAN-UP at Resurrection and St. Peter Cemeteries in Jefferson City. **It is suggested that all patrons have their floral and/or decorations removed prior to 7:30 a.m. All items may be replaced after 5:30 p.m.** NOTE: Saddles or flowers in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed.



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

Deaths

William "Bill" Schmitz, 84 — brother of Deacon Fred Schmitz, a retired deacon of the diocese — on Jan. 10. The Mass of Christian Burial was to be celebrated on Jan. 18 at the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter in Jefferson City, with entombment at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum.

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **David Loehner**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **David Brouder; Betty Rogers**

Glasgow, St. Mary — **Mildred Brand**

Hermann, St. George — **Carolyn Metzler**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **MaryAnn Reuter; James "Dale" Schrimpf**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Mary AuBuchon**

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **Donnie Davis**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Elizabeth Stegeman**

Baptisms

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Nathan Edward Benoit**, son of Mitchell & Jennifer Benoit, **Blair Annelle, Briar Elaine** and **Brock Alexander Clayton**, children of Brian & Heather Clayton

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Brynlee Claire Bruemmer**, daughter of William & Jennifer Bruemmer

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Reagan Mickala Berhorst**, daughter of Dylan & Abbey Berhorst; **Scottie Ann Nilges**, daughter of Joseph & Dawn Nilges

CAPECCHI

From page 9

A journal requires neither analysis nor poetry. It is the recording itself that counts.

It strikes me as an inherently Catholic undertaking; to see each day as a profound gift, however ordinary; to recognize the dignity in each person and encounter; to possess an abiding gratitude, a heart of thanksgiving.

Every January I recall a passage from the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke, as much prayer as poem: "And now let us believe in a long year that is given to us — new, untouched, full of things that have never been."

It is a matter of faith: We believe in the year given to us by God. We

marvel at its novelty, things that are not only new but "have never been." It sounds so clean and hopeful, like a fresh blanket of snow.

That's how God sees each new life conceived: a unique and unrepeatable soul, someone who has never been, who will change the course of human history. All the details of that life matter, so we give witness to each day, each gift — pencil to paper, fingers to keys.

"Here's what happened," we write. And we mean, "Thank you."

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

CROWE

From page 9

through his sin his likeness to God, man remains an image of his Creator, and retains the desire for the one who calls him into existence" (No. 2566). All we need to do is listen, discern and, like Mary and all the saints after her, say "yes."

The start of a new year is a clean slate, a new beginning for each one of us. On this very day, at this very moment — not unlike our persistent not-so-much-a-baby-anymore baby — the Lord is calling our names. He is calling us to him. Will we hear the call and respond?

Gretchen R. Crowe is the editor-in-chief of OSV News.

REMEMBER

From page 21

to stage a production of "The Jeweler's Shop," one of several plays written by young Karol Wojtyla, who grew up to become Pope John Paul II.

She was planning to audition for a part in the play when a friend stood in her doorway and wondered aloud if he should audition.

She instantly told him, "Yes! I don't know what I'm being called to do with my life, but I know it has something to do with John Paul II. And this seems like a good place to start."

"It must have been the Holy Spirit because those are not the words I would have used," she recalled. "But they did come out of my mouth."

"I never would have said what I said to him if it weren't for the St. Louis visit that started it all," she added.

They both auditioned and rehearsed through the summer, with the play opening at the beginning of the new academic year.

Over time, they began dating and recently celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary.

Something in common

Several years after the pope's visit, Mrs. Quinn was majoring in theology at Benedictine College.

She and a group of faith-filled friends there were talking about what had led them to where they were in their lives.

"It turns out that every ... single ... one of us was either in the arena for the Papal Youth Gathering or the Dome for the Mass the next day," she noted.

"For all of us, that was the moment that changed our lives forever," she said.

Mrs. Quinn is grateful for all the people who have walked with her and facilitated her journey toward God.

Among them, she said, are Fr. Smith, without whose "yes" to setting up the trip on short notice, she never would have

made it to St. Louis back in 1999.

Raising his voice

Mrs. Reel set about studying Pope John Paul II's extensive writings from before and after his tectonic papacy.

Through the inevitable peaks and valleys of discerning God's plans for her, she's called out to John Paul for intercessory guidance while distinctly hearing in response his words of encouragement from that night in St. Louis.

She's now completing a four-semester certification in the Catholic Psychology of Applied Personalism, through the CatholicPsych Institute in Connecticut.

