

## Teaching it forward, in sight of the border

Good teachers and coaches helped Scott Frank find out what he's made of. He's using that to change lives.

Page 6



Youth Council . . . . Page 2  
Lenten Beatitudes . . Page 3  
Catholic Charities . .Page 10  
Distinguished grads .Page 11  
A dream on campus .Page 13  
Cabrini, Guadalupe .Page 26

# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

March 1, 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 18

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Stepping toward full communion with the Church



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight signs the Book of the Elect, containing the names of all the people seeking to be baptized at the Easter Vigil in parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese, during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, held on the First Sunday of Lent in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

— Photo by Jay Nies

## State's Catholic bishops urge Missourians not to sign abortion initiative petition

By Jay Nies

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and his fellow Roman Catholic bishops are urging Missourians to withhold their signatures from a currently circulating petition seeking to ensure nearly unrestricted access to abortion through an amendment to the state's Constitution.

"This ballot initiative would legalize abortions in this state and remove long-standing health and safety standards for women," the bishops noted in their statement, approved Feb. 22.

"In addition," the bishops pointed out, "this initiative does nothing to reduce or eliminate the underlying social causes for abortion and does not further a true culture of life

in the state."

The statement's signatories include: Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis; Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph; Bishop McKnight; and Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, functioning in their role as officers of the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC).

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

The bishops noted that groups are currently collecting citizen signatures to add the proposed amendment to the November 2024 ballot.

See PETITION, page 21

### People seeking Easter Sacraments gather with Bishop McKnight in Cathedral for Rite of Election, Call to Continuing Conversion

By Jay Nies

Now is a very acceptable time.  
A time like no other.

"It's time for me to do what I've always wanted to do," said Julia Parker. "And I need support now, and I find comfort in the Church and in God."

Ms. Parker was among the 76 catechumens and 121 candidates from all over the diocese who traveled to the Cathedral of St. Joseph as part of their preparation to receive Sacraments of Initiation at Easter.

It was the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

Held in cathedrals throughout the world on the First Sunday of Lent, this ritual is a significant milestone for those preparing to become committed, active members of the Catholic Church.

"You have been sent by your parish community to this special celebration in which the bishop personally and formally accepts you as members of the Elect and Candidates for the Easter Sacraments," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight told the assembly.

Catechumens, now known as the Elect, are seeking Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Candidates have already been baptized and are seeking full communion with the Church.

As part of the gathering in the Cathedral, each catechumen and candidate was summoned by name into the sanctuary and greeted by Bishop McKnight.

Godparents stood beside the catechumens, and sponsors stood beside the

See RITE OF ELECTION, page 18

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#### NEW ADDRESS

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03/01/24

## Pray for deceased priests

Mar. 3 — Fr. Edward A. Doyle, Immaculate Conception, Montgomery City (2019)

Mar. 6 — Fr. Thomas J. Gray, St. Stephen, Indian Creek (1987)

Mar. 7 — Fr. Gerald W. Stockman, counseling ministry (2016)

Mar. 8 — Fr. Alphonse J. Hoegen, Chaplain, Capital Region Medical Center, Jefferson City (1978)

Mar. 10 — Fr. Eugene J. Robl, Chaplain, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Columbia (2002)

Mar. 11 — Fr. Jerome W. Jaworski, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Anthony (1979); Fr. William D. Savage, St. Joseph, Slater (1996)

Mar. 13 — Fr. Edward J. Donohue, St. Joseph, Palmyra (1999)

Mar. 14 — Fr. Michael J. Knecht, St. Joseph, Westphalia (1965)

Mar. 15 — Fr. Edmund B. Purcell, Assumption, Morrison (1976)

## Custodian — Lake Ozark



Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, Mo. is seeking a full-time custodian responsible for maintenance and janitorial services of all parish grounds and buildings. For more details or to submit a resume, email [office@ourladylakeozark.org](mailto:office@ourladylakeozark.org).

## Principal Needed



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

## Principal Opening — Loose Creek

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

# Applications being accepted to serve on new Diocesan Youth Council

By Jay Nies

Applications are being accepted through April 5 for people who wish to serve on the newly created Diocesan Youth Council (DYC).

Bishop W. McKnight established the council on Feb. 16.

The vision for the DYC is based on “*Christus Vivit*,” (“Christ Lives”) the apostolic exhortation Pope Francis released at the conclusion of the 2018 Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment.

The DYC’s main purpose is to serve as a forum for young voices to be heard while also actively equipping the young people to be disciples in the Church.

In order to be eligible for membership on the council, a person must meet the following requirements:

- be a Catholic in full communion with the Catholic Church;
- have received all the Sacraments of Initiation and be an active steward of the parish;
- be outstanding in firm faith, good morals and prudence; and
- be a high school student at the time of applying and be able to commit to at least one, two-year term.

Active or previous leadership experience in his or her parish is preferred.

Members will be required to commit to attending quar-

terly meetings in person at the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City.

Meetings will always be on Saturdays.

The first meeting will be on

**The DYC’s main purpose is to serve as a forum for young voices to be heard while also actively equipping the young people to be disciples in the Church.**

May 11, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will include a morning of recollection.

Members will also commit to taking part in a yearly leadership retreat with the DYC and participate in leadership opportunities at a minimum of one diocesan youth gathering.

Such gatherings include a Diocesan Youth Rally, the National Catholic Youth Conference, summer camps, Totus Tuus, or a Confirmation Retreat.

Each of the five geographic regions of the diocese, known as deaneries, will have two representatives on the DYC.

Two young adults — preferably one male and one female — between ages 25 and 35 will also serve as leaders and role models for the young people on the council.

The bishop, director of vocations, director of religious education & youth/young adult ministry, executive director of communications and the moderator of youth and young adult ministry, will all serve as *ex officio* members.

“The desire of our diocese and our bishop is to hear from the young Church and allow young people to become involved in the Church here and

now,” said Maureen Quinn, diocesan director of religious education and youth/young adult ministry.

“That’s something our bishop is passionate about, our youth office is passionate about, and our Church is passionate about,” she stated.

Mrs. Quinn pointed out that throughout the discernment process for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality, young Catholics

throughout the world have stated their desire to become active participants in the mission of the Church.

“They want to make an impact,” Mrs. Quinn noted. “They want to make their footprint. They don’t want to be mere spectators.”

Moving young Catholics from a place of merely receiving ministry to effectively participating in ministry requires a commitment to formation.

“So, this council is distinctly designed to not only receive the thoughts, ideas and feedback of the young people, but it’s also about giving them the tools to become the future of the Church and also leaders right now in the Church,” said Mrs. Quinn.

Applicants need a letter of recommendation from their pastor as well as a letter from a youth leader, testifying to their character and their striving for virtue and excellence.

Applicants also need to indicate their parents’ consent for serving on the council.

The appointment of the DYC’s members will be announced by April 19.

For further information or to apply to serve on the DYC, visit:

[diojeffcity.org/youth-council](https://diojeffcity.org/youth-council)

## Teaching Positions — Tipton, Mo.

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

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

### The Catholic Missourian

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight  
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# Bishop says The Beatitudes are a good guide for Lent

By Jay Nies

What does Jesus really mean when he says, “Take up your cross daily and follow me?”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight believes the Beatitudes (found in Matthew 5 and Luke 6) are a great place to start.

“It’s not about status,” he emphasized on Ash Wednesday. “It’s about true service. It’s about truly embracing the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Bishop McKnight offered Mass for diocesan Chancery

employees on Ash Wednesday, in the chapel of the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center.

He noted in his homily that the Beatitudes — Blessed are the poor in spirit ... those who mourn ... those who are meek ... those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ... those who are merciful ... those who are clean of heart ... the peacemakers ... those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness ... and those who endure insults falsely because of Jesus — are difficult.



**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and Deacon Enrique Castro distribute ashes to diocesan Chancery employees during Mass on Ash Wednesday.**

— Photo by Annie Williams

spectacle for others.

“The takeaway from today’s Gospel reading is this: that our relationship with Jesus Christ — as dignified as we are as members of the Baptized! — is not a matter of status but a matter of responsibility and service,” the bishop noted.

This is validated by Jesus in his proclamation of the Beatitudes.

“So, let this be a season of penance, a season of growing closer to the Lord, a season of embracing the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ daily in our lives,” said Bishop McKnight.

“Let it be a season of the Beatitudes for us!”

“They’re all elements of what it means to embrace the cross,” said Bishop McKnight. “They are the doorways through which we enter into the Kingdom.”

He recommended a book called *Eight Doors to the Kingdom*, by Jacques Philippe.

“That book shows us what the Beatitudes are, and what it means to embrace the cross of our Lord,” said Bishop McKnight.

The bishop pointed out that the first three weeks of Lent are structured around daily readings from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

These readings offer clear guidance on preparing to renew one’s Baptismal Promises at Easter.

“We are confronted and challenged by the Gospel teachings about the very things that we’re supposed to be doing,” said Bishop McKnight.

“The theme (of these readings) is more moral and ethical and pertaining to our discipleship as followers of the Master, who taught us that we must take up our cross daily and follow after him,” the bishop noted.

The Scriptures are clear: no one does a good job of keeping all of God’s commandments.

Fortunately, said Bishop McKnight, discipleship is much less about following rules than entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

That becomes clear in the readings for the second half of Lent — which is known as Passiontide.

In those weeks, the daily readings are from John’s Gospel.

“They focus directly upon

who Jesus is — the one who saves us,” said Bishop McKnight, “and the fact that he died for us in order to save us.”

Prayer and penance have been an important part of Lent since the early days of the Church.

That is, the right kind of penance. Jesus is clear that these things should be focused on God, not on providing a



## Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

**MARCH**

- Mar 2** Confirmation Mass, Shrine of St. Patrick Parish, St. Patrick and St. Michael Parish, Kahoka, 4 pm, Shrine of St. Patrick Church, St. Patrick
- Mar 3** Confirmation Mass, St. Stephen Parish, Indian Creek, Holy Rosary Parish, Monroe City, and St. William Parish, Perry, 10 am, St. Stephen Church, Indian Creek
- Mar 5** Priests’ Personnel Board Meeting, 1:30 pm, Chancery; Confirmation Mass, St. Stanislaus Parish, Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish, Osage Bend, 6:30 pm, St. Stanislaus Church, Wardsville
- Mar 6** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, 11:45 am, Catholic Charities Offices, Jefferson City
- Mar 7** Priests’ Day of Reflection, 9:30 am, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, Starkenburg
- Mar 8** Teachers’ Professional Development Mass, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, 9 am, Columbia; Finance Policy Training for Priests, 10 am, Chancery; Dinner with Columbia Newman Center Students going on the Ugandan Mission Trip, 5:30 pm, Bishop’s Residence
- Mar 9** Confirmation Ceremony, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 11 am, St. Patrick Chapel, Sedalia
- Mar 10** Confirmation Mass, St. Pius X Parish, 11 am, Moberly
- Mar 13** SSM Health Regional President Introduction Meeting, 3 pm, Chancery; Confirmation Mass, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, 6:30 pm, Boonville
- Mar 15** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Executive Committee Dinner, 5:30 pm, Jefferson City
- Mar 17** Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Parish, Rolla, Immaculate Conception Parish, St. James, and St. Anthony Parish, Rosati, 10:30 am, St. Patrick Church, Rolla
- Mar 18** Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board of Directors Meeting, 11 am, Virtual
- Mar 20** Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Parish, Freeburg and Sacred Heart Parish, Rich Fountain, 6:30 pm, Holy Family Church, Freeburg
- Mar 22** Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee Meeting, 10 am, Virtual

**Bishop McKnight’s March prayer intention for our Local Church**

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

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

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



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



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## Communal reconciliation services for Lent

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

<b>Brookfield</b> – Tues., March 19 at 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church	Tues., March 12 at 7 pm; Fri., March 15 at 9 am, St. Peter Church	<b>Palmyra</b> – Thur., March 21 at 6 pm, St. Joseph Church
<b>Columbia</b> – Mon., March 11 at 7 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Sun., March 17 at 2 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph	<b>Perry</b> – Mon., March 25 at 6:30 pm, St. William Church
Tues., March 19 at 7 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center	<b>Jonesburg</b> – Wed., March 13 at 6 pm, St. Patrick Church	<b>Russellville</b> – Wed., March 6 at 7 pm, St. Michael Church
<b>Edina</b> – Fri., March 22 at 6 pm, St. Joseph Church	<b>Ladonia</b> – Thur., March 21 at 6 pm, St. John Church	<b>St. Clement</b> – Mon., March 18 at 6:30 pm, St. Clement Church
<b>Hannibal</b> – Wed., March 20 at 6 pm, Holy Family Church	<b>Macon</b> – Tues., March 5 at 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church	<b>St. Martins</b> – Thur., March 21 at 6 pm, St. Martin Church
<b>Holts Summit</b> – Wed., March 13 at 6:30 pm, St. Andrew Church	<b>Marceline</b> – Wed., March 20 at 6:30 pm, St. Bonaventure Church	<b>St. Thomas</b> – Tues., March 12 at 7 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Church
<b>Indian Creek</b> – Wed., March 20 at 6:30 pm, St. Stephen Church	<b>Marshall</b> – Thur., March 7 at 6 pm, St. Peter Church	<b>Salisbury</b> – Tues., March 19 at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church
<b>Jefferson City</b> – Tues., March 5 at 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church	<b>Martinsburg</b> – Tues., March 12 at 6 pm, St. Joseph Church	<b>Vandalia</b> – Fri., March 29 at 6 pm, Sacred Heart Church
	<b>Mexico</b> – Thur., March 21 at 6:30 pm, St. Brendan Church	
	<b>Montgomery City</b> – Thur., March 21 at 6 pm, Immaculate Conception Church	
	<b>Osage Bend</b> – Wed., March 6 at 6 pm, St. Margaret of Antioch Church	

### Catholic Charities event in Camdenton

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri will host a Parish Engagement and Charity Event (PEACE) for people in and around the

Southwest Deanery of the diocese, on Sat., March 9, in Camdenton. It will be from 9 a.m. to noon in the lower level of St. Anthony Church, 1874

N. Business Route 5.

It will include formation, fellowship, and learning about the work of Catholic Charities and how parishes can collab-

orate more closely with the agency.

Visit [ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace](http://ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace) to sign up for the event.

## JOIN US TO KEEP MISSOURI PRO-LIFE!



### Missouri Right to Life "Keep Missouri Pro-Life!" Action Day

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

Missouri State Capitol ~ 1st Floor Rotunda

- **Come to Jefferson City to voice your opposition to the effort to enshrine a "right" to abortion in our Missouri Constitution.**
- Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.
- Encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation and join the noon rally with our special guest.

**TRANSPORTATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM MANY AREAS OF THE STATE.**

Contact Missouri Right to Life at 573-635-5110 for transportation options.



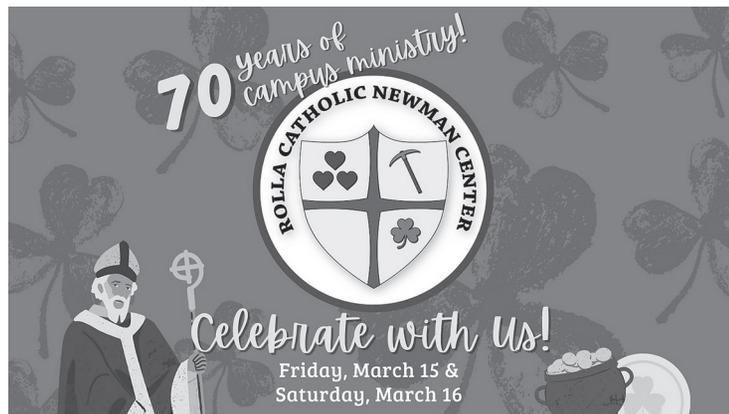
*Special Guest:*  
*Claire Culwell*

Claire Culwell is an International Pro Life Speaker and author of *Survivor: An Abortion Survivor's Surprising Story of Choosing Forgiveness and Finding Redemption*. She is a twin abortion survivor. Claire was adopted into a loving family and says that finding out she survived an abortion that was meant to take her life never changed who she knew she was: wanted, chosen and loved.

She has been featured on Fox News, Focus On The Family, LifeToday and many other media outlets.

Claire lives in Austin, TX with her husband David and their children where she serves on the board of Texas Alliance For Life and her local pregnancy center.

## Celebrating 70 years of Rolla campus ministry



The Rolla Newman Center and St. Patrick Parish in Rolla will celebrate the past 70 years of campus ministry and the 20th anniversary of the completion of the current Newman Center building on Friday and Saturday, March 15 and 16.

•On Friday, an open house will be held at 4 p.m. in the Rolla Newman Center, 1624 N. Rolla St.

•On Saturday, Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick Church at 4:15 p.m. followed by a dinner in the St. Patrick Parish Hall. Tickets are \$30 per person. Wine will be served at the table, and there will be a cash bar. For more information about the celebration and to make a reservation, visit: [rollanewman.org/anniversary](http://rollanewman.org/anniversary).

Catholic campus ministry in Rolla traces its origin to the late Monsignor Gerold Kaiser, who as pastor of St. Patrick parish in 1953 gathered the Catholic students at the now Missouri University of Science and Technology, and told them, “When the intellect and mind grows, so does our faith.”

