

Faith in Action Award

The Knights of Columbus State Council honored the Hermann Knights for their innovative, historical and tasty fundraiser to benefit local children.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

August 4, 2023 • Vol. 67 No. 3

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Historical chapel in Bahner lost to lightning, fire



Smoldering ruins were all that remained of the 142-year-old St. John the Evangelist Chapel in Bahner, part of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, the evening of Aug. 1, as parishioners stop to consider what was lost in an early-morning blaze that was sparked by lightning.

— Photo by Jay Nies

New Catholic school administrators reflect on their role, importance of Catholic education

By Jay Nies

Several Catholic schools in the Jefferson City have new principals for the upcoming academic year.

Here's some information about them and their approach to Catholic education.

"Trust God's plan"

When Kathy Harlan's daughters left home after high school, she gave each of them a framed quote from St. Catherine of Siena:

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

"This is a great reminder to me, as well, when I face challenges," said Mrs. Harlan, the new principal of Father McCartan Memorial School in Marceline.

"To me, this quote is humbling, reassuring and inspiring," she said. "God put me in this place — what does God want me to do during this difficult time?"

Mrs. Harlan brings with her 30 years of experience in public education in Missouri: two years as an agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor in Keytesville and 28 years as a school counselor in schools including Glasgow, Salisbury, Westran in Huntsville, and Marceline.

"Catholic education is important because it not only prepares our students for academic challenges ahead, but also teaches them daily habits of Catholic formation which they can draw from in the future," she said.

She grew up in mid-Missouri and has lived most of her life in Chariton County.

She and her husband Mike live in Salisbury and are members of St. Joseph Parish. They have two adult daughters.

"As a Catholic, I believe that my new role at Fr. McCartan is a true blessing from God," Mrs. Harlan stated. "He placed me exactly where He wanted me to be at the right time of

By Jay Nies

The ruins of St. John the Evangelist Chapel in Bahner were still smoldering when thoughts turned to finding the tabernacle and properly reverencing Christ fully present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

"I told Bishop McKnight that we're going to do everything we can to give proper respect, devotion, love and honor to Jesus Christ, who was with us in that fire and with us in that tabernacle and who, more importantly, is with us here this night," said Father Joseph Corel, pastor, during an Aug. 1 Eucharistic holy hour in the nearby St. John the Evangelist Community Center.

The steeple of the 142-year-old chapel, where generations of parishioners had encountered Christ in the sacraments, was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm early that morning.

The flames quickly engulfed the structure, rendering it and its contents a total loss.

No one was injured.

The sacramental records were not damaged.

In the aftermath, people driving and walking by on Highway V in Bahner, 19 miles southeast of Sedalia, stopped and stared, trying to wrap their minds around what was no longer there.

"Memories. So many memories," said Randy Klein, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, of which the former Mission of St. John the Evangelist became a part in 2019.

"It's like losing a member of the family," said parishioner Michael Bahner, after whose ancestors the town had been named.

Yet, in the manner of the chapel itself, the fire inside the faithful simply

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ADMINISTRATORS, page 17

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Administrative Assistant



The Chancery office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a highly skilled Administrative Assistant for the Stewardship Office. This person is responsible for assisting the director and associate director in implementing the bishop's vision of spirituality of stewardship throughout the diocese.

Responsibilities: prepare presentation materials and strategic briefings for deans and pastors; general administrative and office management duties; meticulously plan, coordinate and execute events and activities; provide administrative support for the Stewardship Office; work closely with the director and associate director as a team partner to educate parishioners on the spirituality of stewardship and convey the impact and importance of supporting their parish and sharing their gifts for the common good; ability to travel within the diocese (no overnight travel); fleet vehicle provided for day trips.

Qualifications: practicing Catholic in good standing preferred; bachelor's degree preferred; event planning and management is desired.

We are seeking a confident, competent individual to manage the Stewardship Office. Qualified candidates can apply on Indeed.com or send resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Bishop to bless IHM Child Development Center in J.C. Aug. 6

DATE: August 6
TIME: 1-3 pm

Everything is in place and ready to go at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Child Development Center (diojeffcity.org/immaculate-heart), 601 Scott Station Road in Jefferson City.

All that's missing is the holy water and the children.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will bless the center at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6, followed by a reception with cookies and punch until 3 p.m.

All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Scheduled to open on Aug. 7, the center will provide affordable childcare for infants and very young children of diocesan employees as well as employees of parishes and schools of the diocese.

Its primary focus will be on helping to attract and retain teachers to work in Catholic schools.

"I'm very excited to help nurture the growth of these children and to offer a sense of peace to the parents to know their kids are being taken care of by staff with experience with infants and toddlers, in a physical environment that's very inviting, very safe," Leann Rockwell, the center's director, stated during a July 30 open house.

Her goal is for the children who "graduate" from Immaculate Heart of Mary to be ready to go on to pre-school programs in local grade schools — "for them to be ready for that

adventure, and to know that there's something more for them to do."

The center's name honors the Immaculate Heart of Mary, patroness of the Jefferson City diocese.

Reminders of the faith are everywhere at Immaculate Heart of Mary, including colorful crucifixes and images of Mary and the saints.

"We'll have prayer, Bible stories and spiritual activities for the kids," said Mrs. Rockwell. "We will encourage them, even the babies, to grow in

their faith all the time."

Mrs. Rockwell is an experienced early childhood educator who previously ran the after-school and summer camp programs at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City.

"We're super-excited," she said. "We can't wait to see all these little kids and their parents, to help them navigate the jobs that they have to do."

Call Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools, at 573-635-9127, for information.

Administrative Assistant



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking an experienced administrative assistant to support the Director of Parish Services. This individual should be proficient in data entry and have excellent skills with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Occasional travel to parishes in the diocese may be required (with the Director); no personal car is necessary. This position is open to candidates of all faiths.

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"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."

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

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Phil Macias to serve as CFO for the Diocese of Jefferson City

By Jacob Luecke

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight has appointed Phil Macias to serve as the next Chief Financial Officer for the Jefferson City diocese.

Mr. Macias, a CPA, brings more than 20 years of financial management experience to the role, including considerable international business and domestic nonprofit leadership experience.

He has served as a CFO at both Central States Water Resources and the US Soybean Export Council.

He is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, has taught accounting courses at Columbia College, and possesses more than a decade of experience as a small business owner — including operating an independent CPA firm.

Mr. Macias succeeds Deacon Joe Braddock, who has served as diocesan CFO since 2004.

Church law requires the bishop of every diocese to appoint a finance officer “who is truly expert in financial affairs and absolutely distinguished for honesty.” (Code of Canon Law, 494 §1)

The finance officer serves for a five-year term that the bishop

may renew in five-year increments.

Currently a resident of Franklin County in the St. Louis archdiocese, Mr. Macias is relocating to Jefferson City and will begin his service to the Diocese of Jefferson City on Aug. 1.