"The goal for this new program is to integrate philosophy, grounded in the concept of personalism that John Paul II developed — basically his anthropology combined with authentic Catholic spirituality and psychology," she said.

Participants learn how to be better spiritual companions and mentors to people seeking to strengthen their mental and emotional health.

The program's goal, said Mrs. Reel, is "to understand humans better and the human hearts and what motivates us ... how we're hurt in relationships and how we can be led toward healing in our relationships. It could help all of humanity."

Mrs. Reel noted that without Pope John Paul II, "philosophy, his insight into the human heart," there would be no grounds for developing such a program.

"And if it weren't for the fact that I went to see him in to St. Louis back in 1999, I don't think I would have spent these past however many years preparing myself to become part of this program," she said.

She's convinced that as scholars continue unpacking the sainted pontiff's voluminous teachings, "his voice in the Church will continue to grow louder."

"It's going to take on a roar!" she said.

FR. FLATLEY

From page 8

It is Christ who delivers us. If we cling in humility to Christ, grab hold of his cloak and do not let go, this Savior of ours delivers us from all sin.

The Good Shepherd will lead us back to the perfect grace and unity that our first parents enjoyed.

As Christ so often says, "Your faith has saved you."

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

Crossword puzzle answers

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



LEFT: Sophomore Delaney Grose mixes mashed potatoes in the Sacred Heart cafeteria kitchen on Dec. 21 as part of hundreds of meals that would be served and delivered, including rolls, honey-baked ham, green beans and pie. **RIGHT TOP:** Sacred Heart teacher Jill Bentsch slices ham as kitchen helpers Julie Vogel, Emily Jackson, Jared Owens, Cassidy Bentsch, Ebrinn Cahill and Bailee Vogel help prepare hundreds of Christmas Eve meals in the Sacred Heart cafeteria kitchen. **RIGHT BOTTOM:** Sacred Heart National Honor Society students plan the routes that dozens of drivers would take to deliver the Christmas Eve dinners they have prepared. Faculty advisor Brianna Libby, said the NHS planned to deliver up to 1,000 holiday meals that day.

— Photos by Chris Howell, courtesy of the Sedalia Democrat newspaper (sedaliademocrat.com)

Sedalia Sacred Heart High School National Honor Society prepares hundreds of Christmas Eve dinners

By Chris Howell

Sedalia

While many of their classmates were asleep enjoying the first day of winter break, members of Sacred Heart High School's National Honor Society were up early on a mission to provide healthy holiday meals.

Faculty advisor Brianna Libby had the NHS students show up at 7 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21 to begin cooking hundreds of Christmas Eve dinners for delivery on Saturday, Dec. 23.

"Right now, they are making meals for the Christmas Eve dinner, which is going to be held on Dec. 23," Libby said. "Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, to keep Sunday the Sabbath for Catholics, they are delivering about 750 meals. Our goal was 1,000, so we're still hoping to call a few more places, like fire stations, police stations, maybe a little bit outside of Sedalia."

The students who weren't cooking were busy planning routes for Saturday's drivers to follow, with some deliveries going to Knob Noster and even as

far as Warrensburg.

"The kids out here are now putting together addresses for our delivery drivers," Libby explained. "I think right now 28 routes and I think we'll probably have about 40 routes going out by Saturday."

The menu for Sacred Heart's dinner is traditional, and the food is prepared with loving care.

"The meal is going to be honey-baked ham," Libby said. "It's going to be mashed potatoes and gravy, Hawaiian rolls, and pie. All the students are bringing three pies each to hopefully feed 1,000 people."

And the students performed as a team, though much of their kitchen training was on the fly, with just a few helpful pointers from adults.

"It's actually been really good," Libby said. "We've only had one slight injury but it's OK. She's been delegated to another job, and we could still use her. We haven't had any burning episodes. They are seasoning, making sure everything tastes good and really working well together."

Sophomore Bailee Vogel was taking a turn mixing a large vat of potatoes, a process that requires plenty of arm strength.

"Right now, we are boiling and mixing all the potatoes," Vogel said. "It's been entertaining. We're mixing three gallons of water with each package of mashed potatoes."

Like most people, Vogel has some experience helping with holiday meals, just not on such a grand scale.

"It makes it fun and challenging, which I enjoy," Vogel said. "I really enjoy it, I really like giving to the community and getting to spend time with my friends. It's a good thing for us to do as a community to help other people in need. It's really a great way to show Jesus through all of this."