In the basement of St. Patrick Church, with the help of members of the Theta Kappa Phi fraternity (now Phi Kappa Theta), he established a Newman Club in December 1953, several years before the Jefferson City diocese was established.

St. Patrick parish has retained its close relationship with Catholic campus ministry ever since then. Associate pastors served as directors until 1997, when Franciscan Sister Renita Brummer became the first religious director.

The parish bought an old house on Main Street in 1967, and made it the first Rolla Newman Center. It was relocated to the former St. Patrick parish Convent, near the church and school, in 1986. The third and present center was completed in August of 2004.

A restored statue of St. Patrick in the new center’s gathering space originally adorned the director’s office in the first center.

The center’s name honors St. John Henry Newman (1801-90), who came to Catholicism from the Church of England and was influential in bringing Catholic students to and fostering Catholic identity at the Anglican university at Oxford.

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## Eucharistic Revival preacher to speak in Rolla March 6 and 7

Eucharistic Revival preacher Father Samuel Hakeem, vocation director for the St. Albert the Great province of the Dominican Friars, will give two thought-provoking presentations in Rolla on Wednesday and Thursday, March 6 and 7.

•He will give a talk on the Eucharist on March 6 at 6 p.m. in St. Patrick Church, 17 St. Patrick Lane in Rolla.

Light refreshments will be provided.

•He will give a presentation titled, “Catholicism and The Big Bang Theory: Faith, Science, and the Limits of Both” — a university talk on faith and science — from 1 to 2 p.m. on March

7 in Room 102 of in the Computer Science Building, 500 W. 15th St. on the campus of the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

Both events are sponsored by the Rolla Newman Center.

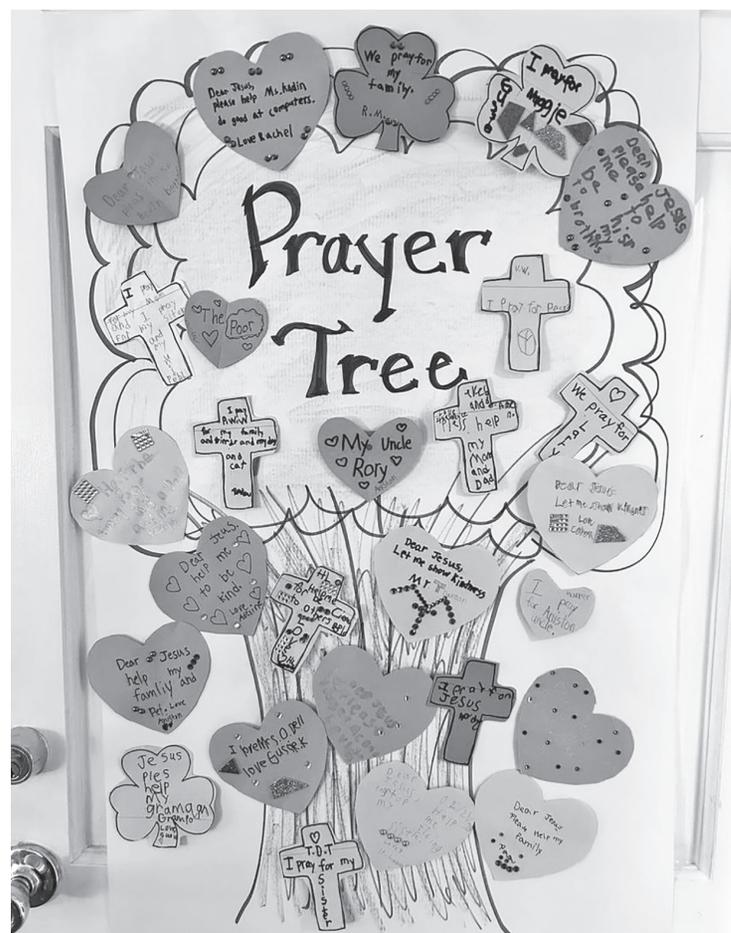
Fr. Hakeem is one of 50 preachers commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for the National Eucharistic Revival.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in space physics before pursuing his priestly vocation, and brings both faith and science to bear in his presentations.

## Limbs and branches

The students of the first- and second-grade class at Immaculate Conception School in Macon is working to strengthen their prayer life this season of Lent. They have created so many prayers for their Lenten “prayer tree” that they are now ready to fill a second tree.

— Photo from the Immaculate Conception School Facebook page



**Lenten Solemn Vespers 5:00pm**  
**Lenten Recital Series 5:35pm**



<b>February 18</b> Recital	<b>March 3</b> Recital	<b>March 17</b> Recital
Karen Bretz, Flute Nicholas Liese, Organ	Tom Halpin Organ	Andrew Meagher Organ Katharine Meagher, Soprano

**Holy Week Schedule**  
Holy Thursday - 7:00pm | Good Friday Stations - 3:00pm  
Good Friday Passion Liturgy - 7:00pm | Easter Vigil - 8:00pm



# Helias Catholic H.S. graduate receives Texas teaching award

By Jay Nies

Scott Frank flatly acknowledges that he wasn't a stand-out scholar or athlete.

Not until he had Mike Jeffries and Chris Cooper as teachers and coaches at Helias Catholic High School.

"They taught me even more about what I was capable of than (about) the subjects they were teaching," said Mr. Frank.

"And being that that truly changed my life, I need to pay it forward for the next generation and use my gifts and talents for humanity," he said.

Such heat-tempered determination has helped Mr. Frank alter the trajectory of hundreds of at-risk, young lives at a public charter school near the U.S./Mexico border in Texas.

It also helped set him apart from about 600 other nominees for the 2023 James F. Veninga Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award, from a statewide organization called Humanities Texas.

"I considered it an honor just to be nominated, and I was blown away to be named a finalist," Mr. Frank stated. "But there's just no way to describe actually being chosen

for the award."

He sees the recognition as validation of his philosophy that every child can learn, with the right kind of support and motivation.

"I believe in that and put it into practice every day, even though sometimes it can be pretty difficult," he said.

Mr. Frank teaches Advanced Placement (A.P.) and International Baccalaureate (I.B.) history and psychology at IDEA Frontier College Prep in Brownsville, Texas.

The school is a bulwark of hope in one of the most poverty-stricken locales in the United States.

Most of the students are first- or second-generation immigrants. Ninety-seven percent of them qualify for the free or reduced lunch program.

Students are admitted to the school by lottery.

Consistently, 100 percent of them graduate.

"A lot of my kids are people most of America has written off," Mr. Frank stated. "But if you inspire kids with the prospect of college and the possibility of a better life, it gives them a really strong incentive to succeed."

Students take a heavy load

of advanced classes that can carry over for college credit.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when all learning was taking place remotely, 91 percent of Mr. Frank's A.P. psychology students passed the state exam for college credit.

"That was when those numbers were pretty much cratering all over the country," he noted.

"Mind you, these were sophomores taking a class generally reserved for seniors," he said.

Likewise, he hasn't had an A.P. and I.B. history student fail the state exam in all of his 11 years at the school.

"And we cover more content and go more in-depth with them (than most other schools do)," he said.

He doesn't water down the material.

Rather, "my kids work hard and do what I tell them, and maybe also put in some library time after school," he stated.

Over the years, Mr. Frank has fine-tuned ways of presenting the material in a digestible manner for students of all ability levels.

"I don't go in thinking that I'm just going to teach the good students or the ones who are going to pick it up easily," he said. "I put it on a scaffold and try to place a handle at

each level."

## Moving mountains

Mr. Frank, a son of Stephen and Jane Frank, grew up in Jefferson City, attended Immaculate Conception School and continued at Helias Catholic.

"So, I had inspiring educators all around — beginning with my parents," he said.

His family weathered the sickness, treatment and finally the death of his brother, Michael.

Mr. Frank realized at that time that tomorrow is never a guarantee, "so why not live life to the fullest today?"

He didn't consider himself to be a particularly gifted student until his classes with Coach Cooper and Coach Jeffries.

"It's like a switch flipped," he recalled.

Their lessons in perseverance and sprinting through imagined boundaries spilled over into varsity wrestling, cross-country and track.

"With Coach Jeffries, if he tells you to put a mountain on your back, you do that and run up another mountain," said Mr. Frank. "That's just what you do."

Mr. Frank went on to wrestle in college and to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

"Those experiences made

me who I am," Mr. Frank stated. "I've seen what I'm capable of."

"Whatever people say is impossible, I love doing," he added. "I say, 'Let's do it! Let's beat the odds!'"

## Toward reconciliation

Upon graduating from Helias Catholic in 2005, Mr. Frank received the Fr. Helias Award for outstanding contributions to the life of the school.

He went on to study education at Loras College, a small, Catholic, liberal-arts college in Dubuque,

Iowa.

This afforded him an opportunity to study abroad in Germany, where he produced a documentary film on how people deal emotionally with the aftermath of the Holocaust.

"I talked to people in Germany, to several Holocaust survivors, to Cold War kids whose parents didn't want to talk about the War — the shame of it — and I talked to high school kids about what it means to be German," he said.

From there, he accepted an invitation to teach history and psychology for three years in Kosovo, a nation that had suffered massively in the civil war following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia.

"I remember President Clinton talking about Kosovo on TV when I was in seventh grade, but I had no idea where it was," Mr. Frank recalled. "Ten years later, I was there, teaching kids who had literally survived ethnic cleansing."

He helped organize an annual social-issues conference that brought children from the previously warring factions together to speak and listen.

He recalled how one of his students was consumed with



Jefferson City native Scott Frank has created an intriguing learning environment for his students at IDEA Frontier College Prep in Brownsville, Texas, where he teaches Advanced Placement (A.P.) and International Baccalaureate (I.B.) history and psychology.

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## Catholic author to speak, at event in J.C. for Catholic Charities

**DATE: March 16**  
**TIME: 2 - 3:30 pm**

Catholic author Joe Benevento Ph.D. will give a presentation on “St. Joseph’s Day, a Feast Day for all Catholics,” on Saturday, March 16, in Jefferson City.

Dr. Benevento will discuss the historical importance and significance of “feast days” to Catholics and particularly the traditions and celebrations tied to St. Joseph’s Day.

Following his talk, he will read from his latest, critically acclaimed novel, *My Perfect Wife, Her Perfect Son*, and have

copies on hand to sell and sign.

The event, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Cana Hall, the lower level of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

Dr. Benevento, a member of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville who retired last year as an English professor at Truman State University, has designated Catholic Charities as the recipient of all royalties from the sale of his novel.

Handmade Italian treats and light refreshments will be served.

## St. Patrick post office pictorial cancellation

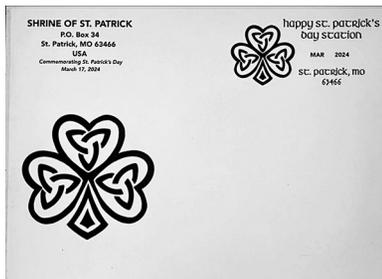
A Celtic shamrock, the most iconic symbol for Ireland, will adorn mail sent from the town of St. Patrick throughout March.

The specially designed image will adorn the 2021 pictorial cancellation and commemorative envelope that will be available for purchase from March 1-31.

The name shamrock comes from Irish *seamrog*, which is the diminutive of the Irish word *seamair* and simply means “young clover.”

The shamrock was used by the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, as a metaphor for teaching the Christian mystery of the Holy Trinity.

The envelopes can be purchased for \$2.25 apiece,



which includes the envelope, postage, insert with an Irish greeting, and the cachet stamping of “St. Patrick, Mo. — The Only One In The World.”

The women of Shrine of St. Patrick Parish will prepare the envelopes and take them to the St. Patrick Post Office for mailing.

Send a mailing list with payment for each envelope to: Shrine of St. Patrick, P.O. Box 34, St. Patrick, MO 63466.

To have the envelopes mailed on a certain day, please provide that information.

This is one of the most important fundraisers for the Shrine of St. Patrick, dating back to 1936 when the cachet was first developed.

## Women’s Ministry event in Monroe City

**DATE: March 16**  
**TIME: 8 - 10 am**

Lori Watson of Joyful Love Ministries and a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City will give a Women’s Ministry presentation from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 16 in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 405 S. Main St. in Monroe City.

The topic will be: “Discovering the Women of the Bible.”

A complimentary breakfast is included.

For information or to register for the event, contact Donna Long at 573-735-4718 or [donnalong.hrss@gmail.com](mailto:donnalong.hrss@gmail.com), or visit:

[holyrosary.diojeffcity.org](http://holyrosary.diojeffcity.org)  
[ladies-of-holy-rosary](http://ladies-of-holy-rosary)

## Lenten parish healing mission, March 17-20 in Sedalia

Catholic Evangelista Sonja Corbitt will guide participants through different aspects of healing through “Rest,” during a March 17-20 Healing Mission sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia.

Topics will include: “Rest in Thoughts,” “Rest in Emotions,” “Rest in Soul” and “Rest in Body.”

The first session will be at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday March 17, followed by a Lenten Penance Ser-

vice at 4 p.m.

Remaining sessions will start at 6:30 p.m. All will be in St. Patrick Chapel, 415 E. Fourth St.

A bilingual Mass will be celebrated after the last session on March 20.

There is no cost to attend this mission.

All within the diocese are welcome to take part in all or some of the sessions.

## March 10 deadline to apply for assistance in attending pastoral musicians convention in K.C.

By Jay Nies

The Jefferson City Diocese Chapter of National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) is offering scholarships for people in the diocese to attend the NPM National Convention, July 8-10 in Kansas City.

Applications for the scholarship are due March 10.

“This is a unique opportunity for all liturgical musicians in our diocese to make your ministry more effective by experiencing ongoing education, new music from the top publishers in our Church, and networking with your peers,” stated Laura Forbis, cofounder of the diocese’s NPM chapter.

Young people and people serving in smaller parishes are especially encouraged to apply for the scholarship and attend the convention.

“There are people in some of the smaller parishes that still don’t know we exist,” said Mrs. Forbis, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

In addition, “we have to get the next generation of pastoral musicians formed and catechized and trained and get them going,” she said.

This is the first time in 10

years that the NPM National Convention has been held so close to the Jefferson City diocese.

“Whether people go for a day or for the whole convention, we want to get as many people there as we can,” said Mrs. Forbis, who attends the national convention almost every year.

“If we can get the people from our diocese there, they can experience what music is like in the entire U.S.,” she said. “And to hear it straight from the composers and do some education with the breakout sessions.”

“The amount of education and formation you get at these things is absolutely wonderful,” she added.

Money for the scholarships came from a 2020 Epiphany concert given by the contemporary choir at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia.

Donations given at the annual concert are earmarked for various causes. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the money that year from being spent on its intended purpose — sending young people from this diocese to an NPM event specifi-

cally for them.

The event got cancelled and was never rescheduled.

Members of the local chapter decided this year to use the money to help people — including young people who are interested — get to the National Convention.

“NPM is usually held prohibitively far from here, and having it so close provides an opportunity we don’t want to miss,” said Kate Basi, an NPM member from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. “We want to make sure as many people can attend as possible.”

Write to Mrs. Forbis at [JeffersonCityMO@npm.org](mailto:JeffersonCityMO@npm.org) for information about applying for the scholarship. For more information about the NPM National Convention, visit:

[npm.org](http://npm.org)

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## QUESTION CORNER

## Why do Orthodox churches have a valid celebration of the Eucharist?

By Jenna Marie Cooper  
OSV News

**Q: How is it possible that the Orthodox practice of the Sacrament of Holy Communion would ever be considered as the true body and blood of Christ from the Catholic perspective simply because of an understanding outside of the unbroken chain of apostolic succession? (Georgia)**



A: For context, let us review what we mean when we refer to the Eastern Orthodox churches. Historically, we believe that the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church was founded with the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, shortly after Jesus' bodily ascension into heaven. As Jesus no longer physically walked the earth as he once had, he entrusted the continuance of his saving mission to the apostles.

The apostles, in turn, spread throughout the world founding local churches (in some ways, the rough precursor to our modern dioceses), and ordaining their successors (early bishops) to take their places in the shepherding of these local churches. Many of these local churches developed their own distinct liturgical traditions and other customs influenced by local needs and culture.

Initially, the universal Church was one unified structure of local churches under the ultimate oversight of the pope in Rome, who was the successor to St. Peter as the leader of the apostles. But divisions and tensions began to arise even in the Church's first few centuries. Some of these tensions were at least officially resolved by the early ecumenical councils, which clarified disputed questions of Catholic doctrine. However, due to some complex religious and political conflicts, the year 1054 saw "the Great Schism," in which the pope excommunicated the patriarch of Constantinople, the bishop-leader of the local churches in what had been the Eastern part of the Roman Empire — with the patriarch in turn issuing his own excommunication against the pope.

The churches of the East which rejected the universal authority of the pope became known as the Orthodox churches. Although there are some doctrinal differences between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox, for the most part disagreement on the role of the Holy Father remains the major obstacle to unity between the Catholic and Orthodox churches.