“I welcome Phil to the diocese and I thank him for taking on this important responsibility,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

“Our financial resources are a foundation that allows our diocese to continue the work of Jesus Christ in our world today,” the bishop noted. “We will look to the leadership of Phil as our new CFO to strengthen this foundation so we can grow our work to share the grace of God throughout our diocese.”

As CFO, Mr. Macias will be responsible for providing, developing and maintaining financial accountability standards across the 38-county diocese, which includes more than 90 Catholic parishes.

He will direct the financial operations of the Chancery office in conjunction with the bishop and the members of the Diocesan Finance Council, including managing diocesan assets and advising management in regard to financial operations.

“I am humbled to have this opportunity to serve as chief financial officer of the Diocese of Jefferson City,” Mr. Macias stated. “I thank Bishop McKnight for placing his trust in me.



Phil Macias

“I look forward to starting in August and having the oppor-

tunity to serve alongside the clergy and lay leaders of our parishes and in our diocesan Chancery office,” he said.

The diocese announced in February that Deacon Braddock is transitioning into a new role providing financial support and mentorship to the individual parishes across the diocese.

Deacon Braddock has continued serving as CFO during the search for his successor and will help Mr. Macias transition into the CFO position before beginning his new parish support role.

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

Bishop Gaydos to celebrate four milestones with Aug. 16 Mass in Cathedral

DATE: August 16
TIME: 3 pm

Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos of Jefferson City, will celebrate Mass on 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the

Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St., to mark four significant milestones.

They are: the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop (postponed from 2022), his 80th birthday (Aug. 14), and the 55th anniversaries of his diaconal ordination (May, 1968) and of his priestly ordination (December 1968).

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City will concelebrate the Mass, as will Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, who will preach the homily.

They will celebrate the Votive Mass of Mary, Mother of the Church.

The Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook at facebook.com/JCCathedral.

A specially-designed prayer card for the occasion will include Mary, Mother of the Church, with the Apostles on Pentecost as they are depicted in a large mosaic in the Cathedral Basilica

of St. Louis in St. Louis.

Anyone wishing to give a gift in Bishop Gaydos’s honor may contribute to Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri — ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/gaydos, or by mail to P.O. Box 104626, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4626.

If you already made a gift

ahead of last year’s postponed celebration, there is no need to give twice.

Visit diojeffcity.org/bishop-gaydos-aug-16-mass to RSVP for the Mass.

A St. Louis native, Bishop Gaydos led the Jefferson City diocese from 1997 until his retirement in 2008.



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar


AUGUST

- Aug 5** Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery; 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass: Shane Kliethermes Admission to Candidacy, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, Jefferson City
- Aug 6** Blessing of Immaculate Heart of Mary Child Development Center & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 1 pm, Jefferson City
- Aug 8** Priests’ Mutual Benefit Society Meeting, 10 am; Council of Deans Meeting, 11 am; College of Consultants Meeting, noon; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery
- Aug 9** All Teachers Mass, 9:30 am, Helias Catholic High School, Jefferson City
- Aug 16** Most Reverend John R. Gaydos 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination Mass, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 3 pm, Jefferson City
- Aug 17** Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, 11 am, Chancery
- Aug 23** Diocesan Stewardship Council Meeting, noon, Chancery; Confirmation Mass, St. George Parish, Linn and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Frankenstein, 6:30 pm, St. George Church, Linn

Bishop McKnight’s August prayer intention for our Local Church

For students, parents and teachers as another school year begins; may our Catholic community provide the proper environment and resources for our young people to thrive and excel in their formation as disciples of Christ, and sons and daughters of our Catholic Church. We pray to the Lord.

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



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

Por los estudiantes, padres y maestros al iniciar otro año escolar; que nuestra comunidad católica proporcione el entorno y los recursos adecuados para que nuestra juventud prospere y sobresalga en su formación como discípulos de Cristo e hijos e hijas de nuestra Iglesia católica. Roguemos al Señor.



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Deacon William Seibert receives professional honor, is appointed to Columbia College Board of Trustees

Deacon William Seibert, who assists the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, is the 2023 recipient of the Columbia College Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award.

He was also recently appointed to the Columbia College Board of Trustees.

The Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, board chairman, announced the appointments of Deacon Seibert and three other new board members, bringing the total number to 22, effective July 1.

Deacon Seibert will serve a four-year term.

A member of Columbia College's Class of 2009, he rose through the ranks of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to serve as assistant superintendent, overseeing daily

operations of the 2,300-person agency, before retiring in 2006.

"Not very many people get to that level," said Brad Jones, who worked with Deacon Seibert at the State Highway Patrol headquarters in the 1990s. "It's due to his personality, his intellect, how he treats people, the example that he gives. I could go on and on about his professionalism."

Later serving as deputy police chief and interim police chief in O'Fallon, Missouri, he earned his bachelor's degree online through Columbia College's St. Louis location, finishing what he had started as one of the first African American students on the main campus in the 1970s.

"What Columbia College means to me probably more than anything is family and

second chances," he said.

Embodying the benefits of higher education in furthering professional pursuits, he then leveraged his business knowledge into a job at the Missouri Gaming Commission, which oversees a billion-dollar industry that regulates casinos and gambling entities.

He worked as deputy director for nearly five years before serving as executive director for four years.

"Saving lives on the highway. Saving lives in the heart and soul. Two very different ways, but that just sounds right about Bill," said Ellen Miller-Mapp, Class of 1975, who met Seibert when they both were among the first African American students to integrate CC's main campus. "He



Deacon William Seibert

ing relationships through his ministry, said Robert Lowery, who was the city manager of O'Fallon when Seibert worked there. They also served together with the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad and on the board of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

"Bill is a can-do kind of person," Mr. Lowery stated. "He always brings a positive attitude. He doesn't just tell us about it, the man lives it."

Deacon Seibert and his wife, Rachelle, were married in 1976. They have three adult sons and a grandson.

Mr. Seibert was received into full communion with

just has that generous spirit." Deacon Seibert is now applying his faith to restor-

See SEIBERT, page 18

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Ragtime enthusiast finds God at Mass and in the masses

By Jay Nies

A blaring train whistle added a coda to Brandon Byrne's outdoor interpretation of Scott Joplin's "Sycamore Rag."

"It's just part of the atmosphere here," Mr. Byrne acknowledged before moving ahead with Joplin's "Silver Swan."

Mr. Byrne was a featured performer at this year's Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival.

His sweeping piano chords and overlapping rhythms echoed off the 19th-century buildings lining Sedalia's Ohio Avenue and its signature "kink."

"Music is beautiful, and beauty is directly related to God," Mr. Byrne pointed out later in an interview.