Sophomore Delaney Grose offered a taste of the mashed potatoes, which were delicious, if a tad salty.

"It's because we don't really have a measuring system that well," Grose admitted. "We're just going off taste and what tastes good."

Not to mention, there are a lot of

cooks in one small kitchen, adding to the controlled chaos.

"Well, it's really hard," Grose said, "because you don't have a lot of room to work and we're running out of space for the potatoes, but it feels nice. We're doing it for a good reason."

"We got up and we came in at 7 to start cooking," Ebrinn Cahill said. "Rough, tired, but we were all happy. We have a goal, and the goal is to help people get as many meals as we can. I know I'm helping people who are in need, it makes you think of people who might not have a family or have the best situation going on, and you're just helping them, even if just in a small way. It's really fun. It would have been our first day off, but now we get to have one more day with friends before Christmas."

Chris Howell is a reporter for the Sedalia Democrat newspaper (sedaliademocrat.com), which published a version of this article on Dec. 21, 2023, and granted permission for this version to be published here.

Bible Accent

Before Jesus healed Jairus' daughter and the woman with hemorrhages, he healed a man on the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

In Mark 5:1, we read that Jesus and the apostles had crossed the sea by boat and landed in the territory of the Gerasenes.

When they disembarked, a man with an unclean spirit met them. No one in the community could subdue him, even when they used shackles and chains.

He had been living among the tombs, and he had seen Jesus from a distance. He ran up to Jesus and prostrated before him.

"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me!" the man cried in a loud voice.

"What is your name?" Jesus asked.

"Legion is my name. There are many of us," the man replied.

The man begged that the unclean spirits be allowed to stay in the territory and suggested Jesus allow them to enter into a herd of nearby swine.

Jesus agreed. The unclean spirits came out of the man and entered the swine. The herd of about 2,000 rushed down a steep bank into the sea and drowned.

Afterward, the man who had been possessed by the unclean spirits regained his right mind.

St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in the late 1860s. As a child, she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. A Muslim owner named her Bakhita, which means "lucky." Josephine endured years of cruelty and torture before being sold to an Italian consul who planned to free her. He took her to Italy, where she worked as a nanny for another family. In 1889, she won her freedom in court. She was baptized Josephine, entered the Canossian Sisters in Italy and served her order for more than 50 years. Josephine died in 1947, and we remember this first Sudanese saint on Feb. 8.



Jesus raises a dead girl and cures a woman with hemorrhages

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

Jesus and the apostles were in the territory of the Gerasenes near the Sea of Galilee.

They crossed the sea by boat, and a large crowd was waiting for them on the opposite side.

Jairus, an official from the synagogue, came forward and fell at Jesus' feet.

"My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live," Jairus pleaded.

Jesus agreed to go with Jairus. The large crowd also followed and pressed in upon the two men.

As they were heading toward Jairus' house, a woman in the crowd reached for Jesus' cloak.

For 12 years, she had suffered greatly from hemorrhages. She spent all of her money on doctors, but her affliction only grew worse.

"If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured," she said to herself.

Immediately after touching Jesus, she could feel that her bleeding had stopped and her affliction had been cured.

Jesus felt that power had gone out from him. He turned around to look at the crowd.

"Who has touched my clothes?" he asked.

The woman, realizing what had happened to her, came forward trembling in fear. She fell down before Jesus and told him everything.

"Daughter," Jesus said, "your faith has saved you. Go



Illustration by Linda Rivers

in peace and be cured of your affliction."

While Jesus was still speaking, people from Jairus' house arrived.

"Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" they said.

Jesus looked at Jairus.

"Do not be afraid; just have faith," he said.

When he reached Jairus' house, Jesus brought Peter, James and John inside with him. All the people in the house were weeping and wailing.

"Why this commotion and weeping?" Jesus asked. "The

child is not dead but asleep."

The people ridiculed Jesus, who sent them all outside.

Jesus brought the girl's parents and the three apostles into the girl's room. He took the child's hand and said, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!"


The girl arose immediately and walked around, and all who saw were utterly astounded.

Read more about it...