We as Catholics actually do believe that apostolic succession is significant and meaningful enough to allow for Eastern Orthodox churches to have a valid celebration of the Eucharist. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us: "The Eastern churches that are not in full communion with the Catholic Church celebrate the Eucharist with great love. These Churches, although separated from us, yet possess true sacraments, above all—by apostolic succession—the priesthood and the Eucharist, whereby they are still joined to us in closest intimacy." (See CCC 1399)

Keep in mind that the apostolic succession in the Orthodox churches goes hand-in-hand with our shared sacramental theology. That is, Catholics and Orthodox not only share belief in the Real Presence in the Eucharist, but also a shared understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and thus the nature of the Priesthood. This is in contrast to the various Western Christian communities we call "Protestant," because in addition to breaking communion with the Holy Father in Rome, the sacramental theology of Protestant denominations

See QUESTION, page 23

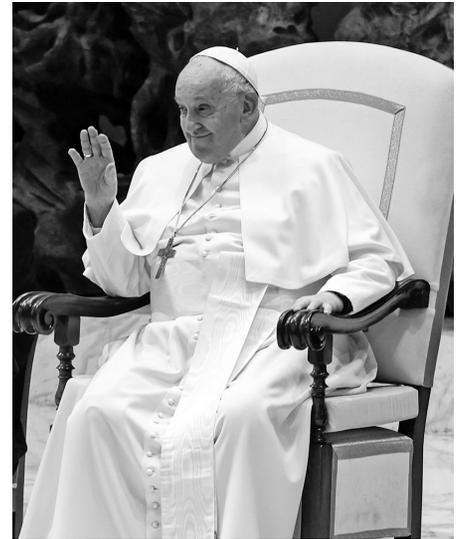
## Papal Audience

February 28, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our catechesis on the virtues and the vices, we now turn to envy and vainglory. Envy, already present in the story of Cain and Abel, is a destructive force fuelled by resentment towards others, and can lead to deadly hatred. The remedy to envy lies in St. Paul's exhortation: "Love one another with brotherly affection, compete in esteeming one another" (Rom. 12:10). Vainglory is marked by an inflated self-esteem, a craving for constant praise and frequently prone to using other people for one's own ends. St. Paul's example of boasting of his weakness rather than achievements offers an effective way for overcoming vainglory. May we, like him, know that God's grace is sufficient, since his power is made perfect in weakness, and all the more gladly boast of our weaknesses, that the power of Christ may set us free for a more generous love of others.

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from England, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the United States of America. I offer a special greeting to the students and professors from Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, England. Upon all of you and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!



## Fr. Flatley: "While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him"

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

By Father Matthew Flatley

Christ our Emmanuel models for us *The Paschal Mystery* (suffering/death/resurrection), which in some way is the most significant experience we can know of God's love and mercy on this side of the veil.

If we pay attention carefully, we will see constant *Paschal Mystery patterns* in our own lives and in nature all around us.

Christ is the Son of God, who from all eternity knew only perfect, unitive, love with God his Father.

The eternal love flowing between the Father and the Son is God the Holy Spirit.

*God the Son, sacrificed this unitive love he knew ... for love of us.*

He who was without sin, became sin (which separates us from Divine Grace) for our sake, so that now, once for all, in every human experience of darkness or despair, the light of Christ is present to save us.

*Emmanuel is present to deliver us, and make possible once again our participation in this Unitive Divine Love.*

All of creation is free to

choose in a universe ... where *Unconditional Divine Love is the ultimate reality ... we can choose love, or sin.*

Christ our redeemer makes possible the perfect reconciliation with the Father, which seems to be what the God the Father longs for.

However, we live in a fallen world, and if we are honest, we are all tempted by sin many times each day.

*Perhaps no one can explain it better than St. Paul in his very poignant reflection in Romans 7:14-20.*

I urge you to read it! Do you relate?

Perhaps one of the most poignant stories in all of Sacred Scripture is the Return of the Prodigal Son.

Christ is revealing His Abba in this story.

This father sees his son from far off, which means he was always looking for the boy, longing for his return.

When he catches sight of him, he rushes out to him, and in His mercy restores him to everything that he sees and loves in him.

"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him." (Luke 15:20)

The Sacrament of Reconcil-

iation is one of the most glorious sacraments of all.

To confess our sins, we must humble and empty ourselves of arrogance and pride, which is at the root of all sin.

We are enfleshed, and as such, we must, in flesh and blood, name our sins and speak them to a priest, who is acting in the person of Christ.

*There is no substitute for this.*

This humble act on our part, makes room for God's love and mercy to flow in, to fill us, to heal/soothe/comfort anything that it in need of this grace.

God will never force this grace on us, just as the Prodigal Father would not have forced his sinful son to return.

God is perfect love and humility, and we are free.

But when we can find the courage to empty ourselves and breathe in this Divine Grace always being offered, God not only forgives our sins, he forgets them.

We come out of this sacramental encounter with a clean heart.

We become a new creation.

In this sacramental grace, God restores us to everything that he sees and loves in us!

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

## The painting beneath the painting: faith that endures

By Christina Capecchi



I was a first grader when I made my inaugural trip to Disney. This month — decades later — I returned with a first grader and a fresh set of eyes.

So much came back to me. My favorite ride then remained my favorite ride now: Pirates of the Caribbean. I remembered not only the sight of the swashbucklers but the feel of the bobbing boat winding through water and the smell of the dank walls.

It had been there all along, tucked in

an inner recess of my 6-year-old heart. The experience had stuck, like an old photo captured on the sticky page of an album. I just hadn't realized.

I've tended to think of my memory bank as static, always accessible in equal supply. But the older I get, the more dynamic it seems. Parenthood amplifies this, offering another go-round, layers of nostalgia as soft and warm as an old patchwork quilt.

So much that is learned in childhood endures. The songs. The prayers. The prayers turned into songs. The wispy, wistful soundtrack for "Anne of Green Gables" that sounds like growing up. The parts of the Mass, as familiar as your parent's hand. The welcome that invokes our Triune God in one breath:

"The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." The drama of the consecration and Jesus' direct invitation: "Take this, all of you, and eat of it." The marching orders at closing to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

Pick up a beloved childhood book and be amazed. The story is still there. *The Wild Things* still dangling from tree branches with Max, their wild rumpus in full swing. Richard Scarry's mice still zipping along in their pencil-mobile. The old man still resting on *The Giving Tree*, now a stump.

The things we forgot we'd forgotten. Memories that never left us, though decades have passed without a single

thought. Invisible but not erased.

I've been searching for the words to describe this happy, haunting sensation. It is as once new and familiar — the warmth of recognition plus the tingle of novelty.

Leave it to the Italians to capture it: pentimento. It is an art term used to describe traces of a previous work, an artist's change of mind. Most often it refers to original marks in a painting that were painted over but reappeared over time. The painting beneath the painting.

Pentimento may show a head or hand that the artist first sketched in a slightly different place. A dramatic example

See CAPECCHI, page 23

## If Catholic media doesn't share Christ's teachings, who will?

By Gretchen R. Crowe  
OSV News



This June will mark 202 years since Bishop John England started the United States *Catholic Miscellany* in 1822. Lies were being spread about the Faith, and Catholic immigrants were finding themselves the subject of Nativist attacks. Bishop England will forever be remembered as the first bishop to take a stand in defense of the church by starting a local Catholic newspaper.

Many other Church leaders followed in his footsteps at the diocesan and the national levels. Ninety years after Bishop England, Father John Francis Noll began publishing *Our Sunday Visitor*, also to defend the Faith from those who were attacking it. The first print run was 35,000, and circulation peaked at over 1 million. The Church in the United States was facing a crisis — an attack on both its people and on its teachings — and communication was effectively used as a tool to combat it.

The fathers of the Second Vatican Council encouraged this kind of "good" Catholic press to "instill a fully Christian spirit into readers" (*Inter Mirifica*, No. 14). This press has two main objectives, they said: to share and explain what's happening in the life of the church, and to form, support and advance public opinion that was in line with Catholic teaching and with the natural law.

Though the attacks on the Church — the attacks against Christ himself — have changed in nature over the years, they are far from over. The devil's tentacles are long and relentless. Research released in January by Pew indicates that

28% of U.S. adults are now religiously unaffiliated.

Even with the defeat of *Roe v. Wade*, the gospel of life is incessantly under attack at the state level, where protection for abortion is finding general support.

Forces in our culture, much of them through social media, are loudly and persuasively convincing our children that a person's biological identity comes not from the Creator, but from one's whim of the moment. Pornography is rampant. Human trafficking is a multibillion-dollar industry. The poor continue to be marginalized.

The Eucharist — Christ's gift to the Church by which to remember him, and the source and summit of what it means to be Catholic — is so forgotten that we have to spend millions of dollars on a National Eucharistic Revival. Within the Church, we face our own reckonings, the most wretched of which is without a doubt the clergy sexual abuse crisis, which continues to rear its ugly head even 20 years after the Dallas Charter and five years after a global abuse summit at the Vatican.

### Mission of the Catholic press has never been more critical

The mission of the Catholic press to share Christ's truth with the world has never been more critical.

And yet it is also a time of great transition within Catholic media, where changes in media consumption and decreasing readership are leading to revisions of strategy in how content is being delivered on a local and national level. On the whole, this is a healthy practice. If current strategies aren't effective, they should be examined and improved upon. But what we cannot do — what we must not do — is change what we are communicating, even amid our bankruptcy-era belt-tightening. We cannot stop using the media to tell the

story of the Church and to share the teachings of the Church in a way that helps Catholics "formulate Christian judgments for themselves on all events"

See CROWE, page 23

### REFLECTION

## Rich in kindness

By Mark Saucier

It wasn't much warmer than temperatures here, but the allure of visiting Mexico's Yucatan in February is the color.

There are the vibrant reds and purples of the bougainvillea, the towering pink and yellow of the maculis trees, and the many shades of orange in the flowering Mother of Thousands.

It is the name, and the simple beauty of that last one — a succulent that thrives in a semi-arid climate — that reminds me of Gabriella — "Gabby" to her friends.

Gabby is a diminutive, but intense, Mayan woman, who runs a kids' nutrition program and respite center on the south side of Merida, the capital of Yucatan state.

The center is in a desert of sorts, a poor and rough area in a city that is otherwise safe and comfortable.

It is called Emmanuel, "God with us."

Gabby chose the name with the intention that what happens at Emmanuel would be a reminder that, no matter how hard life may be for the neighborhood kids, they are never alone.

From the hot meals, to the computer classes, to the shelves of books and games, Gabby wants the kids to feel welcomed, loved and protected — feelings not always found in their own homes.

Each day, she and the women who help her, feed about 75 children and any hungry elderly who show up, knowing they will never be refused a meal.

We've been supporting her for years, but the impact of Emmanuel is all Gabby. A shy, reticent woman, she was not afraid to talk to strangers and beg for donations to start the program and to keep it running.

She's been at this a long time. It started when she was 16 and distributed food to the hungry congregating in a local park.

For 32 years, she has fed and comforted the poor, the outcasts and the forgotten. Now, she wants to start a shelter for girls — some orphaned, some abandoned, some abused.

With Gabby, it will happen.

I told her I was in awe of all she had done — the thousands of kids she had fed and cherished as her own. Her response, typical of this humble woman, was "*Dios es amable*" — "God is kind."

She could have meant that God has been kind to her and that she, in gratitude, was paying it forward.

Or maybe that she sees her work — her life — simply as a vehicle for delivering divine kindness.

Knowing Gabby, I'd say it's both.

# Encounter

## AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### How preparing for disaster can keep your family safe, and serve your community



At Catholic Charities, we understand that disaster preparation, response, and recovery isn't just a safety issue — it's also a poverty issue. Unfortunately, disaster doesn't discriminate between the financially stable or those struggling.

"You never think it'll happen to you — but disaster is a reality; in our state it's not usually 'if' but 'when' something hits that affects your home, car or health," shared Catholic Charities' Mobile Resources Coordinator, John Doyle.

John's work with Catholic Charities mobilizes resources to areas and communities with greater need — often including long-term disaster recovery case management. Last fall John began working with survivors of the Baring tornado, and throughout his time at Catholic Charities has helped individuals and families in our service area recover after flooding, house fires, severe weather and more.

"Most clients we work with at Catholic Charities within long-term disaster recovery find themselves severely un-

derprepared," John shared, "it might surprise you how many people don't have a plan — or access to the things they need to recoup and recover after a disaster."

That's why preparing ahead of severe weather, or a disaster event is so crucial. Not only does having a plan and preparing your family ensure their safety, it also enables individuals and communities to respond effectively in the care of their neighbors.

The Catholic Disaster Preparedness Program, a training provided by Catholic Char-

ities USA and facilitated in Catholic parishes begins by helping individuals plan for their own safety, and that of their homes and families. The training then moves into preparing the parish to withstand and recover after disasters. Lastly, having established that individuals and parishes are well prepared, together the faithful can plan to serve their community after a disaster occurs.

"If disaster response isn't your full-time focus, it can feel intimidating to prepare for," John continued, "But creating an evacuation plan, setting up a communication plan, and having a kit on hand with copies of insurance paperwork, essential healthcare and safety items can be simple — everyone can do this."

John concluded, "You have the ability to take this preparation piece into your own hands, to help protect your family and your livelihood, then grow outward to your parish, and even into helping your community — we hope you take up the opportunity to do so."

committee in existence that could recruit volunteers and survey them on what types of services they could provide — examples include meal preparation, hospitality, clean-up, repair, etc.

#### Establish partnerships

Get connected and involved with your local community organizations, emergency responders and non-profit social service providers. The work of responding to and recovering from a disaster is truly an all-hands-on-deck effort. The scene of a disaster is the last place you want to exchange business cards — identifying key partners and outlining expectations ahead of time is critical and will help you determine what services and resources are available in your community.

#### Know who is most vulnerable in times of disaster

Be aware of those who are most vulnerable in the aftermath of a disaster event and have a game plan for who will check in on these individuals. You may enlist the aid of parish staff, Eucharistic ministers, visitation volunteers, or others who regularly visit the homebound. You might create a "buddy system" in which parishioners check-in on vulnerable and homebound individuals after a disaster event.

#### Consider parish facilities for shelter, housing & distribution of goods

One common need post-disaster is temporary shelter, housing, and facilities to prepare food or distribute commodities. If your parish has space that might serve one of these functions, consider the following questions: What is the best use of our community space in the wake of a disaster? Is the space compliant with the ADA? Does it meet all code requirements for proposed usage? Will someone

#### Practical Preparation: 10 things parishes can do ahead of disaster

##### Connect with Catholic Charities

Our agency is a resource for parishes in both disaster preparation and recovery. We can provide training, case management services, and Charity and Mercy grants to help fund preparation initiatives. If you are a parishioner in charge of facilities, a parish staff member, or a parish council member, you can always reach us at 573-635-7719 or connect with us online to learn more.

##### Identify volunteers

Your parish may choose to appoint members to a committee or delegate the responsibility of recruiting volunteers to a Parish Disaster Coordinator. You may have a

## March

### MENU OF ENGAGEMENT

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN MISSOURI

**March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month.** Many families across the U.S. and in our own neighborhoods are just one disaster away from financial ruin — and many have experienced the effects of a tornado, flood, or other natural weather event starting a chain of events that result in financial hardship, inability to care for their health, and displacement of families. Join us this month in preparing, serving, and praying for those impacted by severe weather!

SCAN HERE:



For access to links and PDFs for the items listed below!

#### See

##### » LEARN

How impoverished communities are more prone to disaster and long-term effects by exploring this interactive [Social Index map](#) from CCUSA.

##### » EXPERIENCE

Disaster preparation at the individual, parish, and community levels by requesting a Catholic Disaster Preparedness Program (CDPP) presentation for your parish, call us at 573-635-7719 to schedule!

##### » ENCOUNTER

Stories of others by subscribing to the Encounters at Catholic Charities podcast, or this Lent's Mercy Moments podcast.

#### Judge

##### » REFLECT

"For He rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help." Psalm 72: 12-14

##### » RELATE

How does your lifestyle provide you with physical safety? Security and comfort? How would your sense of safety and security change if a weather event took your home from you? How do you prepare your home, yourself, and your family for emergencies?

##### » UNDERSTAND

Discuss with your family, classroom, or parish: In the face of poverty disparities and increasingly threatening weather events due to climate change — what are we called to do?

#### Act

##### » PRAY

Pray the [Prayer for Disaster Relief](#) from Catholic Charities USA with your family, classroom, or parish.

##### » SERVE

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See ENCOUNTER, page 21

# Distinguished graduates honored during Catholic Schools Week

By Jay Nies

Each year during Catholic Schools Week, Catholic schools throughout the country, in cooperation with the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), honor graduates that exemplify the schools' values and ideals.

Here are some of this year's honorees from the Jefferson City diocese:

## Freeburg

Holy Family School honored **Dale Struempf**.

Mr. Struempf gives of his time and talent in many ways, currently as a member of Holy Family School's Building Expansion Committee and the Holy Family Parish Pastoral Council.

He also serves as a member of the board of the Capital City Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), an organization that looks after the interests of a child in very difficult situations, and is a supporter and contributor to the United Way and The Special Learning Center.

## Jefferson City

•Immaculate Conception School honored **Toni (Struempf) Miller**, a member of the Class of 1994.

Mrs. Miller is a familiar and busy sight at the school, "volunteering for many school activities, including being a room parent, serving in the lunch room, helping with the Scrip Program, and assisting with athletic activities," said Principal Heather Schrimpf.

She has also served as president of the Home & School Association and on the Immaculate Conception School Advisory Board.

"She is quick to offer a helping hand with the various fundraisers and school activities that happen during the year," said Mrs. Schrimpf.

"Toni, thank you for your faithful witness and your continued support of Catholic education at Immaculate Conception School!" Mrs. Schrimpf stated.