"I feel like God's fingerprints are on anything beautiful," the devout Catholic stated, "because he made his creation very good. And anything that reflects that beauty will draw people to God himself."

Setting Mr. Byrne apart from other ragtime performers is the distinction of having composed three musical arrangements of the Catholic Mass.

"I'm Catholic for life," he stated. "It's been such a good thing for me to practice my Catholic faith."

"My relationship with God is the most important thing to me by a long, long shot," he said. "It's the guiding principle of my life, and I'd be nothing without it."

Mr. Byrne's first liturgical arrangement, "Mass of the Alabaster Jar," recalls the anointing of Jesus at Bethany during Holy Week (John 12:1-8), and is dedicated "to my beautiful, irreplaceable children."

The second, "Mass of St. Veronica," is inspired by the woman who wiped Jesus's face while he was carrying his cross to Calvary, and is dedicated to "my wonderful wife, Veronica Byrne."

The third, "Mass of Christ the Morning Star," points to a phrase from the Easter Proclamation, sung each year during the Easter Vigil.

"There are parts of the Proclamation that touch my heart very deeply," said Mr. Byrne. "Like the line where the dea-

con or cantor sings, 'Christ, the Morning Star that never sets' — like that singular light in the sky in the middle of darkness."

The composer's goal for each of these settings was to make them easy to sing and easy to accompany.

"I live in the 'Thumb' of Michigan," he noted. "It's a very agrarian society and more sparsely populated than the metro areas down by Detroit. They don't have access to as many resources."

"So, I wanted to write music that's easy to do but is still well drafted and qualifying as art music," he said.

He's happy to send these arrangements to anyone who writes to him at brandonbyrnevm@gmail.com.

"They're all free," he stated. "Everyone can just copy and print them as needed."

Rocking the cradle

The Scott Joplin Festival, first held in 1974, celebrates Sedalia's distinction as the "Cradle of Ragtime," where Joplin composed his wildly popular "Maple Leaf Rag" in 1899 and set off an international ragtime craze in the process.

All of this took place within sight of where St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church once stood, in the heart of a railroad community once known for having equally plentiful churches and taverns.

Joplin was trained in classical European musical theory and composition, allowing him to meld provocative melodies and beautiful chords with African-style syncopated rhythms that give ragtime its signature "bounce."

With syncopation, the rhythm systematically overlaps the melody the way bricks overlap each other on a wall.

Scholars point to Classic Ragtime as the first uniquely American form of musical expression, out of which all others evolved.

The annual festival also honors Mr. Joplin as a teacher and mentor.

"Here in Sedalia," wrote historians Rudi Blesh and Harriet Janis in *They All Played Ragtime*, "as in every town where he settled for any length of time, were the gifted young-

sters whom Joplin with his sense of the importance of syncopated music, would teach and encourage."

"Veronica's Lullaby"

Mr. Byrne's fascination with ragtime dates back to his first Scott Joplin Festival, when he was 12.

"My grandma and step-grandpa lived in Kansas City, Kansas, at the time, and they had heard about the festival," he recalled. "So, I flew on a plane to visit them, and they took me on an outing to Sedalia."

"After that, I was just completely hooked on it," he said.

His parents signed him up for piano lessons, and he quickly took to creating and performing his own works.

"Musically, composing is kind of my first love," he said.

His wrote his first piece, loosely inspired by Joplin's "Peacherine Rag," around age 11. He called it "Peacherine Song."

"It was just a very simple piano piece where the left and right hand did the same thing, octaves apart," he recalled.

As he discovered his gift for music, it seemed natural for him to offer it back to God at church while concurrently honing his skills as a composer and performer.

Those interests finally came into conflict while he was studying music at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

He was offered a regular gig at a dueling piano bar that was popular with students and local residents.

"It was at that very same time that the Catholic church at the university offered me a chance to be the weekly organist, to accompany cantors at Mass," he recalled.

He realized that he couldn't do both, and that his decision would help set the course of the rest of his life — professionally and spiritually.



Brandon Byrne speaks to the audience between numbers during one of his performances at this year's Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival in Sedalia. — Photo by Jay Nies

"It wasn't really a deliberate thought process, I just knew," he said.

He wound up saying no to the piano bar and yes to church, "because that's what I was supposed to do ... because that's what I was born to do."

He's been working as a parish accompanist and music director ever since.

"It's been very rewarding, and it's been a lot of fun," he said. "I've made many friends, and there's no doubt that it was the right choice."

He and his wife met each other as students attending the church near campus.

"We will be married 12 years in December," he noted.

For their wedding, he wrote a short piano piece that she walked down the aisle to.

It's called "Veronica's Lullaby."

"Touch your soul"

Mr. Byrne writes a regular scholarly column on ragtime music for *The Syncopated Times* (syncopatedtimes.com).

He has composed several ragtime pieces and recorded a CD of similar-styled music titled "Vista."

His music leans toward the serene and contemplative.

"Ragtime doesn't have to be exuberant or bumptious," he pointed out in a symposium during the Joplin Festival. "It can be beautiful."

He has mastered the subtle art of "dragging," a ragtime technique of gently tugging back-and-forth on the rhythm like wind through tree branches, usually for the sake of highlighting emotionally resonant chords or melodies.

He said the experiences of his life and rural surroundings are "in the very DNA of every piece that I write."

"The pieces that are very bucolic and pastoral reflect the geography and landscape of where I live," he said.

He likes creating music that's "very personal, very real."

"So, if I'm suffering, that's going to come out," he stated. "If I'm over the moon because I'm outside and it's springtime, that's going to come out, as well."

He composed "Raspberry Leaves" for his parents, and "White Clover Rag" for his wife's parents as combined Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts in 2019.

"Raspberry Leaves" is heavily imbued with the spirit of early spring in Michigan, when some of the buds are starting to get green, and it's just starting to get warm," he said.

"White Clover," on the other hand, is very much a summertime piece," he stated.

His pastor in college, Jesuit Father Will Prospero, was like a second father to him.

When the priest died of kidney cancer in 2014, Mr. Byrne composed "Epitaph: A Ragtime Elegy," as a way to "explore feelings of grief, disappointment, frustration."

"It wanders through a lot of different — sometimes very different — keys," he noted. "That's kind of an expression of the emotional confusion of grief."

He performed "Raspberry Leaves" and "White Clover Rag" at this year's Joplin Festival.

Hermann Knights win K of C Star Council Award

Old pork sausage recipe is "icing on the cake"

By Don Kruse

An old family pork sausage recipe turned out to be well liked, 1,000 pounds worth, and helped earn Hermann Knights of Columbus Council 1914 a prestigious award.

The Knights' Missouri State Council's Faith In Action — Family Award was recently presented to Council 1914 Grand Knight Tom Bruckerhoff by Richard Wieberg of Westphalia, District Deputy for the Knights' District 20 and also Diocesan Growth Chairman for Knights councils in the Jefferson City diocese.