Mark 5

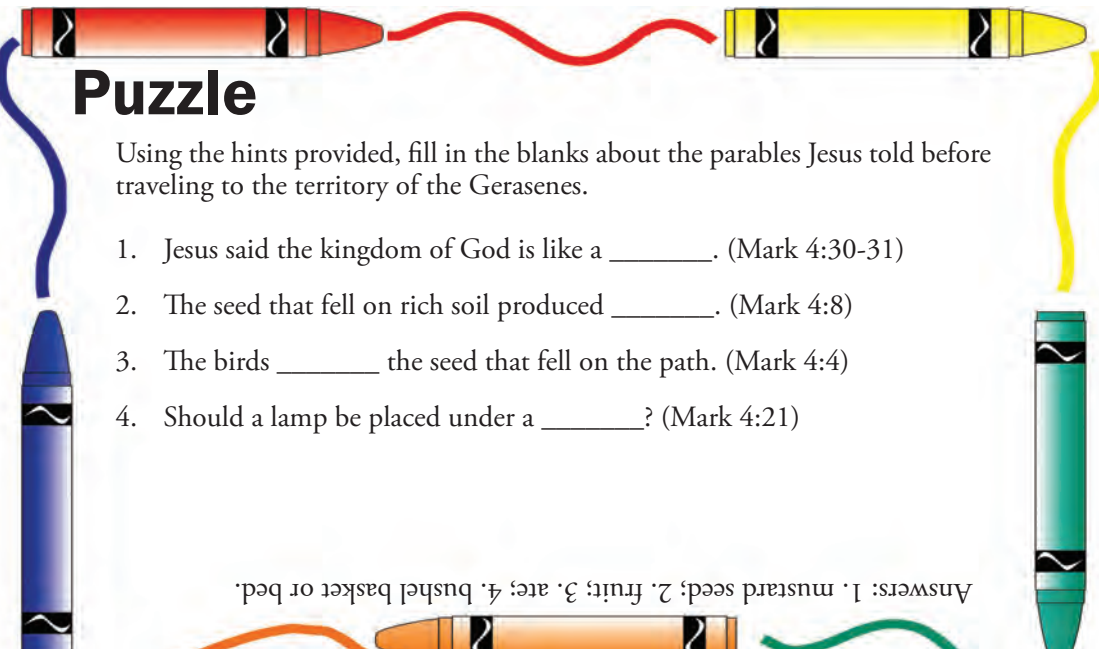
1. Who asked Jesus to help his daughter?

2. Who in the crowd touched Jesus?



What did Jesus say the girl should do after he raised her?
(Hint: Mark 5:43)

Answer: Get something to eat.



Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks about the parables Jesus told before traveling to the territory of the Gerasenes.

- Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a _____. (Mark 4:30-31)
- The seed that fell on rich soil produced _____. (Mark 4:8)
- The birds _____ the seed that fell on the path. (Mark 4:4)
- Should a lamp be placed under a _____? (Mark 4:21)

Answers: 1. mustard seed; 2. fruit; 3. ate; 4. bushel basket or bed.

Mark's

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6 must-watch marriage movies

By John Mulderig
OSV News

Hollywood seems to find more drama in decaying marriages and divorce than in marital stability. Yet memorable films portraying successful marriages have appeared over the years.

Following, in alphabetical order, are capsule reviews of six movies that depict happily spliced couples, together with their OSV News classifications and, if applicable, their Motion Picture Association ratings. All are available on disc and/or for streaming.

“The Awful Truth” (1937)

After suspicion of infidelity, a New York couple (Cary Grant and Irene Dunne) are granted an interlocutory divorce, and while waiting for the final decree the wife reluctantly takes up with an Oklahoma oil man (Ralph Bellamy) and the husband with an heiress, though each tries to sabotage the other's relationships because, at heart, they still love each other.

Leo McCarey's classic comedy showcases the two stars at their peak, working with a witty script with the kind of serious subtext that anchors the best comedies, and overall provides a ringing affirmation of marriage.

Implied infidelity, sophisticated banter, mildly suggestive nightclub number. The OSV News classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

“A Beautiful Mind” (2001)

Absorbing biography of mathematical genius John Forbes Nash Jr. (Russell Crowe), who was afflicted with schizophrenia, but eventually triumphed over the disease with the help of his devoted wife (Jennifer Connelly), going on to win the Nobel Prize. Elegantly weaving scenes from a fine script, director Ron Howard presents a very human story of brilliance, insanity and marital love, despite the familiar trappings of an inspirational story.

Intense, mature theme dealing with mental illness, a few sexual references, a scene of violence, and minimal crass language and profanity. The OSV News classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Friendly Persuasion” (1956)

Winning adaptation of Jes-

samyn West's novel about a Quaker household (Gary Cooper, Dorothy McGuire and Tony Perkins) at the time of the Civil War.