•St. Joseph Cathedral School honored **Steve Meystrik**, a member of the Class of 1985.

He graduated from He-

lias Catholic High School, studied educational and counseling psychology at the University of Missouri and completed a master's degree in business education from William Woods University in Fulton.

He worked for a short time for the Department of Education in Cape Girardeau before beginning a 27-year tenure in human resources with the Missouri Department of Transportation, the last three years as H.R. director.

After retiring from the state, he took up a second career as coordinator of stewardship for Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish.

"In fact," stated Principal Gina Bailey, "Steve has lived the Stewardship way of life from a young age."

His family lived close by while he was growing up, so if altar servers didn't show up for Mass or if servers were needed at the last minute for a wedding or funeral, he and his brother were just a call away.

Mr. Meystrik is a lifelong member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, receiving all of his sacraments there and then marrying his wife Theresa 23 years ago in the Cathedral.

Three of their four daughters graduated from the Cathedral School, with their young-



**LEFT:** Toni (Struempf) Miller, this year's honoree from Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, poses with Principal Heather Schrimpf. **RIGHT:** Paul Meyer, along with his wife, Frances, who died last June, were honored with this year's award from St. Peter School in Jefferson City.



est now in junior high.

Mr. Meystrik is a member of the Knights of Columbus Bishop McAuliffe Council 12992.

He attends numerous parish events, always holding doors, greeting parishioners and working behind the scenes to make sure the events go off without a hitch.

"Although Steve will say this is part of his job, many events around here would not be successful without him," Mrs. Bailey stated.

•St. Peter School honored **Paul and Frances Meyer**.

Mrs. Meyer passed away in July.

Mr. Meyer is a 1951 graduate of St. Peter High School,

forerunner to Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City.

He and Mrs. Meyer lived a life deeply rooted in Catholic values, community service and family devotion.

After Mr. Meyer's military service in the Korean War, he completed his studies and pur-

sued a career in accounting.

The couple, married for 66 years, raised five children and consistently emphasized the importance of a Catholic education for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer were both actively involved in various school and church activities.

They volunteered together, supporting school endeavors and exemplifying a shared dedication to their faith.

Their involvement extended to the Parent-Teacher Association, Helias Booster Club, and Knights of Columbus, where Mr. Miller held a Fourth-Degree membership.

Throughout Mrs. Meyer's battle with Alzheimer's disease, Mr. Meyer remained a devoted caregiver and continued to attend Mass virtually, pray the

See GRADUATES, page 12



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## GRADUATES

From page 11

Rosary daily, and serve as a poll worker for the Cole County election board.

"The Meyers' life story reflects a legacy of faith, community engagement, and familial love," stated Principal Gayle Trachsel, Ed.S. "Their enduring commitment to each other and their shared values have left an indelible mark on the St. Peter School community."

### Linn

St. George School honored **Alfred Brandt**, a member of the Class of 1981.

"Alfred exemplifies how service to his community and his Church are intertwined parts of who he is," said Principal Lisa Grellner.

Mr. Brandt and his wife, Sonya, have a son who is a student at St. George.

Mr. Brandt is a proud member of a large family that is deeply rooted in the Catholic faith.

Mrs. Grellner described his life journey as a "tapestry woven with threads of unwavering dedication, leadership and a deep-seated love for all things dairy."

"From his graduation from Linn High School in 1985, his education at Lincoln University, and throughout his career, Alfred has never strayed from his passion, building a legacy for himself and inspiring others along the way," said Mrs. Grellner.

He serves as chairman of the State Milk Board and National Cattlemen's Beef Board, and leader of the Missouri Dairy and the Missouri Holstein Association.

He has been honored as the Dairy Farmers of America Member of Distinction and as the National Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer.

"He isn't just a farmer; he's a pillar of the dairy industry," Mrs. Grellner noted.

Mr. Brandt has also served on the Osage County R-2 School Board, the Linn Lions Club, and the Osage County Fair Board.

"He's a true believer in building bridges and empowering his community to thrive," Mrs. Grellner stated.

An active and faith-filled

member of St. George Parish, he has served as chairman of the parish Fall Festival and as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

"He speaks of a sense of self-worth, nurtured by the caring St. George Parish community and the timeless teachings of the Church," said Mrs. Grellner. "His story reminds us that success comes not just from hard work, but also from compassion, service and faith."

### Mexico

St. Brendan Parish in Mexico honored **Aaron Sells**, a member of the Class of 1997.

His father, aunts, uncles and cousins attended St. Brendan School, as do his own children and many nieces and nephews.

He often shares memories and lessons he learned during his time in school, such as the desire to stand out as a "good apple" and role model.

While at St. Brendan, Mr. Sells developed a love for athletics, playing basketball and running cross country for the school, as well as Little League baseball.

He continued playing sports in high school and enjoyed tutoring children at Eugene Field Elementary School.

He played baseball for two years as a student athlete at John Wood Community College before transferring to the University of Missouri, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

Wanting to stay in the Mexico area, Mr. Sells began working at POET Bioprocessing in Laddonia, where he has remained for over 17 years, currently as the plant's planner/scheduler.

He and his wife, Tami Sells, have been married for 13 years and have two children attending St. Brendan School.

"Having children here has afforded them the opportunity to give back to the school in many ways," said Principal Kathryn Coulson. "As a family, they are highly involved with the school and church community and are always willing to jump in where needed,



**LEFT:** Alfred Brandt is this year's Distinguished Graduate honoree from St. George School in Linn. He is seen here with his wife, Sonya, and their son, Sam. **RIGHT:** Jenny Stephan is the 2024 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient for St. Joseph School in Westphalia



from volunteering at dinner auctions to moving furniture and cleaning bathroom stalls."

Mr. Sells has coached St. Brendan School basketball for two years and Optimist baseball for several years — "positions he uses to help youth realize their God-given talents and achieve confidence in their abilities," said Mrs. Coulson.

In addition, he volunteers as an usher at Sunday Mass and is an active member of Knights of Columbus Council 3760.

"You'll often find him cooking fish or chicken for fundraising events," Mrs. Coulson noted.

"His demonstration of a life of stewardship in being a

grateful and giving disciple continues to be a model for students today," she said.

### Rich Fountain

Sacred Heart School honored **Henry Frank**.

Mr. Frank served in the U.S. Army and in the Missouri National Guard, and is an honorary lifetime member of Knights of Columbus Council 10690 in Rich Fountain.

He has shared his time and talent with the parish in many ways by singing in the choir and using his skill as a woodworker to build items for the parish and school, as well as fix things.

"He comes to daily Mass throughout the week and al-

ways has a smile ready for the faculty and students," said Principal Debbie Reinkemeyer. "He is a wonderful role model of the stewardship way of life."

### Westphalia

St. Joseph School honored **Jenny Stephan**, a member of the Class of 1993.

Since graduating, she "has continually given back to her elementary school in various positions and activities," said Principal Patricia Kirk.

She and her husband, Cory, have three children, including two St. Joseph School students and one graduate of the school.

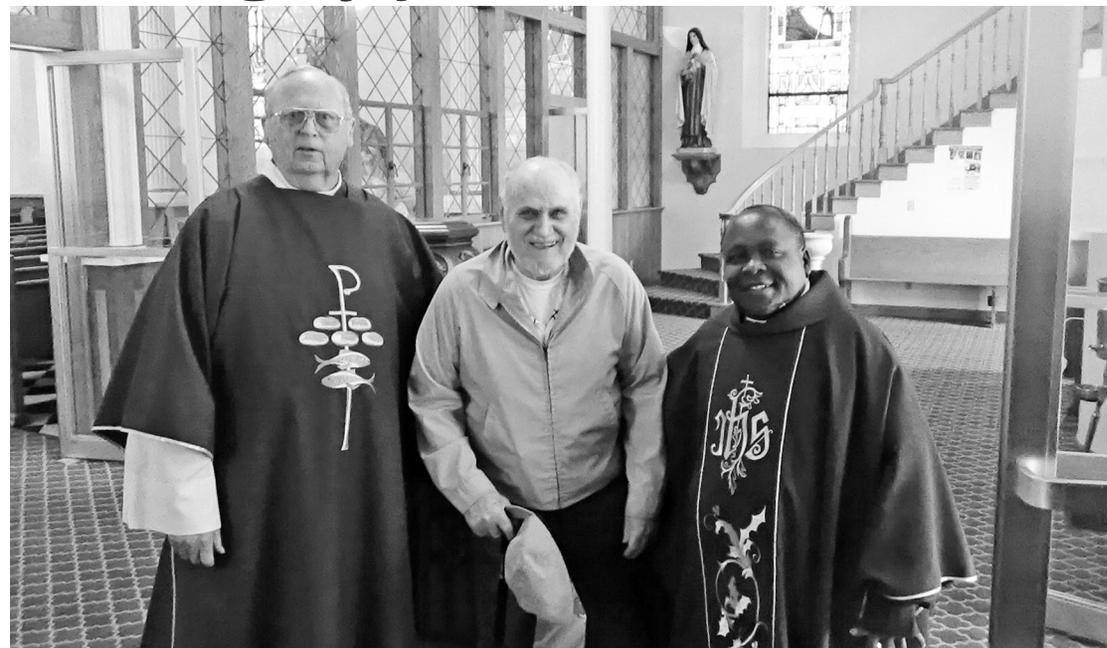
Besides the full-time work of running her own daycare of 15 years, Mrs. Stephens devotes many hours to St. Joseph School as the athletic director, a position she has held for the past five years.

She has also chaired the St. Joseph Parish summer picnics for the past seven years.

She has served on the Home & School Association and helps drive students to such events as field trips and Bellarmine speech meets.

"Jenny continues to live out her Catholic faith by showing all of us what Stewardship means," Miss Kirk stated.

## Honoring a joyful servant



The people of St. Joseph Parish in Edina recognized Tom Hirner during Mass on Sunday, Feb. 25, for his many years of service as a sacristan and bell-ringer for the parish. For years, Mr. Hirner prepared the altar for the weekday Masses in the parish chapel and was always there on weekends to ring the bells in the steeple of the church to call the parishioners to worship. With him in this photo are Deacon Ken Berry and Father Boniface Kasiita Nzabonimpa, pastor.

— Photo by Nancy Peterson

## Faith on campus: Through his ministry to college students at Mizzou, Fr. Auer hopes to create young disciples who are on fire for their faith

By Jennifer Brinker

Father Andrew Auer met up with a handful of students at Shakespeare's Pizza near the University of Missouri-Columbia campus.

Over a couple of extra-large pizzas and salad, the group unwound after a long day of classes, sharing stories and catching up with one another as they anticipated a break the following week for Thanksgiving.

Several months into his assignment, Fr. Auer had eased into his new role as a full-time associate pastor at St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

It's the first time in several decades that a priest from the St. Louis archdiocese has been assigned to serve at the Newman Center at Mizzou.

After he was ordained in 2019, Fr. Auer found himself connecting with college students while he was an associate pastor at St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Ellisville, a St. Louis suburb.

He and the parish's youth minister made several trips to Mizzou to meet with Catholic students. That expanded to a series of college nights during summer and winter breaks, which continue and are open to any college student.

While priests from the archdiocese have long ministered at Newman Centers on campuses in St. Louis, Fr. Auer researched and found that there are close to 10,000 students (including undergraduate and graduate) from St. Louis at Mizzou each year, far surpassing the number of St. Louis students attending universities within the archdiocese.

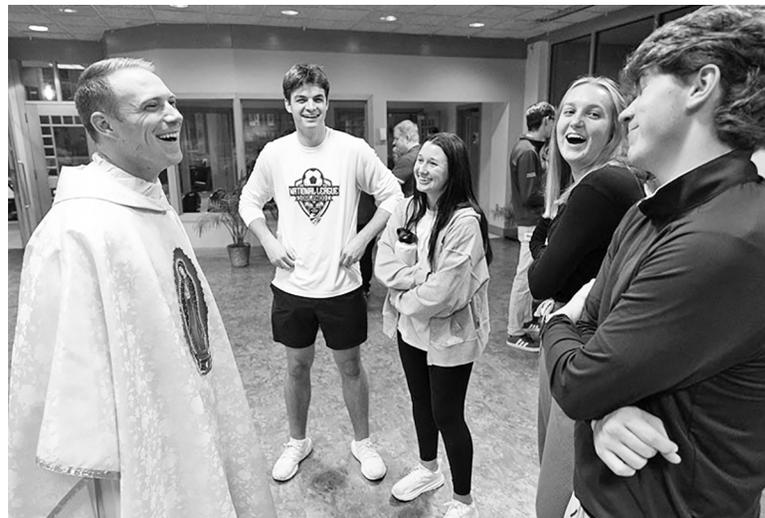
Those individuals, regardless of faith, are part of the archdiocese's flock, he stressed.

Fr. Auer said that it's important to be where St. Louis students are, adding that many young Catholics leave the Church in college, even before they make their way back into parish life.

"In the archdiocese, I was



**LEFT:** Father Andrew Auer's ministry at the University of Missouri frequently leads him to socialize with students. Fr. Auer shared a meal at Shakespeare's Pizza in Columbia with University of Missouri students, from right, Olivia Evers, a parishioner at Assumption in south St. Louis County; Julia Boessen, a parishioner at Sacred Heart in Troy; and Abby Obert, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception in Dardenne Prairie. **RIGHT:** Father Auer met with alumni of St. Dominic High School in O'Fallon, from left, Chase Freesmeier, Macie Drummond, Faith Henke and Kelly Welby at the St. Thomas More Newman Center on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia. Kelly is a freshman at Columbia College, while the others are freshmen at Mizzou.



— Catholic St. Louis photo by Jacob Wiegand

seeing that we aren't actually following kids all the way through their young formation," he said. "They're involved in Catholic grade schools, extremely involved in Catholic high schools, and then we would send our college students off to be formed elsewhere and just hope they returned formed and ready to go in our parishes.

"We need to stop the bleeding before we can treat a different disease," he said. "I am big on diagnosing the problem before we can address the solution."

### Permission to dream

When Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis announced the All Things New pastoral planning initiative, he encouraged Catholics to dream big about the future of the Church in St. Louis.

Fr. Auer took that message to heart.

All Things New drove him to closely examine what he was doing through his unofficial ministry to college students — and why.

"It was a hard thing for me to see so many young adults fall away from the faith" during the college years, he said, adding that he watched as friends from his Catholic grade and high schools — including classmates who went on to Mizzou — left the Church.

During a visit to Columbia in 2021, he asked Father Paul Clark, a priest of the Jefferson City diocese whom Fr. Auer had befriended in the seminary, what he thought about having a priest from St. Louis assigned to the Newman Center.

"He was juggling like six jobs and was very overwhelmed," Fr. Auer recalled. "He told me that it would help a lot," adding that Fr. Clark at that time was spending much of his time with St. Louis students when he was assigned at the Newman Center.

"That gave me permission to dream about it more," Fr. Auer said.

### Developing a sense of community

Katie Williams visited with friends one morning in November as she waited for the weekday noon Mass to begin at the Newman Center.

The junior psychology major from St. Gerard Majella Parish in the St. Louis suburb of Kirkwood regularly attended Sunday Mass and was involved in some youth group activities.

But when she arrived at Mizzou, she didn't have a specific plan to stay involved in her faith.

While on campus, Katie reconnected with Clare Campbell, a friend she had

met during their youth group days. She joined a Bible study that Clare led at their sorority, Pi Beta Phi, and they became friends.

"Clare would invite me every week, and I began to see her more as a friend than a spiritual leader," she said. "She helped me to trust her more with my faith and talk to her more about that."

Clare also told her about the college nights that Fr. Auer was organizing back in St. Louis during the breaks and invited her to attend.

Katie now leads a Bible study at Pi Beta Phi. She said Fr. Auer "has a heart for college students but also has a huge desire for people to know Christ and to be a disciple and live that every day."

Community is essential for students building a faith identity beyond high school. But Katie said she's observed Fr. Auer also meeting students where they are on campus regardless of their involvement at Newman.

"I have seen him while I am going to class and on campus, meeting up with students," she said.

The Newman Center's community and ministries are important, but "we also need outreach to the people who don't find a home at Newman and to meet them exactly where they're at, and that's what he does."

### Prime time

College is a prime time where students have more availability and a willingness to be molded in the faith, which they're encouraged to carry on into adulthood.

"The big word is 'opportunity,'" Fr. Auer said. "The students are so desirous to learn. They're in a new environment away from Mom and Dad. I find them to be extremely teachable, formable. Every day I wake up and see how much opportunity there is, and that gives me lots of fire."

Studies have shown that a college students' decisions and habits formed during the first weeks on campus can define the rest of their college experience.

Students are detaching from their parents, figuring out meals on their own and adjusting to the rigors of their studies.

"They don't necessarily have firm foundations, so what do they have to hold on to?" he asked. "That makes you really (susceptible) to really good things or really bad things."

At the Newman Center, Fr. Auer works closely with pastor Father Daniel Merz, a priest of the Jefferson City diocese, and a staff of more than 20 and several Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionaries.

See FR. AUER, page 21

# Local bishops offer prayers for victims, including 11 children, after Super Bowl victory parade shooting

By Laretta Brown  
OSV News

Local bishops offered prayers for victims after a shooting left one person dead and more than 20 people injured at the conclusion of the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory parade in front of Union Station on Ash Wednesday.

Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, told KMBC News that they were treating 12 patients, 11 children and nine with gunshot wounds.