Mr. Wieberg accepted the award on the council's behalf at the Knights' Missouri State Convention in Columbia this past April.

He recently presented the award to representatives of Council 1914 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. George Church in Hermann.

"They are working with the community and were recognized for doing many good things," Mr. Wieberg stated.

There are 1,500 councils in the state, said Mr. Wieberg, who believes this is the first time a council from Central Missouri has won the Faith in Action Family Award.

"Typically, those awards go to the bigger councils in larger cities," he said.

This is also probably the first time in its 105-year-old history that the Hermann Knights, chartered on June 2, 1918, worked up a large batch of pork sausage as one of its fundraising projects.

It all came about from an open discussion following a gathering of a study group at the home of long-time Knight Leroy Strassner, 88, who joined the Council in 1954.

A group of a half-dozen Knights get together every other week to watch the podcast, "The Bible in a Year" with Father Mike Schmitz.

At the end of those gatherings, they have a session to discuss various things.

That's when the idea came up about Roland Strassner's original pork sausage recipe.

He is the late grandfather of current Knights Leroy and Dave Strassner. Roland Strassner lived at Swiss, a small hamlet just south of Hermann.

"We talked about what we could do to build our funds to support our charities," said Dave Strassner, younger brother of Leroy and a 52-year member of the Knights.

"We took the idea of making our grandfather's old pork sausage recipe to one of our monthly council meetings, and they were all in agreement to move forward to make it and sell it," he said.

Several other recipes were sampled by a committee of Knights before they settled on Grandpa Strassner's old recipe, after it had been tweaked.

"We had to tone it down a little bit," said Dave Strassner. "The heat level was a little too much."

They made 500 pounds of one-pound packages, sold out



Richard Wieberg (right), District Deputy 20 of the Knights of Columbus Missouri State Council, presents the Star Council Award to Hermann Council Grand Knight Tom Bruckerhoff at a recent Mass at St. George Church in Hermann. Father Philip Niekamp (second row), pastor of St. George parish and council chaplain, is with other members of Council 1914.

of them quickly, and then made another 500 pounds — and sold most of them.

There were less than 100 pounds left, which were used at the council's annual Father's Day breakfast at Valentine Hall in Starkenburg.

Most of the sausage was sold after the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses at St. George in Hermann and Church of the Risen Savior in Rhineland.

The Knights who volunteered to sell the sausage were Rick Kopmann, Chris Theisen, Leroy and Dave Strassner, Dennis Kohne and Tom Eggering.

The council had to find a government-certified meat processing facility to make the recipe.

"A few of them contacted Mike Sloan at the Hermann Wurst Haus, and he agreed to work with us," said Grand Knight Tom Bruckerhoff.

"We had to get a USDA stamp for the packaging, and we were approved for that," said Mr. Bruckerhoff. "The Wurst Haus is a USDA-approved facility. Mike was very accommodating. He made the sausage and packaged it for us."

When Mr. Wieberg learned of the overwhelming success of the pork sausage sales, and knew that Council 1914 checked all the boxes to be eligible, he en-

couraged the Hermann Knights to apply for the Star Council Award and for the state council's Family Award.

Mr. Bruckerhoff, who succeeded Allen Speckhals as Grand Knight in July 2022, handled the paperwork.



Mr. Bruckerhoff recalls the council meetings when the pork-sausage-making project was discussed.

"The idea of using the sausage sales after Mass was a promotion to welcome people back to church after the coronavirus (COVID 19) kept them away for many months," he said. "It was a way to reach out to them."

The sales grossed \$4,000, and the Knights netted about \$2,200 after expenses. Then the Father's Day breakfast produced

another \$1,800.

Initially, said Mr. Bruckerhoff, the money from the sausage sales would go to Coats for Kids, a national program that the Hermann Knights support every year.

Council 1914 purchased four boxes of coats that were distributed through the Hermann Ministerial Alliance, with the assistance of school-based social worker Dawn Grosse of the Gasconade County R-1 School District.

The rest of the money was used to buy "Spirit Shirts" — T-shirts for students and faculty of St. George School to be handed out as they return to the classroom in the fall.

Hermann Council 1914, with 161 dues-paying members, purchases Bibles every year that are distributed to St. George School children.

The council sponsors three breakfasts — Mother's Day, Father's Day and Breakfast with Santa — and in recent years has sponsored an ATV Ride through the hills of Rhineland and Starkenburg.

Last year's ATV ride netted \$2,400, which supported the Knights' local programs, with portions of it going to Missouri Special Olympics and Missouri Right to Life.

In addition to working with the Ministerial Alliance, the Hermann Knights also partner with the local VFW Post to operate a food stand during Oktoberfest weekends.

The Star Council Award recognizes councils for their outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and programming.


In order to achieve the Star Council Award, a council must earn the Father McGivney, Founders', and Columbian Awards.

Additionally, the council must submit both the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity and Service Program Personnel Report.

Knights Council 1914 was also recognized locally by the Hermann Chamber of Commerce this year for its work in the community.

"Winning the Star Council Award is like the icing on the cake," Mr. Wieberg stated.

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Voicing continues on pipes for new organ for Cathedral

Scheduled to be installed in early 2024

By Jay Nies

The foundational voices of a new organ have been matched to the acoustics of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

This important step will ensure that all the pipes being created for the organ will speak and reverberate with the greatest effectiveness possible.

“The end result, we trust and pray, will be an instrument that draws people into greater communion with God and one another, as they lift up their voices to him,” said Father Jeremy Secrist.

Fr. Secrist, pastor of neighboring St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, is also the diocese’s moderator for pipe organs.

He was present the afternoon of July 26, when selected pipes from the 8- and 4-foot Principal ranks in the Great, Swell and Pedal divisions were set up on wind chests inside the Cathedral.

Technicians with the Buzard Organ Company of Champaign, Illinois, sent air through the pipes, taking careful measurements and adjusting each pipe to produce

its proper tones.

Principal pipes are the foundation of any church organ and give the instrument its recognizably “churchy” sound.

“These pipes of various pitches, from various divi-

size, shape and composition of each pipe, coupled with the pressure of the air blowing through it and the space into which it speaks, affects the character of the entire instrument.

“For the human ear,” he noted, “there are harmonic interactions that occur at particular pitches that actually bring about something greater.”

“It’s like the Gestalt Theory, that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts,” he said.

He asserted that a pipe organ is the most like the human voice of any instrument in singing the Lord’s praises.

Like voices in a choir, each set of pipes speaks at different pitches, with different voices, at different volume and different texture.

Together, they produce an overall effect that is richer and more uplifting than any of the voices singing alone.

“That’s the principle behind how a good and effective pipe organ speaks,” Fr. Secrist stated. “It’s not just a bunch of beautifully voiced pipes. Rather, the whole ensemble

functions well together.”