Director William Wyler's lyric treatment of family life and human relationships heightens the conflict between the hard realities of the war and the pacifist convictions of the Quaker faith.

Still a warm and cheering experience for family viewers. The OSV News classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

“The Thin Man” (1934)

Classic murder mystery from the Dashiell Hammett story in which private detective Nick Charles (William Powell) announces his retirement after marrying rich socialite Nora (Myrna Loy), then gets involved in trying to help a young woman (Maureen O'Sullivan) find her missing father, the eccentric inventor of the title (Edward Ellis). Director W.S. Van Dyke II paces the suspenseful plot with numerous suspicious characters, witty dialogue, and affectionate kidding between happily married Nick and Nora.

Menacing atmosphere, some stylized violence, hard-boiled types and heavy drinking. The OSV News classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

“Tokyo Story” (1953)

Elderly couple on their first

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Movie Ratings



General
Patronage

Migration (PG)
Wish (PG)



Adults and
Adolescents

Trolls Band Together (PG)



Adults

Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG-13)
The Boys in the Boat (PG-13)
Freud's Last Session (PG-13)
The Holdovers (R)
The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (PG-13)
Maestro (R)
Mean Girls (PG-13)
Night Swim (PG-13)
Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé (Not rated)
Wonka (PG)



Limited Adult
Audience

The Color Purple (PG-13)
The Iron Claw (R)
May December (R)
Napoleon (R)



Morally
Offensive

Anyone But You (R)
Saltburn (R)
Silent Night (R)
Thanksgiving (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

visit to the Tokyo homes of their children meet only disguised rejection except, ironically, for the kindness of their dead son's wife.

When the mother dies shortly after returning to their country village, it is only the widowed daughter-in-law who shows any real feeling of loss.

Director Yasujiro Ozu's eloquent treatment of old age makes it a uniquely moving hymn to life.

The OSV News classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

“Up” (2009)

Off we go into the wild blue yonder — literally — with this instant classic, the story of a grumpy septuagenarian (voice of Ed Asner) who decides to get away from it all by relocating his home to South America with the help of thousands of colorful balloons.

Joined by an earnest 8-year-old stowaway (voiced by Jordan Nagai), a gigantic squawking bird and a “talking” dog, he finds the adventure of a lifetime as the ragtag group battles evil in the Venezuelan jungle.

This touching fable from director and co-writer Pete Docter offers lessons for young and old on love and loss, marriage, friendship and perseverance in a gorgeously rendered, very amusing and highly entertaining film.

Some serious thematic material and a few scenes of intense peril may disturb small children. The OSV News classification is A-I — general patronage.

The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News.

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BE THE LIGHT

From page 17

work as the Body of Christ, because that's what Christ calls us to do," she stated.

She aspires to become an educator who builds up positive relationships with each of her students.

"I want them to walk out of my classroom knowing that they're loved in whatever state they're in," she said.

She encouraged adults of all ages to continue showing the Father's love and demonstrating what faith in action looks like.

"We're looking for good, solid examples for how to build our families and raise our children right," she said. "We need to be loved, and we appreciate the love that people can give us," she said.

Shannon King, a freshman studying education at Truman State, was at SEEK24 to strengthen her faith in the company of people who share her beliefs.

"Every chance I get to celebrate God, I want to do it!" she said. "He's the one who sent his son to die for us so that we could live in eternal happiness."

She said the speakers at the conference taught her different ways to involve Jesus in her everyday actions.

"It's going to require me to be active in my faith," she said. "I know God doesn't need anything back from me, but I want to give him something back."

"Never been surer"

Austin Stewart, who's studying business with a minor in marketing at the University of Missouri, returned to the Catholic Church three months before attending SEEK24.

"I can tell you, I've never wanted to be in the Church more than I do now," he said.

Mr. Stewart grew up Catholic but gradually stopped practicing his faith.

He began attending a Protestant church and turned his life over to Christ at an event similar to SEEK.

Yet, he couldn't help feeling that something was missing.

His mother suggested that he attend the 8 p.m. Sunday Mass for students at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

"It was absolutely beautiful!" he recalled.

He met with several priests in the weeks that followed, and one invited him to take part in Adoration at the Newman Center.

"I went there and just rested," he said. "It was very moving. I knew there was something going on."

After that came a series of profound "aha" moments he could no longer set aside.