"Please join me in praying for all those affected by the senseless act of violence at the Kansas City Chiefs parade," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight requested over social media outlets Feb. 15, the day after the shooting.

"Let's offer our prayers for the victims of today's shooting after the parade and rally and their loved ones," Bishop James V. Johnston of Kansas City-St. Joseph, wrote in a message shared on Facebook. "On this first day of Lent, we turn to God for mercy and healing for our broken world."

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, called for unity in prayer following the shooting in a statement Wednesday evening.

"As we continue to process the details of the tragic shooting that concluded what had been a unifying celebration for our city, let us now remain united in prayer for healing, both physically and mentally, for the victims, their families, and all who are understandably shaken by the heart-

breaking event near Union Station," he wrote.

"We express gratitude for the swift actions of first responders and emergency personnel," the archbishop continued. "May God guide the minds and hands of the medical professionals providing aid to the wounded. We humbly seek the Lord's grace for the healing of all those who were impacted by this tragic event and we pray for peace and unity to envelop the Kansas City community during this difficult time."

The Kansas City Fire De-



Medical personnel attend to an injured fan after gun shots were fired in Kansas City, Missouri, after the celebration of the Kansas City Chiefs winning Super Bowl LVIII. The shooting at the end of the parade left one dead and at least 15 injured, while sending terrified fans running for cover.

— OSV News photo/David Rainey-USA Today Sports via Reuters

partment said there were three victims in critical condition and five in serious condition following the incident. Kansas City Police Chief Stacey Graves said two suspects had been taken into custody.

"We are holding in prayer all those impacted by the shooting ... near Union Station," the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph wrote in a Facebook message. "We also

pray in gratitude for the first responders caring for the victims and returning safety to the area."

The Chiefs players and their families were reportedly safe, and many took to social media that afternoon to express their prayers for the victims and their families as well as gratitude for the first responders.

Chiefs quarterback and Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes posted on X that he was "pray-

ing for Kansas City."

Drue Tranquill, a linebacker for the Chiefs, also posted asking, "please join me in prayer for all the victims in this heinous act. Pray that the doctors & first responders would have steady hands & that all would experience full healing."

Laretta Brown is Culture Editor for OSV News.

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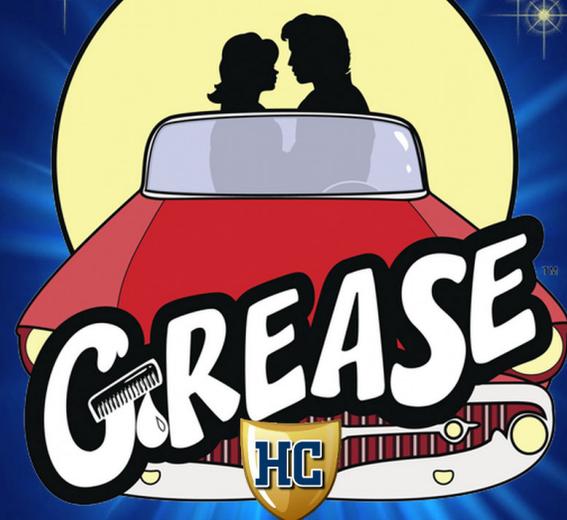
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# Pope proposes Lenten resolution: Keep your eyes on Jesus

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

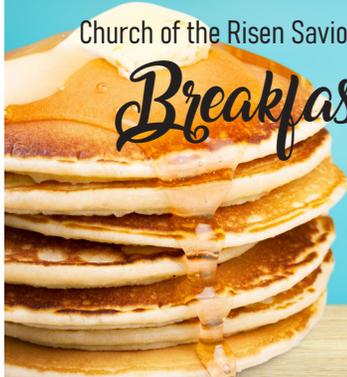
This Lent, Christians should become “seekers of light” by keeping their sights set on the light of Jesus through prayer and participating in the sacraments, Pope Francis said.

“This is a good Lenten resolution: cultivating a welcoming outlook, becoming ‘seekers of light,’ seekers of the light of Jesus, both in prayer and in people,” he told visitors in St. Peter’s Square before praying the

Angelus with them Feb. 25.

Reflecting on the day’s Gospel reading from St. Mark, Pope Francis said that Jesus’ transfiguration — when he radiated before his disciples in a dazzling white light — “reveals to them the meaning of what they had experienced together up to that moment.”

He said, “The preaching of the kingdom, the forgiveness of sins, the healings and the performed signs were, indeed, sparks of a greater light, namely, of the light of Jesus, of the light that Jesus is.”



Church of the Risen Savior Parish

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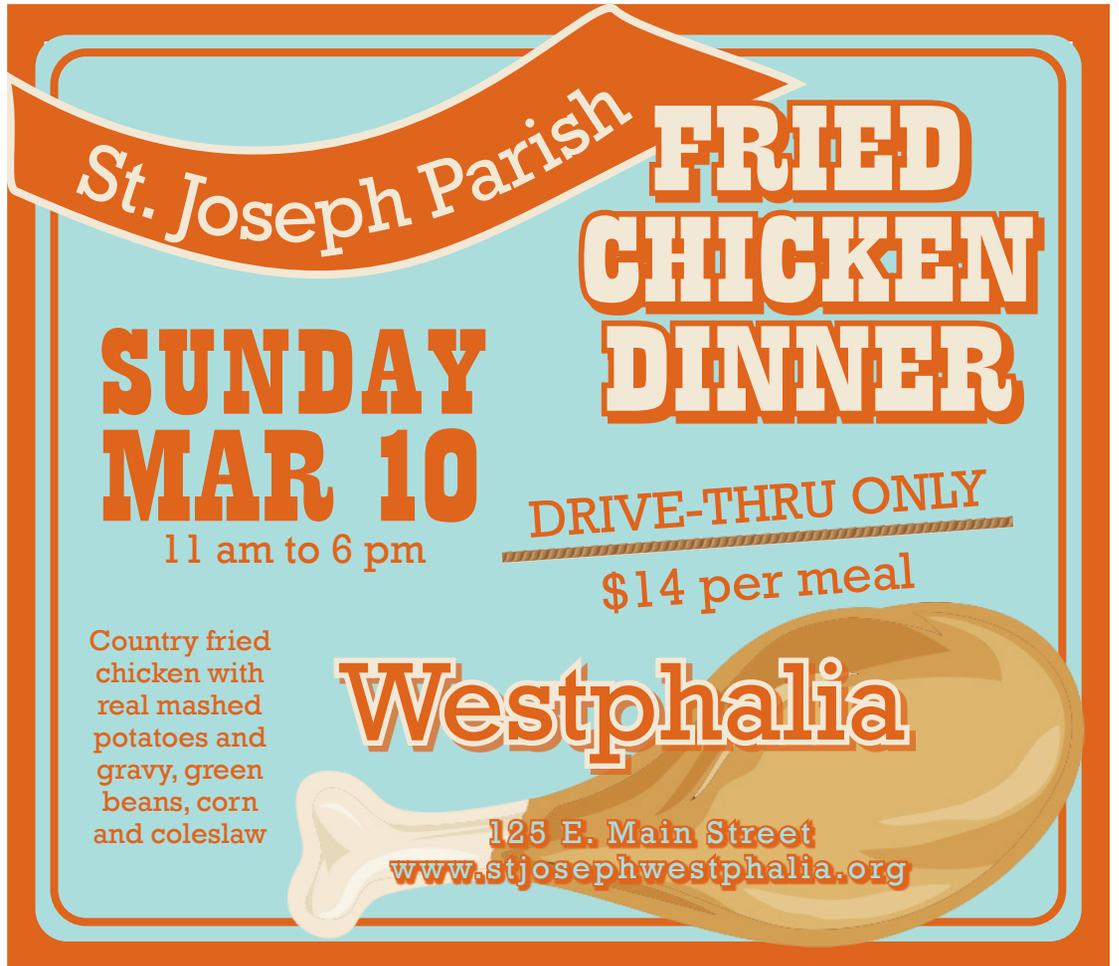
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## Rest in Peace, J.C. native Sister Rose Miriam Wegman SSND

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt SSND

Jefferson City native Sister Rose Miriam Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, 92, died peacefully in the early hours of Jan. 31, at Anna House, The Sarah Community, in Bridgeton.

The eighth and youngest child of Leo and Rose Ann (Westerman) Wegman, Rosemary was born March 15, 1931, in Jefferson City.

She grew up in a happy home with an older sister and two older brothers.

Rosemary attended elementary and the first two years of secondary school at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, staffed by Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

For her junior year, she enrolled at the former St. Peter High School in Jefferson City where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND).

Following graduation, she entered the SSND candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, on Sept. 1, 1948.

As a second-year candidate, she taught second grade at Ss. Peter and Paul School in St. Louis, during the second semester.

She was received into the novitiate Aug. 1, 1950, and was given the name Rose Miriam.

She pronounced first vows Aug. 2, 1951, and final vows Aug. 2, 1957.

Sister Rose Miriam earned a bachelor's degree in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis in 1955; a master's degree in English from Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1962; and a master's degree in secondary education administration from Saint Louis University in St. Louis in 1969.

After profession, Sr. Rose Miriam spent 10 years as a classroom teacher at Our Lady of Sorrows School in St. Louis; Redemptorist High School in New Orleans, Louisiana; and Duchesne High School in St. Charles, Missouri.

She then became principal at Duchesne High School for three years.

In 1964, Sr. Rose Miriam began her ministry as an associate superintendent in the St. Louis Archdiocesan School Office.

In this position, she ministered as a consultant for secondary schools and for language arts in the elementary and secondary schools of the archdiocese.

In 1971, Sr. Rose Miriam was elected to the SSND's former St. Louis Provincial Council.

During her time as councilor, she also served as the provincial treasurer.

She was one of the founding members of the SSND Interprovincial Finance Committee and oversaw the entrance of the St. Louis SSND into the Social Security program.

After two terms as provincial councilor, she was invited to the Generalate in Rome to minister as the general treasurer for the international congregation.

She was willing to do it provided she received academic training.

During the following year, she studied at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, taking

courses in accounting, Italian and German.

In September 1980, she left for Rome.

She was the assistant treasurer for two years and then assumed the duties of general treasurer for the next eight years.

During this time, she was privileged to be present for the beatification of Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, SSND foundress, in November 1985.

She was graced to proclaim the first reading in St. Mary Major Basilica for the first Mass offered in Blessed Theresa's honor the following day.

During her flight home to the United States in December 1990, she received word that her brother Leroy had died. This was a great sorrow for her. To aid in her reentry, she made a 30-day retreat at Grand Coteau, Louisiana.

In her discernment for ministry, she accepted the position of finance/development staff member at St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville,



Sr. Rose Miriam Wegman SSND  
(1931-2024)

Illinois.

After five years, she accepted the position of manager at the Cardinal Ritter Institute's DuBourg House, a residential care facility in St. Louis.

This position was followed by working in the finance office at Notre Dame High School and later, as secretary for Notre Dame Preschool,

both on the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus, St. Louis.

Sister Rose Miriam transitioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, in 2011.

She was transferred to Anna House in 2019.

She died peacefully in the early hours of Jan. 31, 2024, at Anna House.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community in Bridgeton on Feb. 6.

Funeral services were held at Theresa Center the following morning.

Visitation, reading of the biography and sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Resurrection with Franciscan Father Ralph Parthie presiding.

Family members, including her niece, Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND of Jefferson City; classmates, friends, former students, School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates were in attendance.

Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa Cemetery, St. Louis.

## As war enters third year, Ukrainians helped by Church number in the millions

OSV News

Krakow, Poland

As Russia's war against Ukraine enters its third year, several Church institutions recapped their aid effort over two years of conflict, showing millions of people have been saved thanks to the Catholic Church.

Caritas Poland has helped a million Ukrainian refugees in Poland and those displaced in Ukraine.

In 2023 alone, the agency's aid was worth \$37 million.

Another 1.6 million have been helped by the Knights of Columbus, with \$22.3 million raised for Ukraine since 2022.

CNEWA, or Catholic Near East Welfare Association, rushed \$5.8 million in emergency funds over the past year to church-led relief efforts in Ukraine and in neighboring countries receiving those fleeing the missiles.

The Vatican sent 240 trucks with supplies to Ukraine over the past two years, with \$2.2 million of its charity funds dedicated to Ukraine just in 2022.

Father Leszek Kryza of the Polish bishops' Office for Helping the Church in the

East said it is hard to calculate what percentage of help for Ukrainians comes from the Catholic Church.

Data could be gathered "from Caritas, Knights of Columbus, the Vatican and other 'big actors,'" he said, but incalculable is the aid provided by "the orders, fe-

male and male congregations, individual priests, volunteers spread across Ukraine.

It's just one big church on the front lines." The Church's work continues despite political debates over military aid for Ukraine, several Catholic charity workers said.

## The courage of Christian martyrs is a blessing for everyone, pope says

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Christians who never renounce their love for Christ and are faithful to the point of death are a blessing for everyone, Pope Francis said.

"There will always be martyrs among us. This is a sign that we're on the right path," the pope said in a video message for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, formerly known as the Apostleship of Prayer, released Feb. 27.

The pope's prayer intention for the month of March is dedicated to modern martyrs as

witnesses to Christ.

"The courage of the martyrs, the witness of the martyrs, is a blessing for everyone," he said in his video message, noting that it is estimated there are more martyrs today than during the time of the early Church.

"Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive. And to be open to the grace of martyrdom," he said.

## TEACHER

From page 6

hate for all Serbian people for the horrible atrocities some had committed during the war.

"She wound up getting paired with a visiting girl from Serbia, and they went places together and became friends, and from what I've heard, they're still in touch," said Mr. Frank.

"Right there, you could see the wheels changing direction — that nothing positive comes out of that kind of blind hatred," he said.

### "Head fake"

Originally planning to return to central Missouri to teach, Mr. Frank followed a lead to a challenging career at IDEA Frontier College Prep.

"Eleven years later, I haven't missed a day yet," he said.

One of his techniques is to draw a large illustration of each day's lesson on the whiteboard in his classroom.

"I use those to put a whole chapter on a map," he said. "It's sort of a shortcut to the notes."

"There are a lot of moving parts in history and the humanities — a lot of gears and a lot of content," he said. "If you're not careful, the kids just might shut down."

Many of his students come from less-than-ideal home situations.

"My classroom can be a safe haven from all of that," he said.

He has adorned the space with an impressive amalgamation of historical artifacts and pop-culture memorabilia.

"We have I-don't-know-how-many bobbleheads, a fireplace, a jukebox, framed posters," he said. "I've got an authentic World War I gas mask, a World War II helmet and a World War I helmet hanging up."

There are also a couple of Captain America shields, a Luke Skywalker X-wing helmet, an old grandfather phone, a camera from the 1800s, and an antique curio cabinet containing a vintage World War II radio.

"I try to be larger than life in the classroom," he stated.

"You have to tell the story and get the kids' attention."

"It's a head fake," he said. "You think you're learning about history, but you're really learning about yourself and what you're capable of, and what you can get through."

"Hopefully, this class can be an inspiration," he said. "As if to say, 'If you can do this, what can't you do? You're capable of more than you think!'"

All of this requires a delicate balance of inspiring students to want to learn, and dragging them through it when they don't want to.

"Even when I have to pull them in the wagon, I want to at least inspire them along the way," he said.

Aware that students can easily become overwhelmed while trying to process too much information at once, Mr. Frank encourages them to break it down into smaller pieces.

"I say, 'We don't have to be perfect, but we do have to be getting better,'" he said.



Scott Frank

Most of his students are Catholic or at least nominally Catholic.

Although he can't speak openly about his own faith unless the students ask, he's aware of God's presence throughout most of his work day.

"You couldn't do this without having God as part of it," he said. "I understand that there's a reason I've been given these gifts. And if I keep them to myself, then I'm extinguish-



Sen. Morgan LaMantia presents to Jefferson City native Scott Frank the 2023 James F. Veninga Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award, from a statewide organization called Humanities Texas.

ing the flame."

### "Still here"

To unwind, Mr. Frank enjoys traveling, going to the beach, running, working out and spending time with his wife, Paloma.

He said she helps keep him grounded.

"She's the one who tells me, 'Take it easy. It's going to be okay,'" he said.

A biology teacher at IDEA Frontier was Mrs. Frank's best friend and set the couple up on their first date.

They got married four and a half years ago in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico.

Late last year, Mr. Frank, like many other teachers in the post-pandemic world, was going through a very difficult time at school and seriously considering whether to give up teaching.

He was becoming convinced that despite his talent and best efforts, he wasn't good enough to close the necessary gaps anymore.

"My parents kept telling me, 'Work through the struggles, they are there for a purpose,'" he recalled.

He happened to receive the letter saying he had won the humanities award while enduring one of his darkest days of teaching — "and that includes when I was teaching the survivors of genocide!" he said.

He sat by the mailbox and cried for about 10 minutes.

"I had been praying, 'God, why is it now becoming more complicated and so hard? What are you trying to teach me?'" he recalled.

"And I think this is the lesson: 'Through all the adversity, (God is) still here,'" said Mr. Frank.

### "The same guy"

The local Texas state senator came to IDEA Frontier to present the award in mid-January.

The weather was unseasonably cold, and students had permission and a legitimate reason to stay home from school that day.

Most of Mr. Frank's students came, anyway.