Good vibrations

The Cathedral’s new organ will occupy the same space as the previous one, but the Cathedral itself, recently renovated, is substantially different, with many new materials that enhance its acoustics and bring greater depth to all sung and instrumental music.

Like most systems in the pre-renovated Cathedral, the previous organ, built in 1968, was wearing out and needed to be replaced.

The blower and wind chests for forcing pressurised air into the pipes were deteriorating, as were some of the pipes themselves.

being played.

The new pipes and the complex systems that will make them speak are being built to last for generations.

“We’re laying the foundation for people still to be praising and worshiping here long after we’ve all gone to meet God,” Fr. Secrist stated.

“Greater artistic expression”

The completed organ is scheduled to be installed early next year.

An electronic instrument is being used in the interim.

Fr. Secrist is convinced that a custom-designed, properly-built, appropriately voiced pipe organ is worth the cost.

“In some situations, you have a greater need for austerity and simplicity,” he noted.

“But in other situations,” he said, “including the mother church of a diocese, where Liturgies are regularly celebrated that draw people together from many parishes, you have the need for a greater artistic expression of the faith and the mysteries we celebrate.”

The Cathedral’s enhanced beauty on all fronts helps orient visitors and regular worshippers toward God and assists them in their desire to grow in relationship with Him.

That objective, Fr. Secrist stated, is why “*Sacrosanctum Concilium*,” the Church’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy promulgated by Pope St. Paul during the Second Vatican Council, states:

“In the Latin Church, the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument which adds a wonderful splendor to the Church’s ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man’s mind to God and to higher things.” (#120)

“For hundreds of years within the life of the Church, the pipe organ has always proved to be an instrument that has accompanied, supported and inspired prayer within the people of God,” said Fr. Secrist.



Technicians with the Buzard Organ Company of Champaign, Illinois, work on voicing pipes for the new organ that’s being built for the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. The new organ, part of a comprehensive renovation of the Cathedral, is slated to be installed in early 2024.

— Photos by Father Jeremy Secrist



Amidst tornado recovery, Kentucky parish breaks ground for new church

OSV News

Dawson Springs, Kentucky

Eighteen months after devastating tornadoes ripped through western Kentucky, Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs gathered people in the rain for a groundbreaking on the property where its church once stood.

Resurrection Church, severely damaged by the tornado, was deemed a total loss. After months of hard work, planning, and adjustments, they finally gathered for a groundbreaking July 8.

A new church will be constructed where the previous one stood.

Bishop William F. Medley of Owensboro noted in his homily that the parish was “aptnamed” and noticed that the city of Dawson Springs has already begun its “resurrection,” rebuilding the homes and businesses destroyed.

For the past 18 months, parishioners have gathered for Mass at Rhonda and Donnie Mills’ shed on the property of their home, which was unscathed by the Dec. 10, 2021, storms.

Rhonda Mills has “heard no complaints” about the setup, even when they celebrated First Holy Communion under their carport. She said the community is “just glad to stay together.”

QUESTION CORNER

Why can't any sacrament be received at any church?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: Why can't a Catholic couple receive the sacrament of Marriage at any church? My grandson and his fiancée chose Indianapolis as a midpoint of getting married, to help their family travel distances. They sought the ceremony at several churches but were declined because they were not parishioners. Our family is devastated and angry at the Church. We thought any Sacrament could be received at any church. (Location withheld)



A: It is theoretically possible for a Catholic to receive the sacraments in any parish church. However, some sacraments are intended to be ordinarily celebrated in specific churches, and marriage is one of these sacraments.

Canon 1115 of the *Code of Canon Law* tells us: "Marriages are to be celebrated in the parish in which either of the contracting parties has a domicile or a quasi-domicile or a month's residence [...] With the permission of the proper Ordinary or the proper parish priest, marriages may be celebrated elsewhere."

Translated into layman's terms, this means that under normal circumstances Catholics should have their wedding ceremonies in a parish church where either the bride or the groom has an established permanent residence, called a "domicile" in canon law, or a part-time or long-term temporary residence (that is, a "quasi-domicile") or at the very least, in the parish whose geographical territory either of them have been living in for one month. This is in keeping with the notion of the sacrament being a joyful event within the community of the parish.

If a Catholic couple wants to be married in a church in which neither of them are parishioners — or at a shrine or chapel that is not a parish — they would need the permission of the appropriate Ordinary (generally, the local bishop or his Vicar General) or the parish pastor who was empowered to grant this kind of permission. And if the couple does get permission to marry in a diocese where neither of them are resident, there is some additional "behind the scenes" paperwork that must be signed by the Chancellors of both respective dioceses.

As disappointing as this may have been for your family, your grandson was not "owed" this special permission to be married at a parish that was not his own, in a diocese in which he did not live.

But why would a priest or bishop withhold this permission? Without knowing all the details involved, I can't give answers about your specific situation. But there are a few general reasons that come to mind.

First, marriage is a very serious commitment that requires careful discernment and preparation. If a Catholic seeks to marry at a parish not their own, especially one that is at some distance from where they live, the parish pastor might have some legitimate concerns about whether the premarital preparations were sufficiently addressed. Further, it is often easier to rule out any potential impediments to the marriage when the wedding is set to take place within the couple's local community.

Additionally, there are some churches and chapels that are well-known for their exceptional beauty. Sometimes these sacred spaces are widely sought after as a wedding venue. In these cases, a parish might run the risk of becoming overly burdened by wedding requests from non-parishioners, to the extent that the actual parishioners risk suffering some degree of neglect.

See QUESTION, page 22

Belle parishioners enter Divine Mercy float into local parade

By Anita Frey

St. Alexander Catholic Parish in Belle recently showed Jesus's love and mercy in a "big" way to the local community.

Parishioners entered a float in the June 28 parade kicking off the 75th annual Community Fair.

The fair theme was "Diamonds are Fairever."

The focal point of the float was a Divine Mercy image that stood nearly 12 feet tall. The image was visible to parade onlookers from quite a distance.

Also adorning the float were diamond shapes constructed out of wood, colorful balloons and shiny decorations, and Christian music was played on loudspeakers.

The music spoke truth, proclaiming the words, "Oh the joy of the Lord will be my strength when the pressure is on, He's making diamonds. ... He's making diamonds out of us. ..."

There were several banners on the float with the parish's Mass and Confession times along with a message from Pope St. John Paul II: "Apart from the mercy of God, there is no other source of hope for mankind."

The float was an amazing, beautiful, and fun honor and dedication to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and his Church.

The parade float participants rode and walked — one youth even roller-skated — passing out bottled water, candy, book-



marks and fans.

All the items given to the crowd had a Sacred Scripture message or a message of hope attached to them. The message of hope read, "His Mercy is greater than our

sins. Call upon Jesus with trust and receive His mercy and joy."