"It was the strongest calling from the Lord to go back to the Catholic Church," he said. "I've never been surer of anything in my life."

That's precisely what he wanted everyone at SEEK24 to experience for themselves.

"I want everyone here to turn their lives over to Christ," he said. "That's what life is all about. We're here for Christ, to worship Christ and ultimately be redeemed and saved. Because that's what he offers."

Back for good

Ashley Stewart, who recently graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in communication, hopes to remember forever what she saw and heard at SEEK24.

"I think the biggest thing is the community — all of these Catholics I've met, all of these college students and people in religious life," she said.

She had stopped practicing her Catholic faith for a while in favor of a Protestant community on campus.

"I came back to the Newman Center and what kept me was how much we Catholics emphasize and celebrate the Eucharist," she said.

"That's us receiving the Body of Christ, the one who died for our sins, so that we can have eternal life in heaven!" she stated.

"That's more important than anything, and that's why I can never leave."

"Nothing new"

Miss Keleitz said life will never be the same after SEEK24.

"Just knowing that I'm being fortified by this entire community around me, it gives me so much hope for going back to my regular routine," she stated.

"Because I know that no

matter where I go, I will always have God's grace with me and I will always have this community of likeminded people supporting me."

Maureen Quinn, director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry for the diocese, attended SEEK24 with a delegation from the diocese.

She said it's clear the Church is alive and well among young people, and that they're searching for truth, beauty and goodness, all of which point them to God.

"They want the fullness of the truth," she stated. "They want beauty in the Church and also in relationships. And they want what is good, and that means building up one another as brothers and sisters in Christ."

"That's what you experience here," she said of the conference. "And I love that we're all able to come here united as one Church."

She said FOCUS, the SEEK conference's organizer, has "mastered the art of building missionary disciples."

"Through SEEK, we are able to learn tangible skills that we can bring home to our diocese," she stated.

A point from the message given in a keynote talk by Father Mike Schmitz, whose social media ministry is among the most powerful in the world, particularly resonated with Mrs. Quinn.

"We have a lot of young people in the pews who need to be held by God in the Eucharist," she said. "We also have a lot of people, many of whom are not in our churches right now, who need to be healed."

"And you've got to be willing to be present in that reality," she stated. "It's about being brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to go and build those relationships."

"This isn't complicated, and it's nothing new," she said. "It comes from Jesus."

SEEK24 photos and videos are posted on FOCUS Catholic Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, with homilies from each daily Mass available on the FOCUS Catholic YouTube page.

SEEK25 will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from Jan. 1 to 5, 2025.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jan 21

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jon. 3:1-5, 10
Ps. 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Cor. 7:29-31
Mk. 1:14-20

Monday, Jan 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

2 Sm. 5:1-7, 10
Ps. 89:20, 21-22, 25-26
Mk. 3:22-30

Tuesday, Jan 23

St. Vincent, deacon and martyr;
St. Marianne Cope, virgin

2 Sm. 6:12b-15, 17-19
Ps. 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Mk. 3:31-35

Wednesday, Jan 24

St. Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor of the Church

2 Sm. 7:4-17
Ps. 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30
Mk. 4:1-20

Thursday, Jan 25

Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22
Ps. 117:1bc, 2
Mk. 16:15-18

Friday, Jan 26

Ss. Timothy and Titus, bishops

2 Tim. 1:1-8 or Ti. 1:1-5
Ps. 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10
Mk. 4:26-34

Saturday, Jan 27

St. Angela Merici, virgin

2 Sm. 12:1-7a, 10-17
Ps. 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Mk. 4:35-41

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for January:

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

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INFORMATION MEETING with Fr. Matt & Travel Tyme on Wed. March 6 at 7pm, in Pleus Hall at IC Church in Jefferson City.



Celebrating the Nativity

LEFT: Father Henry Ussher welcomes the congregation to St. Joseph Church in Louisiana on Christmas Eve. **RIGHT:** Fr. Ussher is shown welcoming the Baby Jesus in a newly-built stable. The stable was built by Parishioners Don Brewster and Joe Schuckenbrock, who are members of the Knights of Columbus in Louisiana. Fr. Ussher is pastor for St. Joseph in Louisiana, Mary, Queen of Peace in Clarksville, and St. Clement in Bowling Green.

— Photos by Sandy Orf

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Proceeds go towards the maintenance of all Fire Equipment.

\$12 Per Adult | **\$6** Kids Under 12

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