"Several kids told me, 'I knew you were getting this award, and I know you give us everything you have, so I wasn't going to miss it,'" he said.

A week later, a student asked Mr. Frank if receiving the award had changed him.

Mr. Frank told him: "No, I'm the same guy, I'm still doing what I'm doing for the same reasons."

Namely, inspiring his students and helping them become the best version of themselves.

"That's what it's about," he said.

### "Be that light"

Mr. Frank said his students and their families feel to him like part of his own family.

He often takes them to God

in prayer.

"When things get hectic, I might pray to myself, 'God, please help me do this in the right way, the way you see it,'" he said.

In times of frustration, he may stop and ask God, "What are you trying to tell me with this?"

Mindful that many educators have been thinking about leaving the profession, especially since the pandemic, Mr. Frank offered some advice to his colleagues.

"Take time to reflect about it," he suggested. "Talk to God about it."

He noted that although teaching can often seem overwhelming and thankless, the necessary affirmations usually come during the times of greatest difficulty.

"There's always going to be a tunnel, but always a light, too," he said. "If your heart and your passion are in the right place, keep doing what you're doing."

"Keep going if you can," he suggested. "And even if you feel that you can't, you probably still can if you try."

He's inordinately grateful to all the teachers at Immaculate Conception and Helias Catholic who helped him in those early years — "who saw something in me and did something about it."

He pointed out that if he hadn't had teachers who saw potential in him and did whatever they could to draw it out of him, he wouldn't be teaching today.

"You don't know God's trajectory for your students," he said. "So, you need to be that light for them."

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Diocese of  
Jefferson City

## RITE OF ELECTION

From page 1

candidates as they answered the bishop's questions and received his blessing.

Ms. Parker was delighted to be there, but a jolt of anxiety that morning almost kept her from attending.

"I just felt nervous," she said. "I felt a little scared, a little sick to my stomach."

She took that as a sign "that I need to go more than ever."

"The fact that something's telling me not to go, my negative thoughts — it was like 'I need to go, I have to push myself to go, this is right, this is where I need to be,'" she said.

"And here I am."

She did not belong to a faith community while growing up, but a Catholic friend often had her stay over on Saturday nights, and she would go to Mass with her friend's family.

"I didn't really decide that I wanted to become Catholic

until college," Ms. Parker recalled. "It just never worked out."

The end of her marriage rekindled her longing for connection.

"And my friend who I used to go to church with brought me to Mass with her again," said Ms. Parker. "It was the first time in months that I had felt peace."

She recognized that peace as a gift and a sign from God.

She talked to her friend and her friend's mother and to Father Joshua Duncan, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Fayette and St. Mary Parish in Glasgow, as well as several Fayette parishioners — "and I just felt like it was time," she said.

Since then, she's been learning to trust in God and to know that he will make all things right in unimaginable



David and Shannon Jennings and their two children, all of whom are preparing to receive Easter Sacraments in Holy Family Church in Hannibal, pause for a photo in Cana Hall after the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Jay Nies

ways.

"God is so amazing!" she said.

### Seizing the moment

Bishop McKnight noted that for many, this milestone has been a long time coming.

"Perhaps there are members of your family or among your circle of friends who have been thinking about and praying for this moment," he told the candidates and catechumens.

"So, to all of them, we owe a debt of gratitude for helping YOU be one of US today!" he said.

David and Shannon Jen-

nings and their two children are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil this year in Holy Family Church in Hannibal.

"I believe it's God's calling for us," Mrs. Jennings stated. "It's been quite a journey."

She said she and her husband had tried living their lives "every which way except the right way."

Mr. Jennings said he grew up "in a spiritually bankrupt situation."

"So, as I got older and I had a family, I felt more and more drawn to something that's bigger than me — to run God's race!" he said.

Father Matthew Flatley, former pastor of Holy Family Parish and St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra, hired Mrs. Jennings to work at the Hannibal rectory.

She stayed on when Fr.

Flatley was transferred and Father Alexander Gabriel became pastor.

He began gently encouraging her to become Catholic, get active in the parish and show their children how to do the same.

"One thing that we were missing" she recalled, "was having faith in each other, with God always right there with us."

With a little convincing, the wife and husband were fully on board.

"The more I got talking with my family, it was like: this is our time. It's time to come," said Mrs. Jennings.

She described the initiation process as "a beautiful thing that we get to experience together — and knowing that God and everybody around here does love us, and that's what it's about."

Mr. Jennings looks back and rejoices in the victories God is winning in and through him and his family.

"There's just been this outpouring of love and this extra attention from the Holy Spirit!" he said. "That's something I want my kids to learn by experience. It's not something that you can learn by just opening a book."

"I feel like I belong here!" he added.

### Planting a legacy

Samantha O'Brien and her three children are excited about the Sacraments that await them at Easter.

Samantha's husband, Nick,

See RITE, page 19



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# RITE

From page 18

is her sponsor.

“I just feels like now’s the right time,” said Mrs. O’Brien.

The couple met and got married while both were serving in the U.S. Navy.

They had both returned to civilian life before moving from Idaho to Missouri with their children two years ago.

Mr. O’Brien was raised Catholic but had become lax in practicing his faith.

“I never stopped praying and communing with God,” he noted, “and I would receive the consolation and encouragement that I needed to calm my fears in that moment.”

Mrs. O’Brien did not belong to a faith community while growing up but got baptized as an adult by a Navy chaplain in an interdenominational chapel.

Mr. O’Brien returned to practicing his faith about a year ago.

He wanted his children, like him, to be able to turn to God and know God’s love and care for them.

“We noticed that as our kids were getting older, we started having worries about fighting and getting down and depressed on themselves,” he said.

“So we tried our best to make some changes in their lives and do some things to try to help them,” he stated. “And nothing did.”

The couple talked about getting back to church and introducing their children to the faith.

“Giving them something to look forward to and also being able to pray and be a part of something bigger — I think all of that has made a difference in how they treat themselves and others,” said Mr. O’Brien.

He invited his wife and children to go to Mass with him.

Mrs. O’Brien remembers how bright and beautiful the church was.

She remembers thinking: “This is so open and so nice. It feels like I want to be here. I can see myself coming here and doing more.”

Together, Mr. and Mrs. O’Brien and their children now attend the Monday night



**TOP:** Bishop W. Shawn McKnight gathers for a group photo with Elect (who were previously catechumens) from all over the diocese who are preparing to be baptized and receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion at Easter, after the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on Feb. 18 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. **BOTTOM:** Bishop McKnight gathers with candidates, who have been baptized but are seeking full communion with the Roman Catholic Church at Easter.

— Photos by Jay Nies

gatherings of candidates and catechumens at St. Pius X Parish in Moberly.

“I really appreciate and enjoy the community,” said Mrs.

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

O’Brien. “And being around likeminded people is really nice.

“Especially being new to Missouri and not knowing many people yet, it’s really great to go in and have people introduce themselves to you and talk about the rites. It’s wonderful!” she said.

“If you have questions, you can ask them,” she stated. “You’re not treated like you should already know this stuff. And it’s a huge opportunity to make the decisions that you feel are right for you.”

**Led by example**  
This year’s Rite of Election

was the first to be held in the Cathedral of St. Joseph since its substantial renovation and expansion in 2022-23.

“It was lovely to host everyone back in the Cathedral,” said Father Stephen Jones, pastor of the Cathedral Parish.

“It’s a visible reminder that the cathedral church is everybody’s church in the diocese,” he stated. “When people travel here from their individual parishes and come together in the Cathedral, it points to our unity and our common identity.”

The candidates and catechumens have been preparing for months — some for even longer — for Sacraments of Initiation through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

The RCIA is a restoration of the catechumenate, the

communal process through which people were prepared to become Christian in the early Church.

During the Rite of Election, Bishop McKnight accepted the catechumens’ names into the Book of the Elect and urged the catechumens and candidates to spend the rest of Lent pursuing repentance and deeper conversion with the support of the Church.

The Book of the Elect is now on display through Lent

in the Baptistry of the Cathedral.

“God is always faithful to those he calls,” the bishop told the catechumens. “Now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to Him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your election opens up before you.”

In his homily, the bishop likened these final weeks of

See INITIATE, page 23



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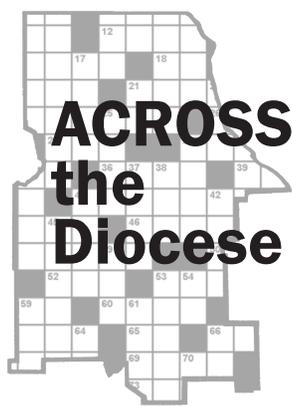
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By Father Donald Antweiler

### ACROSS

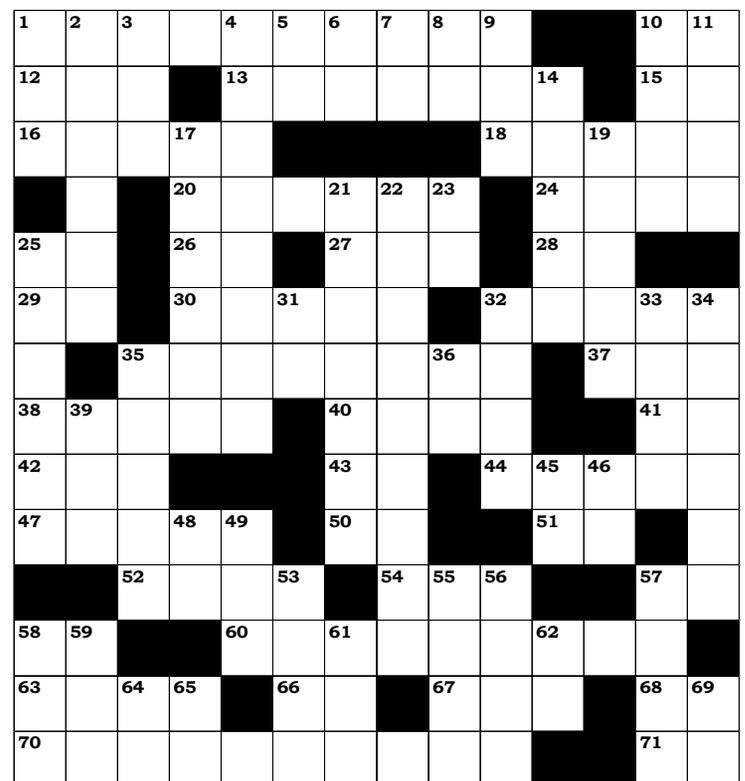
1. In Israel, in both the Old and New \_\_\_\_\_, everything useful in everyday life was considered holy, including food.
10. Letters for Public School.
12. 19th of 26.
13. Food, \_\_\_\_\_ and meals played a prominent role in the religious practices of Israel.
15. Pope St. John Paul \_\_\_\_\_ played a big role in the fall of the Communist gov'ts in eastern Europe.
16. Upper room?
18. Law and \_\_\_\_\_ is a police/legal TV series that aired for 20 seasons and has recently been revived; it has had several spin-offs.
20. Roughly half of Jesus's \_\_\_\_\_ prayers in the four gospels contain prayers of thanksgiving for food (e.g., Luke 22:17, Mark 14:23, John 6:11).
24. "(Pharaoh) saw seven \_\_\_\_\_ of grain, fat and healthy, growing on a single stalk," (Genesis 41:5).
25. Santa \_\_\_\_\_; capital of New Mexico; also town in our diocese between Mexico and Monroe City.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ Block; tax services company.
27. \_\_\_\_\_ *missa est*; last words of a Latin Mass.
28. Hospital dept. for those in immediate need.
29. Possible letters at a train crossing.
30. \_\_\_\_\_ bin Laden; deceased terrorist; mastermind behind the infamous NYC twin towers destruction.
32. "You aren't wealthy \_\_\_\_\_ you have something money can't buy," —Garth Brooks.
35. Name of a runaway slave who became a Christian. Paul exhorts the master (Philemon) to not just forgive him, but to receive him back as a brother (see the 18th book of the NT).
37. \_\_\_\_\_ Lanka; island off the

- coast of India.
38. "It makes a difference whose ox is \_\_\_\_\_," —Martin Luther.
40. "Then the high priest \_\_\_\_\_ his robes..." (Matthew 26:65).
41. Letters for the after-regulation period in which two teams play to break a tie.
42. Shape of a rainbow.
43. Letters for European Union, the political and economic union of 27-member states with a population of 448 million.
44. "What an extraordinary thing. Dismas (the good thief) is the only \_\_\_\_\_ canonized by Christ Himself," —1992 talk to the Judicial Prayer Breakfast on Being Different; Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.
47. "...let our people \_\_\_\_\_ to devote themselves to good works to supply urgent needs..." (Titus 3:14).
50. Letters for the prophet who was thrown into the lion's den. 34th book of the Bible.
51. Six points in football.
52. "The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ enthroned above the flood!" (Psalms 29:10).
54. Letters for Turner Broadcasting System based in Atlanta; this cable TV station with 71 million subscribers is owned by Warner Bros.
57. Wide shoe.
58. Land of Lincoln State (abbr.).
60. Prepared foods needed to be made from scratch, including hauling in the water from wells, maintaining the embers and temperature in the little \_\_\_\_\_ ovens, etc.
63. Brand of soda.
66. \_\_\_\_\_-GYN.
67. A very long time.
68. Movie alien.
70. Food in the time of Jesus was much more scarce and far less \_\_\_\_\_ than today.
71. "In 1978, when the Roman Catholic Church chose the first Slavic pope ever, and a persecuted Pole, \_\_\_\_\_ less, the Soviet leadership was livid. They wanted the man dead," —*A Pope and a President*, Paul Kengor

### DOWN

1. The Boston \_\_\_\_\_ party in 1773 was the first major act of defiance to British rule by the American colonists.
2. OT heroine; 19th book of the Bible.

3. Fast flying passenger jet.
4. The Law required one to say a prayer of thanks after eating. A meal without a prayer was considered \_\_\_\_\_.
5. This Midwest State boasts an impressive 568 lakes scattered throughout its diverse terrain (abbr.).
6. Letters for Executive Order.
7. Letters for the pariah country of North Korea.
8. 7th note.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ cone; flavored shaved-ice treat in the summertime.
10. "A \_\_\_\_\_ is a disappointed bridge; yet stare at it for long enough and you can dream it to the other side of the channel," —Julian Barnes.
11. "Ye will forgive me, reverend \_\_\_\_\_, but I have no message save for the King's ear alone," —*Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*, Mark Twain.
14. Red means STOP. \_\_\_\_\_ means GO. Yellow means... GO FASTER!
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ in your pocket has over 100,000 times the processing power of the computer that put man on the moon.
19. My buddies and I go to the pub once a month to engage in a game of \_\_\_\_\_.
21. The availability of food in Jesus's time was much more \_\_\_\_\_ and dependent on the seasons and on the success of the harvests.
22. "Every single second is a moment in time that passes. It seems like nothing — but when you look back. Well, \_\_\_\_\_ to everything," —science fiction writer Ray Bradbury (2 wds.).
23. In archeology, letters for Common Era.
25. The Israelites in Jesus's time were \_\_\_\_\_ eaters, not so much by choice but imposed on them by their times and circumstances.
31. "There was a belief among certain officials that the assassination (of Lincoln) was a Catholic plot and that the Ewing family chose Thomas Ewing to protect Dr. Samuel Mudd \_\_\_\_\_ a fellow Church member," —General Thomas Ewing in *General, You Made the Mistake of Your Life*, Walter E. Busch.
32. "We know that the law is



- good, provided that one \_\_\_\_\_ it as law..." (1 Timothy 1:8).
33. "Close before the Civil War, the U.S. Capitol...required a higher dome and in 1862 "a new cast-\_\_\_\_\_ dome, modeled on St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, rose over the Washington skyline," —*Ways and Means, Lincoln and the Financing of the Civil War*, Roger Lowenstein.
34. "The President looked so sad and worried that somehow I wanted to comfort him but knew not how. Crying a \_\_\_\_\_, I slipped out into the darkening twilight," —*Tad Lincoln's Father*, a memoir, Julia Taft Bayne.
35. Killer whales.
36. Abraham's ancestral city.
39. Mine product.
45. "It was only right that I speak to my Mother in heaven, I who had been deprived \_\_\_\_\_ such an early age of my earthly Mother," —*Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*.
46. You might need one to buy alcohol.
48. This State's capital is Providence (abbr.).
49. Ultimate degree.
53. "Better three hours too \_\_\_\_\_ than a minute too late," —"The Merry Wives of Windsor," Wm. Shakespeare.
55. After his voting record this past year, he is considered a political has-\_\_\_\_\_.
56. "Captain Harry Truman in a few days summarily \_\_\_\_\_ and hung seven men," in Chariton County (Mo.) — men unarmed and not engaged in treasonable acts. "Since that time 13 Union men have been murdered in retaliation," —John Nicolay in *Lincoln's Men: The President and His Private Secretaries*, Daniel M. Epstein.
57. "(Zion's) deserts he shall make like \_\_\_\_\_, her wasteland like the garden of the Lord..." (Isaiah 51:3).
58. In England, it's LTD. In the U.S., it's \_\_\_\_\_.
59. There have been 13 Popes who have taken this name meaning lion.
61. "\_\_\_\_\_ *caritas, et amor, deus ibi est*"; "Where there is charity and love, there is God."
62. "Early \_\_\_\_\_, Abraham Lincoln revealed an attribute essential to success — the motivation and willpower to develop every talent he possessed to the fullest," —*Leadership In Turbulent Times*, Doris Kearns Goodwin.
64. Letters for Head Nurse.
65. The no. 4, in Latin documents from the Vatican.
69. "To avoid the biggest mistakes in life, you should write your obituary and figure out how to live up \_\_\_\_\_ it," —Warren Buffet, the "Oracle of Omaha," considered the best investor of the 20th century.