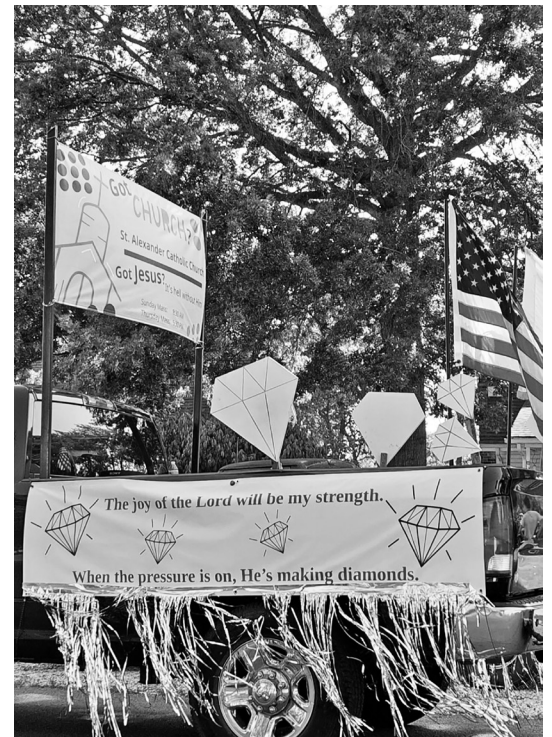
St. Alexander Parish is a small community but the love of the Lord is eminent among its people.

Although the parish did not win a float award by judges that day, its faithful members know that Jesus Christ the Savior of the World is the only judge.

Taking Jesus to the local

streets was indeed "big" and fun!

Ms. Frey is a member of St. Alexander Parish in Belle.



When it comes to homilies, we can do better

By Greg Erlandson
OSV News



I suffered through another mission homily recently. Like almost all the mission and aid appeals I've heard over the past several years, it did not slay.

This despite the fact that the priest was foreign born and presumably knew a thing or two about the mission territories he was seeking funds for. He shared not a single story, not an anecdote, not a word picture of what our aid could impact. "The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest," the psalm refrain told us that Sunday. It looked to me like a missed opportunity to bear some fruit.

Preaching in general seems to be in a state of crisis right now. While no one homiletic style will please all Catholics, an awful lot of us pew warmers are complaining about the quality, or lack thereof, of the sermons we hear.

Some tell me they go home after Mass and listen to Bishop Robert Barron each Sunday. Or they dial up Fa-

ther Mike Schmitz on YouTube. There is a hunger for substance, something that sticks in the mind, something to be mulled over, something to inspire, something to exhort.

That preaching is in a state of crisis has not been lost on the Lilly Endowment. The grant-making behemoth with a special interest in matters of faith is dedicating \$75 million to its Compelling Preaching Initiative, an effort to improve preaching in the United States across denominations.

Several Catholic entities have won grants to see what they can do to make preaching better. Dr. Timothy O'Malley is the academic director of the Center for Liturgy at Notre Dame's McGrath Institute, one of Lilly's Catholic grant recipients. In an interview, O'Malley told me the program is just getting started, but that their research and listening sessions have identified two sides of the same problem.

On the one hand, it is a clergy problem. There is a lack of time spent contemplating the Scripture. There are too few hours in the day, and often the corners that are cut involve prayer, reflection and homiletics.

On the other hand, the laity often

haven't prepared themselves well either. If they haven't prayed over the readings beforehand, they may be coming for a personal anecdote or a little joke, but not necessarily words that will touch their hearts and deepen their engagement with the faith.

O'Malley's message is that it takes two: A good preacher and a receptive audience.

Given that those 15 or 20 minutes (Pope Francis says it should be eight minutes) are likely to be the only preaching most Catholics will hear for the next six days, this is often a golden opportunity wasted if both priest and people are poorly prepared.

The irony is that our model for powerful preaching is Jesus himself, who

masterfully wove story and Scripture together. We read how frequently he would go off to pray, and the fruits of that contemplation were often the parables. How many stories he told that resonate to this day: The Sower. The Prodigal Son. The Good Samaritan.

And the Gospels themselves are filled with stories: Jesus and the woman at the well. The 10 lepers. The raising of Lazarus.

The stories are vivid: the subject of two millennia worth of art, and the stuff of homilies for generations of saints. To make this rich material boring and irrelevant now seems more than a shame. It seems a sin.

See HOMILIES, page 23

Catholic youth and the balancing act of authentic accompaniment

By Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board

The Catholic Church is facing a crisis of faith among young people. In recent years, there has been a steady decline in the number of young people who identify as Catholic, and those who do remain often have a weak understanding of their faith. If we want the Church to thrive in the years to come, we need to find ways to reach out to young people, help them to cultivate a better understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, and give them the tools for how to do it.

Undoubtedly the conversation that we as a Church need to have with young people begins with listening to them. According to the Springtide Research Institute report, *The State of Religion & Young People* (2021), during the COVID-19 pandemic, only 6% of young Catholics ages 13 to 25 report that a faith leader personally reached out to them. As that same age group reported extremely high levels of suicidal thoughts and loneliness (with suicide rates reaching a 20-year high among youths ages 10-24 in 2020-2021), we can see clearly how we failed to meet them in a distinct hour of need.

Pope Francis repeatedly has called for the Church to listen to young people. "Too often we talk about young people without asking what they think," the pope said on the eve of the 2018 Synod

of Bishops on the theme "youth, faith and vocational discernment." We need to hear the concerns of young people and their questions, and we need to be willing to engage them authentically, where they actually are.

What it means to listen

Listening to young people will mean many things. First, it means that older generations have to be willing to set aside rather than hand on the weight of their experience with the Church. One generation might be attached to a mode of preaching, particular hymns or retreat models that don't attract another. Similarly, aspects of Catholic social teaching resonate more or less easily depending on the day. Young people experience the Church as she is now, bearing today's wounds and glories. The experience of previous generations is not the experience of young people today.

Second, it means taking seriously the desires young people actually have, not the desires we project upon them. It means we have to connect them with the traditions, teachings and truths of the Church, for which they often yearn. Pope Francis has advised us to take full advantage of "various manifestations of popular

See ACCOMPANIMENT, page 22

REFLECTION

Far and away

By Mark Saucier

Recent congressional testimony of UFOs and alleged "non-human biologics" intrigued me.

I recalled a story which now may not be apocryphal after all.

Not that long ago, our planet was visited by an extraterrestrial. The alien wasn't captured, but rather gave itself up, explaining that it was here simply for mutual learning, to engage in dialogue with a civilization very different from its own.

The alien was itinerated about, meeting world leaders and Nobel scientists, all of whom had questions important to human advancement and intergalactic peace.

Finally, the alien was ushered in to see the pope. After a cordial greeting, the pontiff asked him, "Do you know Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior and Redeemer?"

"Oh, you mean JC?" the alien responded. "Sure, we know him. He comes by every year just to see how we're doing."

"Every year?" the pope asked skeptically. "Here on earth, we have been waiting for his Second Coming for 2,000 years. How could this be?"

"Well," the strange visitor said, sensing a slight irritation in the pope's words, "Perhaps he likes our chocolates better?"

"Chocolates?" the pope practically shouted. "What do chocolates have to do with it?"

"Not to brag, but we are pretty well-known in our part of the universe for our chocolates," the alien explained.

"When Jesus first came to us, we gave him a collection of our absolute best, most luxurious chocolates. What did you give him?"

Before the old Greek writer Lucian poured the foundation of science fiction and long before the Ewoks and the ETs, the word "alien" was already in use.

It is a translation of the Greek *xenos* which is also rendered foreigner and stranger. A *xenos* is an outsider, someone alien to our land, our culture or our group.

In the book of Exodus, with memories of Egypt still disturbing their dreams, God tells the Israelites to never mistreat an alien or foreigner, because they knew the suffering that caused.

It's a message that echoes throughout the Old Testament and then is reinterpreted in the new.

Paul adds heft to its moral weight when he tells the Church in Rome to look after the needs of God's people and "practice hospitality."

Paul's word for hospitality was *philoxenia*, from *philia* — brotherly love and, you got it, *xenos*.

Paul was big on living one's faith. Tolerance was never enough. He insisted we literally pursue the love of strangers, especially those in need.

Chocolates are a good start.

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

An outpouring of gratitude



By **Tori Baker**

As I celebrate my one-year anniversary of working at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable experiences and the profound impact this role has had on my life.

Fundraising for a nonprofit organization can have its challenges, but the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need is a powerful motivator.

From the moment I joined Catholic Charities, I was inspired by the agency's unwavering commitment to serve the most vulnerable members of our community.

It was evident that every program was designed not only to help individuals and families in their time of need, but to help them overcome their challenges and build a brighter future.

Each staff member and volunteer I have encountered is truly committed to our mission of serving our neighbors in need with respect and dignity.

Neighbors who come to our Jefferson City offices for immigration services, health and nutrition education, or to visit the pantry are greeted with a friendly smile, an offer of hope, and the dignity that all humans deserve.

And not only are we committed to those we serve, but we are dedicated to and sup-

portive of one another.

I feel blessed to have colleagues who have been there for me through challenging moments in my life and I am proud to offer my support to them in their time of need as well.

In my role, I have the privilege of connecting with donors and volunteers who are dedicated to our organization's purpose and various charitable campaigns.

It is truly remarkable to witness the generosity of individuals who wholeheartedly believe in the mission of Catholic Charities.

Their unwavering support and enthusiasm fuel our efforts and remind us of the transformative power of collective action.

Building these meaningful relationships is a testament to the shared commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

This fall, I'm excited for the opportunity to encounter more of our supporters across the diocese through parish engagement and fundraising events.

Catholic Charities will be hosting Parish Engagement and Charity Events (affectionately called PEACE events by our staff) this September.



Tori Baker is the Senior Director of Development for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. In her time with the agency, Tori has connected with donors, supporters and volunteers across the 38-counties of the Diocese of Jefferson City to share the mission and story of the work at Catholic Charities.

These gatherings will be an opportunity to meet with parishioners throughout each deanery and provide formation on Catholic social teaching, provide an overview of the Charity and Mercy Grants that are available to our parishes,

and have an open discussion about how Catholic Charities can work with parishes to meet needs across our diocese.

On October 12th, Catholic Charities will be joining the Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri for our first

ever Mac N' Cheese Bowl fundraiser!

We are so grateful for our partnership with the Food Bank, who provide us with most of the food for our Client-Choice Food Pantry.

Together, we will be hosting a cook-off style competition where participants will compete for the best mac 'n cheese with local "celebrity" judges in attendance casting their votes, and a People's Choice award for all attendees to vote on.

This will be an event for the whole family with live music, local celebrity judges, refreshing drinks, and all the mac n' cheese you can eat!

You can find more information online and on social media soon. We hope to see you there!

My journey as a fundraiser for Catholic Charities has been an extraordinary one, filled with compassion, hope, and transformative experiences.

Through the unwavering dedication of the organization and the support of generous donors, we are able to bring about positive change in the lives of countless individuals and communities.

Serving as Director of Development has not only allowed me to make a meaningful impact but has enriched my own life in ways I never anticipated.

As I continue to champion the cause of Catholic Charities, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of something truly remarkable — and I cannot wait to encounter YOU at one of our fall events!

If you feel called to give, you can visit ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give or scan the QR code below to join our mission of serving those in most need with compassionate support services today.





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TO YOUR DEANERY!

In Portugal for World youth Day, pope urges Europe to recover its 'youthful heart'

By Justin McLellan
Catholic News Service

Lisbon, Portugal

Arriving at the edge of the European continent for World Youth Day, Pope Francis urged Portuguese officials to return to their maritime roots by setting sail toward new horizons of hope and helping build a Europe "capable of recovering its youthful heart."

"It is my hope that World Youth Day may be, for the 'Old Continent,' we can say the elderly continent" — he ad-libbed with a smile — "an impulse toward universal openness."

At a meeting at the Belém Cultural Center in Lisbon shortly after his arrival in the Portuguese capital Aug. 2, the pope addressed Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, other government and political leaders, diplomats and

representatives of civil society.

In the face of injustice, wars and the climate and migration crises, he said, the world "needs Europe's role as a bridge and peacemaker."

The pope fought through coughs at the beginning of his speech but otherwise appeared in good health. And on the flight to Portugal, he walked up and down the aisle of the plane to greet journalists rather than remaining seated, as he has done on some occasions.

Before leaving his residence, the pope kicked off the 42nd international trip of his pontificate by meeting with a group of young people from a rehabilitation facility unable to travel to World Youth Day and with three pairs of grandparents with their grandchildren.

On the three-hour flight to Portugal, the 86-year-old pope told journalists that his trip to

World Youth Day will "make me young again," and that young people "will continue to shake things up" in society and the church, a callback to his 2013 speech to young people during his first trip as pope to World Youth Day in Río de Janeiro.

Two Portuguese children gave the pope flowers under overcast and drizzling skies upon his arrival at the Figo Maduro Air Base in Lisbon where he was welcomed on

the tarmac by the Portuguese president.

People cheered as the pope passed them in a small white Toyota, and they waved flags — mainly Portuguese, Brazilian and Vatican flags — along the four-mile route leading to the National Palace of Belém, the official residence of the president of Portugal. There, the pope had a half-hour meeting with the president.