See ANSWERS, page 23

## PETITION

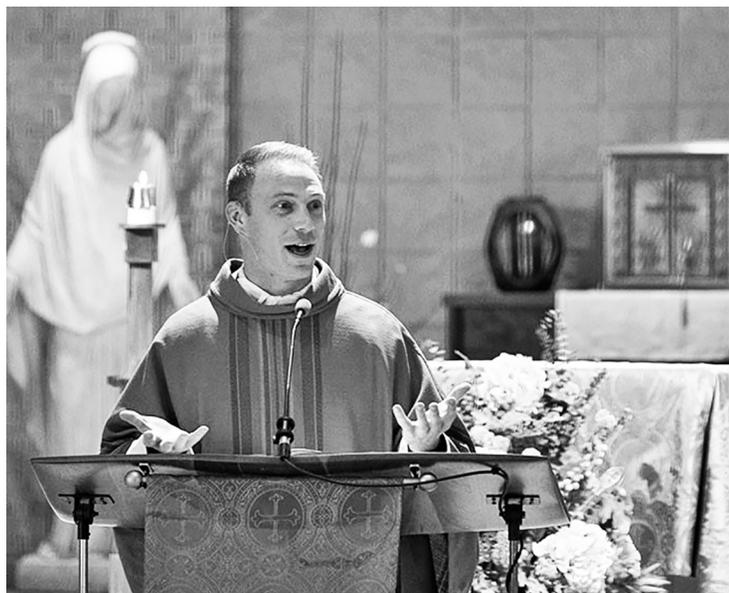
From page 1

“We encourage all Catholics and people of good will to not sign any petition that would put this amendment on the ballot,” the bishops stated.

They called the proposed amendment misleading and

wrong in its assertion that a “right to an abortion” is needed to protect women.

“The amendment,” the bishops stated, “could actually put women at risk and endanger preborn children.”



Father Auer celebrates Mass at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia. — Catholic St. Louis photo by Jacob Wiegand

## FR. AUER

From page 13

Newman also operates as a parish, drawing in about 850 families from Columbia and surrounding areas while also ministering to students, faculty and staff at Mizzou, Columbia College and Stephens College.

### Making the faith their own

Amid a busy fall semester, Abby Obert found herself rising before 7 a.m. to attend a three-day “crash course” on prayer led by Fr. Auer.

The sophomore occupational therapy major from Immaculate Conception Parish in Dardenne Prairie didn’t know anyone at Newman when she arrived but has since made connections with others on her own and through Fr. Auer.

“Faith in college is a lot different — it took a lot of maturing in different ways,” she said. “It’s not ‘having’ to go to things and actually having to choose it.

“It was also not knowing anyone at the Newman Center, and that was a really big step for me — putting myself out there and trying to make friends and find my place there,” she said.

Beyond helping students connect with one another, Fr. Auer sees his role as guiding them to make the faith their own as they enter adulthood.

“If you form kids in college, when they get back to their parishes or whatever communities they’re living in ... they should have everything they need: a robust and established prayer life, a love for the sacraments, community in Christ, knowledge of the truth and a readiness to share the Gospel,” Fr. Auer said.

“I hope that coming out of college they have what they need to practice a saintly and virtuous life. It’s absolutely possible — we just have to start dreaming about it and relying on the Lord,” he stated.

*Mrs. Brinker is a staff writer for the St. Louis Review and Catholic St. Louis, publications of the St. Louis archdiocese.*

*A version of this article was published in the February/March 2024 edition of Catholic St. Louis. This version is published here with photos by St. Louis Review staff photographer Jacob Wiegand with permission.*

The bishops reiterated the Church’s long-standing support for society’s most vulnerable people, especially women and children, “through accompaniment, social services, and material assistance.”

The bishops pledged that the Catholic Church in Missouri will continue to provide spiritual and material support to pregnant women and their families, through the work of parishes and Church-spon-

sored ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their preborn children.

Further, the bishops stated, the Church remains committed to help women who are suffering from the pain of an abortion, by offering true healing and hope through its Post-Abortive Healing Ministries.

“We ask all to help us in these efforts to safeguard the right to life,” the bishops wrote.

They said they look forward

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

“Let us pray for a greater recognition of the gift of each and every human life in our society,” the bishops stated.

The text of the statement can be found on the MCC website at:

[mccatholic.org/news-and-events/latest-news](https://mccatholic.org/news-and-events/latest-news)

## ENCOUNTER

From page 10

need to monitor the space if it is used by outside groups?

### Prepare for spiritual care in times of disaster

The value of making the sacraments available to the faithful during and after a disaster can never be overstated. In the wake of loss, many people (religious or non) seek support from clergy or religious counselors. Providing spiritual care can be a beacon of light amidst recovery, and your parish may be able to become that Center of Charity and Mercy if you prepare well.

### Establish communication strategies

Consider how communication with parishioners will happen during a disaster. How will you notify volunteers that ministries have been activated or disseminate information about parish, FEMA or other disaster assistance? Remember that mobile phones and computers can

be unreliable during disasters. Planning in advance will help ensure that all the members of your parish know how to contact each other.

### Explore options for parish disaster funding

You may want to speak with your priest, finance council or the diocese about disaster funding. As a parish establishes funding for disaster events, they should be familiar with what assistance might be available through local agencies/community action organizations and state and federal programs for disaster assistance.

### Plan for disaster

Once you have organized volunteers, identified community partners, appointed facility space to be used in times of disaster, you can start crafting a plan for what your parish will do when a disaster occurs. It is important that everyone understands their roles, knows

the channels of communication and the scope of services the parish will provide in times of disaster. A parish plan may include details such as how Church documents or valuable relics should be protected in a specific disaster event. Parish involvement in disaster preparedness planning may help to encourage parishioners and community members take steps toward disaster preparedness. Tips to start can be found at [ready.gov/plan](https://ready.gov/plan).

*March is Missouri Severe Weather Preparedness Month — and this week is Severe Weather Preparedness Week. At Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, disaster preparation, response, and recovery case management services are available to all 38 counties we serve. To learn more about how we can help you and your parish prepare, visit [ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/programs/disaster-services](https://ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/programs/disaster-services) or call us at 573-635-7719.*

Catholic Charities  
of Central and Northern Missouri

## Parish Engagement and Charity Events

EVENTS BEGIN AT 9:00 AM AND END AT 12:00 PM

1 **MARCH 9**  
St. Anthony Catholic Church  
Camdenton, MO

2 **JUNE 15**  
St. Mary’s Catholic Church  
Shelbina, MO

3 **JULY 20**  
St. Brendan Catholic Church  
Mexico, MO

4 **AUGUST 10**  
St. Patrick Catholic Church  
Rolla, MO

5 **NOVEMBER 9**  
Catholic Charities  
Central Offices  
Jefferson City, MO

### Join us for PEACE Events in 2024

Join us for a session of faith formation, fellowship, presentations on Charity and Mercy Grants, and the opportunity to connect or reconnect with Catholic Charities.

### Learn more and RSVP



You can learn about our PEACE events, get access to resources, and RSVP for next year’s meetings by scanning this QR code!

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

## Fundraisers & Social Events

Mar. 1

**Chamois**, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm; **Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Eldon**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 5-7 pm, Sacred Heart Catholic Center; **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; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C Council/Boy Scout Troop 104 Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall; **Laurie**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **St. James**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish hall; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Home & School Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, school gym; **Salisbury**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Shelbina**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 5:30-6:30 pm; **Wardville**, Wardville/Osage Bend K of C Lenten Fish Fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, St. Stanislaus gym; **Warsaw**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-7 pm

Mar. 3

**Fayette**, St. Joseph Parish pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon; **Frankenstein**, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish CYO breakfast, 7:30-11:30 am; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Parish Holy Name pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon

Mar. 8

**California**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-6:30 pm, Annunciation Parish basement; **Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Eldon**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 5-7 pm, Sacred Heart Catholic Center; **Fayette**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish hall; **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; **Laurie**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Loose Creek**, K of C drive-thru only Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Immaculate Conception School; **Russellville**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. Anthony**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 5-8 pm, St. An-

thony Parish hall; **St. James**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish hall; **Sedalia**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-7:30 pm; **Taos**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-7 pm

Mar. 10

**Belle**, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **St. Thomas**, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish ham & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30 am; **Starkenburg**, Church of the Risen Savior Parish breakfast, 7-11 am, Valentine Hall; **Westphalia**, St. Joseph Parish drive-thru only Chicken Dinner, 11 am-6 pm

Mar. 15

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

Mar. 15, 16 & 17

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

Mar. 16

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

## Meetings & Presentations

Mar. 3

**Jefferson City**, Double feature presentation with Jason Evert, "Purified" chastity presentation 3-4:30 pm and "Gender & Theology of Your Body" presentation 6:30-7:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for tick-

ets visit [chastity.com/purified](http://chastity.com/purified), for info call 573-635-7991 or email [julie.g@cathedraljlc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljlc.org)

Mar. 5

**Belleville, IL**, "Exploring the Big Questions of the Cosmos," 4-week study with Vatican astronomer, Br. Guy Consomagnon, S.J., 10 am-noon, Kings House Retreat Center, for info or to register visit <https://kh.snows.org>

Mar. 6

**Rolla**, Presentation by National Eucharistic Revival preacher Fr. Samuel Hakeem, 6-7:30 pm, St. Patrick Church

Mar. 7

**Columbia**, Mary's Way of the Cross - Stations - Grouping Ultreya for Cursillo, 7-8:30 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's Flanagan Hall, for info call 573-999-5066 or email [dollmck@gmail.com](mailto:dollmck@gmail.com); **Rolla**, "Catholicism and the Big Bang Theory," presentation by National Eucharistic Revival preacher Fr. Samuel Hakeem, 1 pm, Missouri S&T Computer Science Building, room 102

Mar. 9

**Camdenton**, Catholic Charities Parish Engagement and Charity Event, 9 am-noon, St. Anthony Parish, for info or to register visit [cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/peace); **Moberly**, VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults training, 10 am-noon, St. Pius X Parish, for info call 573-635-9127 or email [flaverty@diojeffcity.org](mailto:flaverty@diojeffcity.org)

Mar. 16

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

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

marzo 16

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

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Mondays during Lent

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

Tuesdays during Lent

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

Every Tuesday

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

Every Friday

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

Mar. 3

**Jefferson City**, Lenten Vespers and Recital Series featuring Tom Halpin, organ, 5-6 pm, Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter

Mar. 3-6

**Hannibal**, Holy Family Eucharistic Parish Mission, 6-8 each evening, with confessions, adoration and presentation by Fr. Jewel Aytona, CPM

Mar. 9

**Jefferson City/VIRTUAL**, COCEMO 2024 United in Prayer Day, 9 am-1 pm, in-person at Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center or via Zoom, for info or to register, visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) and search "COCEMO" in Jefferson City

Mar. 10

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

Mar. 14

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

Mar. 16

**Columbia/Jefferson City/VIRTUAL**, "Living Flame 1" 7-session program on in-depth spiritual study and enrichment of centering prayer, 9 am-2 pm; participants may join via Zoom or in-person at Broadway Christian Church in Co-

lumbia or Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City; to register visit [cocemo.org](http://cocemo.org); **Monroe City**, "Discovering the Women of the Bible," Holy Rosary Parish Women's Ministry event, 8-10 am, K of C Hall

## Liturgical

Mar. 12

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

Mar. 20

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

Mar. 26

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

## 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](http://icangels.com/youngadults)

Third Sundays each month

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

Mar. 2

**Macon**, Fully Alive 2.0, afternoon of praise & worship, talks, Mass and more, 1:30-5:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish, to RSVP visit [diojeffcity.org/ncyc](http://diojeffcity.org/ncyc)

Mar. 10

**Eldon**, Confirmation Retreat, 10 am-2:30 pm, Sacred Heart Parish

## Health & Wellness

Mar. 21

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

Find us online  
@  
cathmo.com

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

### Anniversaries

**Brookfield, Immaculate Conception**  
 Fred & Michelle Lewis, 25 years

### Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Clara Rosemary Schanzmeyer**, daughter of Preston & Megan Schanzmeyer

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Mackenzie Lyn Riley**, daughter of Jared & Johnna Riley

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Caroline Rose** and **Kimber Bell Verhoff**, daughters of Brent & Summer Verhoff

### Marriages

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Alex Kever & Nicole Heckman**

### Birthdays

Vandalia, Sacred Heart — **Don Nichols**, his 90th on Mar. 7

### Deaths

Marshall, St. Peter — **Elizabeth Boedeker; Justin Browning; Mary Ellen Brzuchalski-Morgan; Rosemary Kennedy; Joe Lent; Gary Littrell**

Slater, St. Joseph — **Ruth Murdock**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Julie Buschjost**

## INITIATE

From page 19

preparation to the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert before embarking on His public ministry.

“This period of purification and enlightenment prepares your soul by clearing from it all the enticements and attachments to sin, so that you can open yourselves up completely to the will of God and the gift of His Holy Spirit,” he stated.

The bishop said the entire local Church welcomes the candidates and catechumens and rejoices with them along their journey.

“Most if not all of you want to become Catholic because of a Catholic you have encountered in your family, at work, or in your community,” the bishop noted.

“You saw something good in them, you saw something beautiful that you wanted for yourself,” he said. “And this is what we celebrate as the Local Church: that you have encountered God in this world because of a Catholic’s good example.”

The bishop said he’s confident that the witness of faith won’t end there.

“We celebrate that you, too, will become another light of Christ in a world so desperately in need of Jesus’s love,” he stated. “And we look forward to you experiencing the joy of receiving Holy Communion for the first time at this Easter Vigil.”

#### Praying together

Mrs. Jennings asked for prayers “for us to continue to open our eyes and ears

to the good things that are waiting for us as long as we keep our hearts open to them.”

Mrs. Jennings also asked for prayers for her children — “that they can see the good that Mom and Dad are doing, fight the good fight always, and always know that the Lord is right here next to them.”

Ms. Parker asked for prayers for an increase in understanding, courage and strength “for me and my children.”

She’s proud that her two sons get to see their Mom “be strong and independent and do what needs to be done.”

The older one, who’s 7, is already talking about wanting to become Catholic like his Mom.

She’s hopeful that the witness she’s giving by pursuing initiation into the Church and getting active in her parish will help inspire friends who have fallen away to return to their Catholic faith.

“One friend in particular who was raised Catholic and actually left the Church — I think by watching me go through what I’m going through and building my relationship with God, she’s felt a calling to get closer and build her relationship again,” said Ms. Parker.

**“Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your own Beloved Son, in atonement for our sins and the sins of all the world.”**

## CAPECCHI

From page 9

is Picasso’s “The Old Guitarist,” where the outline of a woman’s head appears at a 90-degree angle from the guitarist’s neck.

Conservators used X-ray images to further decipher what lay beneath, extracting more of the woman’s body and another face at her neck.

To me, pentimento is hopeful: the original marks of childhood endure, the stories and songs and sanctifying graces.

When we worry about the record number of “nones,” those Americans who claim no religious affiliation, I like

to preface the stats. We do not see what may be slowly unfolding. We do not know what painting is hidden beneath the painting. It is the very passage of time that allows for pentimento — the gradual erosion of oil paint, sometimes over centuries, like a person’s tough exterior or recent departure from faith.

Their story is not over. And though it may be buried very deep, long ago, something sacred remains.

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

## CROWE

From page 9

(*Inter Mirifica*, No. 14). If we don’t do it, who else will?

I was blessed recently to attend a talk given by Deacon Larry Oney of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, founder and president of Hope and Purpose Ministries, who called for a reinvestment of resources in evangelization and truth-telling through media.

“If we’re going to do Catholic media the right way, let’s do it in an excellent way,” he said. “The Church has to be reoriented (as to) where we are going to spend our money. Some of it needs to be spent in the new frontier, and part of that frontier for evangelization is definitely media — written media, digital media, all of it. We can’t abdicate that. It’s too important, because the battle is being fought there principally.”

And he is so right. Catholic media is too important to abandon, despite the many challenges associated with it. For it is through Catholic media that we communicate Christ.

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

## QUESTION

From page 8

tends to be a fairly radical departure from what we believe as Catholics.

Similarly, there are other Catholic schismatic groups — with “schism” defined as a refusal to submit to the authority of the Holy Father, as noted in canon 751 of the Code of Canon Law — which nevertheless have a valid Eucharist due to apostolic succession, despite their ordinations and celebrations of the Eucharist being generally illicit. One contemporary example of this would be the Society of St. Pius X.

But the Eastern Orthodox churches are not to be confused with the many Eastern Catholic churches. Eastern Catholics have different laws and a different liturgical tradition than Latin (aka “Roman”) Catholics,

but Eastern Catholics remain in full communion with the Holy Father.

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

### Crossword puzzle answers

O	N		L	N	E	I	N	E	V	A	N	O		
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# Letting the good times roll



Students of the Little Saints preschool at St. Mary School in Glasgow enjoy a day of Mardi Gras fun on Feb. 13, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

— Photos from the St. Mary School Facebook page

# So long for just a while



Sister Ann Marie Carey of the School Sisters of Notre Dame help students of Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain “bury the Alleluia” for Lent on Ash Wednesday. The ritual symbolizes that the Alleluia will not be sung or proclaimed again at Mass until Easter.

— Photo from the Sacred Heart School Facebook page

# Giving thanks to God for Catholic schools



Students take part in the traditional children’s Mass on Jan. 28 to kick off Catholic Schools week at St. Joseph School in Salisbury.

— Photos from the St. Joseph School-Salisbury Facebook page

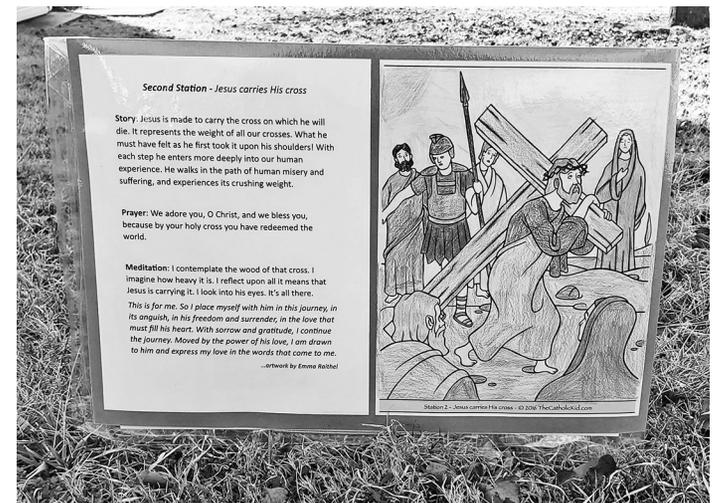
# Three cheers!

Pre-K students at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City had fun celebrating Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 28-Feb. 3) and showing their unabashed love for Jesus.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Cathedral School Facebook page



# “We adore you, O Christ”



As a special project for Lent, the sixth- through eighth-grade art class at Visitation Inter-Parish School in Vienna made outdoor, walking Stations of the Cross. They will be displayed on the Visitation Parish grounds until March 10 and will then be moved to the Holy Guardian Angels Parish grounds in Brinktown.

— Photo from the Visitation Inter-Parish School

## Bible Accent

Why was Israel divided into two kingdoms?

In 1 Kings 11, we read that King Solomon, David's son, had many pagan wives who turned his heart away from God.

This made God angry. Since Solomon did not keep God's covenant and statutes, God told him that the kingdom of Israel would be torn away from him and given to his servant.

But, God said, for the sake of David, who followed God with his whole heart, this would not happen to Solomon but rather to his successor.

And, for David's sake and that of Jerusalem, God said he would not tear away the entire kingdom from Solomon's heir. The kings of David's line would keep one tribe of Israel, while the other 10 would be given to Solomon's servant.

Also in 1 Kings 11, we read that the prophet Ahijah told a man named Jeroboam — a servant of Solomon's — that he would be given 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel and become their king.

When Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam, became king. Rehoboam was harsh and didn't listen to the people, so they rebelled against him.

Then God's words through Ahijah came true. Ten of the tribes of Israel rejected Rehoboam and made Jeroboam their king. Rehoboam continued to rule his own tribe, Judah, plus the tribe of Benjamin.

## St. Margaret Clitherow



St. Margaret Clitherow was born in England in 1556. She married a Protestant man whose brother became a Catholic priest. At the time, the Protestant faith was England's official religion, and it was illegal to practice Catholicism. Even so, Margaret also became a Catholic. She set up Mass centers in her home and at a local inn. She was arrested several times for not attending Protestant services. When it was

learned that she was secretly practicing Catholicism, she was sentenced to death for treason. She was martyred for her faith in 1586, and we remember her on March 25.

## The people of Judah turn away from God

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic Courier

After the death of King Solomon of Israel, the kingdom was divided in two. The southern kingdom of Israel, which included the city of Jerusalem, became known as Judah.

Over the many years that followed, there were some good kings of Judah who kept God's covenant and statutes, but there were even more kings who were evil and rejected God. If the king of Judah followed God, so did the people. And if the king of Judah rejected God, the people did as well.

One of the kings of Judah was a young man named Zedekiah, who reigned for 11 years. He did what was evil in the sight of God, and he did not humble himself before God's prophet Jeremiah.

The king became very stubborn and hardened his heart against God rather than return to him.

All the princes of Judah, the priests and the people turned away from God as well. They began to practice all the abominations of the neighboring pagan nations, and they defiled the Temple that had been consecrated in Jerusalem.

God was compassionate toward his people and wanted them to return to him. God would send his messengers to talk to the people and urge them to turn from their evil ways.

But the people of Judah mocked God's messengers, scoffed at his prophets and de-



Illustration by Linda Rivers

spised his words.

Finally, God had enough and became angry.

He allowed the pagan Chaldeans to attack Judah. The king of the Chaldeans led his army into Jerusalem, where young men were killed. The Chaldeans did not have compassion for anyone, not even women, the elderly or the infirm.

The invaders looted all of the treasures in the Temple. They tore down the walls of Jerusalem, burned down the Temple and the palaces, and destroyed precious objects.

The people who survived

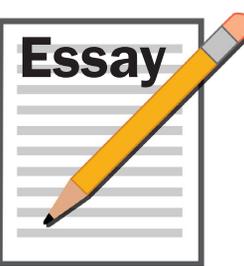
the attack were brought as captives to Babylon, where they became servants to the king and his sons until the Persian kingdom came to power.

All this was to fulfill the word of God spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost Sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while 70 years are fulfilled."

Read more about it...  
**2 Chronicles 36**

1. What was the name of Israel's southern kingdom?
2. Who attacked the southern kingdom?

### Essay



Reading for  
March 10, 2024:  
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Have you ever  
encouraged people to  
follow God?



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## Puzzle

Unscramble the letters in each word and arrange them to form a statement from the children's story.

shi    scomapateniso    odg    drawot    olpeep    saw

Sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers: his, compassionate, God, toward, people, was; God was compassionate toward his people.

## New Jersey priest's devotion to saint helps bring her life to the big screen

By Joe Jordan  
OSV News

Hoboken, N.J.

For the last decade, Monsignor Paul Bochicchio of St. Francis Church in Hoboken has been advising as a spiritual consultant on the upcoming film "Cabrini," produced by Angel Studios about the life and ministry of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, set to debut in theaters March 8.

The highly anticipated movie, from the studio that produced "The Chosen" and "Sound of Freedom," gives a dramatic look into the life of Mother Cabrini, as she is best known, and the uphill battle she faced ministering to the immigrant poor of New York.

For Msgr. Bochicchio, a priest of 52 years, the film is the latest fruit of a lifelong devotion to the first American saint who has impacted his family for generations.

His account begins with a story passed down within his family. His great-grandmother knew Mother Cabrini personally, as they were both commu-



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, patron of immigrants, is depicted in a stained-glass window at the saint's shrine chapel in New York City. — OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

nity leaders among New York Italian immigrants at the turn of the 20th century.

He recalls how, when Mother Cabrini, herself an immigrant from Italy, was just beginning her ministry and working to open a school in the city for Italians, his great-grandmother helped her develop religious education classes and sewing classes for young immigrant women.

So, when Msgr. Bochicchio thinks of Mother Cabrini, he

thinks of his great-grandmother, and he also thinks of his grandmother, who had an enormous influence on his vocation to the Priesthood.

"I always had a great devotion to (Mother Cabrini), because a very special church for me is Our Lady of Pompeii in Greenwich Village" in New York, he told *Jersey Catholic*, the online news outlet of the Archdiocese of Newark.

"It was my grandmother's parish, and she had a tremendous effect on my spirituality," he said. "After she died, I would go there. That was my way of

keeping in touch with her. And they always had a shrine in the back of Mother Cabrini, because Mother Cabrini actually worked there."

This personal connection to a saint and what she stood for has since had an influence on his Priesthood.

After the death of his grandmother, Msgr. Bochicchio began reading more about Mother Cabrini. He found that he had a calling to work with Italian immigrants due to his background and that he had the perfect model in the patron saint of immigrants.

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## Movie Ratings

 Adults and Adolescents	Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity (not rated)
 Adults	American Fiction (R) Argylle (PG-13) Bob Marley: One Love (PG-13) I.S.S. (R) Madame Web (PG-13) Origin (PG-13)
 Morally Offensive	The Beekeeper (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

As one of many technical advisers on the set of "Cabrini" but also as a Catholic priest, Msgr. Bochicchio accompanied the cast and crew on work retreats, where they would work on the film and he would celebrate Mass every day and give spiritual reflections on the saint.

As a script adviser, he would receive every revision and be asked to comment on its accuracy.

He recalls one such retreat up to Buffalo where he was supposed to celebrate Mass with the cast and crew, but a scheduling conflict meant that

most of the big-name actors couldn't attend.

Instead, some Italian American men from the Buffalo area who were on set as extras heard that there was Mass and soon the tiny hotel room was filled with Italians — some of whom might well have been descendants of those Mother Cabrini once helped.

"It was the highlight of the trip," he said.

On that same trip, Msgr. Bochicchio was invited to play a role in the movie as a mem-

See CABRINI, page 27

## "Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity"

By John Mulderig  
OSV News

New York

Every year, in the run-up

to her Dec. 12 feast day, more than 10 million pilgrims flock to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The uplifting documentary "Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity" (Goya) provides viewers with an insight into the background of this remarkable phenomenon.

As filmmaker Pablo Moreno's narrative recounts, the 1531 Marian apparitions that continue to be celebrated and commemorated almost half a millennium after they took place, came at a difficult time for the Indigenous people of Spanish colonial America.

For many of visionary Juan Diego's fellow Chichimeca, it was a period of psychological disorientation and even despair.

The conquistadors may have accomplished something positive by banning the human

sacrifices that had previously been frequent in the region. But the failure of their gods to respond to — and avenge — this affront left those who had once worshiped them feeling religiously bereft.

Evangelization efforts on the part of the European newcomers, meanwhile, had largely stalled.

Thus when the Blessed Mother appeared to the pious neophyte and conversed with him in his native language, the miraculous event was not only to have lasting spiritual consequences but cultural ones as well.

The Virgin's appearance and apparel, moreover, both served to reinforce her identification with Juan Diego and his countrymen.

See GUADALUPE, page 27

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K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

## GUADALUPE

From page 26

These visual details were given permanent form when, in a sign to the local bishop that Juan Diego's account of his interactions with her was true, Mary caused her image to be imprinted on Juan Diego's Aztec-style cloak or tilma.

In defiance of the toll even a short passage of time would normally take on such a fragile textile, her self-portrait endures to this day.

Moreno intersperses reenactments of Juan Diego's experiences (featuring Angelica Chong and Mario Alberto Hernandez) with observations from clergy and scholars, interviews with devotees and compelling tales of healing and conversion.

Striking facts regarding the image on the tilma — some not properly understood until the advent of modern technology — are also examined.

As the scene shifts from the New World of the 16th century to present-day Los Angeles and

Barcelona, Mexican actress Karyme Lozano provides lively commentary.

She helps to highlight Our Lady of Guadalupe's immediate impact as the inspiration for mass conversions as well as her ongoing legacy, including her role as an intercessor for the protection of the unborn.

References to abortion, along with accounts of illness and accidents, make the movie too intense for small viewers. But all others will find this celebration of the Patroness of the Americas both intriguing and inspiring.

For information on theater locations, go to: [guadalupethemovie.com](http://guadalupethemovie.com).

The film contains mature topics. The OSV News classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

*John Mulderig is media reviewer for OSV News.*

## CABRINI

From page 26

ber of the Board of Directors of a hospital that Mother Cabrini opened.

"We went through the scene nine times," he said. "I remember we had no speaking part. We came into the doors, and we were supposed to look around, confer with one another and then approve (the decision for the hospital)."

While the scene was ultimately cut, he did have an impact on the film as an adviser. One example was the inclusion of the Bible passage from Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" — which was a favorite of Mother Cabrini's.

"On almost every statue of her, she's holding the Scriptures and it's open to that quote," Msgr. Bochicchio said.

After seeing a private screening of the movie at its 90% completion, he noticed it was excluded from the movie.

"I brought it to his (the producer's) attention," the priest said. "He called me the next day and said it's back in."

Having seen the almost-finished product of the movie, Msgr. Bochicchio notes that while Angel Studios takes some liberties with Mother Cabrini's story, the depiction is ultimately riveting and real.

The movie highlights how she stood up to cardinals and politicians in advocacy of the poor, how she overcame a fear of drowning to bring her ministry to the world, and her great care to educate and uplift the vulnerable.

"She was not a strong woman physically, she was weak, but she was strong in spirit," Msgr. Bochicchio said. "(The movie shows how she was) boldness in a good sense of the word, where she set her mind to something and she stood up respectfully but very clearly to those who opposed her."

He points to one real-life scene, highlighted in the trailer, where in response to being dismissed by a powerful figure, she says, "I am a woman. And I am Italian. And we are all human beings. We are all the same."

The story of Mother Cabrini is particularly meaningful for what the Catholic Church and the world is facing right now, Msgr. Bochicchio said.

"I think one of the things that makes her timely, and particularly in regard to the film, is that immigration is uppermost in people's minds today. She's the patron of the immigrants. She's also a great woman leader. In an age when women are trying to find their place in the Church, she could be a great guide," he said.

While the movie focuses on Mother Cabrini's ministry in New York, an epilogue at the end of the film lists all the places that she impacted — including the Archdiocese of Newark.

There is a statue of Mother Cabrini at Independence Park, outside of Penn Station in Newark, which is the site of the old Mount Carmel Church where she founded a school for Italian immigrant children.

She also founded an orphanage in Kearny, St. Anthony's Orphanage, which is now the site of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary. A painting of Mother Cabrini on the ceiling there was done by Italian artist Gonippo Raggi.

Almost every Italian parish in the Archdiocese of Newark bears her statue, and she is the patron saint of the archdiocese's Italian Apostolate.

*Joe Jordan is social media specialist at Jersey Catholic, the online news outlet of the Archdiocese of Newark.*

*More about "Cabrini" the movie can be found on the website of Angel Studios:*

[angel.com](http://angel.com)

*An official theatrical trailer of the movie can be viewed on YouTube by searching "Cabrini | Official Theatrical Trailer | Angel Studios."*

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Mar 3

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
Ex. 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17  
Ps. 19:8-11  
1 Cor. 1:22-25  
Jn. 2:13-25

### Monday, Mar 4

*St. Casimir*  
2 Kgs. 5:1-15ab  
Ps. 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4  
Lk. 4:24-30

### Tuesday, Mar 5

Dn. 3:25, 34-43  
Ps. 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9  
Mt. 18:21-35

### Wednesday, Mar 6

Dt. 4:1, 5-9  
Ps. 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20  
Mt. 5:17-19

### Thursday, Mar 7

*Ss. Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs*  
Jer. 7:23-28  
Ps. 95:1-2, 6-9  
Lk. 11:14-23

### Friday, Mar 8

*St. John of God, religious*  
Hos. 14:2-10  
Ps. 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17  
Mk. 12:28-34

### Saturday, Mar 9

*St. Frances of Rome, religious*  
Hos. 6:1-6  
Ps. 51:3-4, 18-21ab  
Lk. 18:9-14

### Sunday, Mar 10

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
2 Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23  
Ps. 23: 1-6  
Eph. 2:4-10  
Jn. 3:14-21

### Monday, Mar 11

Is. 65:17-21  
Ps. 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b  
Jn. 4:43-54

### Tuesday, Mar 12

Ez. 47:1-9, 12  
Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9  
Jn. 5:1-16

### Wednesday, Mar 13

Is. 49:8-15  
Ps. 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18  
Jn. 5:17-30

### Thursday, Mar 14

Ex. 32:7-14  
Ps. 106:19-23  
Jn. 5:31-47

### Friday, Mar 15

Wis. 2:1a, 12-22  
Ps. 34:17-21, 23  
Jn. 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

### Saturday, Mar 16

Jer. 11:18-20  
Ps. 7:2-3, 9bc-10-12  
Jn. 7:40-53

### The Holy Father's prayer intentions for March:

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

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# Fr. Viviano to speak on Miraculous Medal

**DATE:** March 16  
**TIME:** 2 - 3:30 pm

Father Anthony Viviano, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton and Annunciation Parish in California, will visit Cana Hall in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City on Wednesday, March 6, to give a presentation on the Miraculous Medal of the Blessed Mother.

The talk will begin at 7 p.m. The Miraculous Medal is one of the most widely disseminated sacramentals given to the Church. Fr. Viviano will explore the origins and efficacious reality of this precious sacramental.



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SHRIMP DINNERS: 10 jumbo shrimp & sides  
COMBO PLATE: 5 jumbo shrimp, fish & sides  
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**St. Elizabeth Community Center**



St. Martin Home and School  
**FISH FRY**  
Where:  
**St. Martin School Gymnasium**  
7206 Business 50 West, **St. Martins**  
When:  
**Fridays, March 1 & 15**  
4:30-7 pm  
Fried fish, homestyle potato chips, cornbread, coleslaw, green beans, applesauce & desserts  
Adults \$13 / Kids 6-12 \$6 / Kids 5 & under free  
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Kids burger & fries—\$6  
Cash or check ONLY  
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**TAOS**