Addressing Portuguese officials and representatives of civil

society at the Belém Cultural Center, the pope posed a question to Europe: "Where are you sailing, if you are not showing the world paths of peace, creative ways for bringing an end to the war in Ukraine and to the many other conflicts causing so much bloodshed?"

He repeated his question to the West in general, "On what course are you sailing?" he asked, noting its "highly

See WYD, page 27



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RIP Brinktown native Sister Marie Boniface Lischwe

By Sister Suzanne Maschek MMS

Brinktown native Sister Marie Boniface Lischwe, 101, a 77-year member of the Medical Mission Sisters, died on May 10 of this year.

Fellow sisters remember her for her valiant, unyielding faith and “her pragmatism, hearty laugh and radiant smile.”

She was born on April 30, 1922, the sixth of nine children of Joseph Bernard and Katherine Wieggers Lischwe, and was given the name Marie Elizabeth.

Her family was close-knit, with daily prayer being built into the daily schedule.

She and four of her siblings — Sister Anita Marie Lischwe of Bridgeton and the late Sister Tarsilla Lischwe, both of the School Sisters of Notre Dame; the late Sister Michael Marie Lischwe of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary; and the late Redemptorist Father Bruno Lischwe — entered religious life.

Marie described her father as an adept farmer and her mother as a good homemaker, enabling the family to help neighbors who were less fortunate during the Great Depression.

As was the custom, after eighth grade, all four girls left the farm to find jobs in St. Louis.

At age 16, Marie first worked in the maternity ward at Incarnate Word Hospital in St. Louis.

Soon thereafter, she worked with several families, caring for the children, doing housekeeping and traveling across the country with them.

Marie’s mother was prayerful and subscribed to missionary magazines, which Marie also read.

She was intrigued by the Columban Sisters and thought she would like to help children in China. However, travel to Ireland to join the Columbans was not possible due to World War II.

The superior of that congregation recommended that Marie write to Mother Anna Maria Dengel of the Medical Mission Sisters (MMS), a religious congregation that pro-

vides medical care to people who are poor and in need in the overseas missions.

“I found time to write and ask for an application,” she recalled. “When it arrived, I answered promptly.”

Not hearing back from Philadelphia after a while, she worked up the nerve to make her first long-distance phone call and asked to speak to Mother Dengel.

Marie explained that she had to give notice to the family she was serving as an au pair, and that she needed to purchase her required clothing and wanted to visit home.

Mother Dengel told her that she had been accepted and that the sisters would pick her up once they knew when she would arrive.

Marie entered the Medical Mission Sisters on Aug. 10, 1943, at age 21 — “bringing her rich, practical insights and experience from the school of life, a solid work ethic, faithfulness to God and service, and her innate kindness,” fellow sisters stated.

Feeding the hungry

The first 20 years of Sr. Boniface’s religious life were spent in support services at

She received the habit and the religious name Sr. Marie Boniface on Feb. 11, 1944.

She took temporary vows two years later, on Feb. 11, 1946, and professed final vows on Feb. 11, 1951.

Because she did not have the opportunity for schooling beyond primary school, she appreciated assistance with Church history classes and spiritual life from Sr. Helen Beatrice.

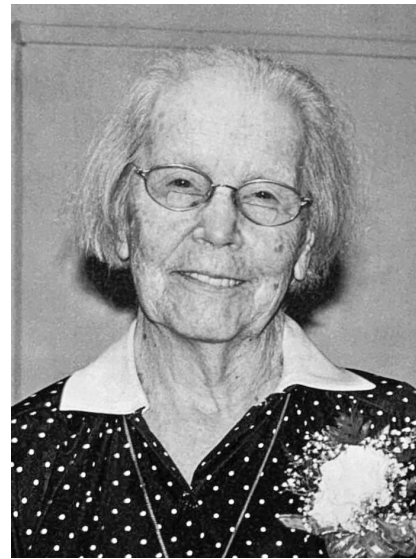
“I am ever grateful to the Holy Spirit, who never let me lose my self-respect among all those educated ladies around 10 years my senior,” Sr. Boniface once wrote.

Sr. Boniface excelled in manual labor. She was an intrepid worker, her great faith sustaining her through all adversity.

For two decades, she held primary responsibility for feeding the many sisters in Fox Chase.

Food and supplies were in short order due to the war.

Besides organizing the workforce for feeding and caring for the animals, Sr. Boniface also had to train city girls just coming into the Society how to garden, churn butter,



Sister Marie Boniface Lischwe
1922 - 2023

ter.”

“My gifts as developed”

Sr. Boniface was assigned in 1963 to the MMS House of Studies in St. Louis, where about 24 sisters were attending various universities and nursing schools.

She did the shopping, cooking and housekeeping while students helped with cleaning the house and after meals.

St. Louis was much closer to her aging parents in Brinktown, which enabled her to help them.

A highlight of this time was her parents’ 50th wedding anniversary.

Sister had time to study for her GED and earned her high school equivalency credentials in 1970.

She was an avid reader and maintained a keen interest in world events.

She kept up relationships built up over the years by correspondence.

After nine years in St. Louis, Sr. Boniface was invited to join the MMS community in Los Altos, California.

Marymeade was a large property of houses and gardens.

She wrote: “I value having a chapel, attending daily Mass, having time and quiet for contemplation during work hours in the house and garden.”

Before long, she was in charge of property maintenance and the gardens.

“All my gifts as developed are used,” she wrote. “Only

God knows which are neglected. I trust God fully, if we keep our vows and live them, God will care for us.”

“Grandma Marie”

When Marymeade was sold in 1986, Sr. Boniface again researched how she could best fulfill her purpose.

She moved in with the Religious of the Heart of Mary in Cupertino, California, for four years and then to Sunnyvale, from which she could easily travel to her two volunteer ministries.

At age 77, she began volunteering with the Foster Grandparents, accompanying one child with disabilities at a time at the Chandler Tripp School in San Jose.

The children called her Grandma Marie.

In the afternoons, Sr. Boniface served as office manager and attended to all the clients at the Fremont Society, a Catholic center for pregnant women in crisis.

Bishop Patrick McGrath of San Jose wrote a commendation to Sr. Boniface upon the closing of the Fremont Society:

“We express deep appreciation for your years of dedicated service to women in crisis pregnancies over the past 15 years. Unselfishness has a way of gaining entrance to even the most hardened of hearts. By your obvious concern and devotedness to those in need, you have touched many.”

A time to remember

In January of 2001, Sr. Boniface joined several other MMSs at Regina Residence, a home for religious sisters in Orange, California.

There, she spent her time serving in the dining room, delivering daily newspapers and reading to other residents.

She served as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion in the infirmary and led the daily Rosary.

She flourished in this time, closing out four decades of life and mission in California.

In October of 2012, at age 91, she transferred to St. Joseph’s Villa in Flourtown,



Sister Boniface poses with some of the children she accompanied while volunteering with the Foster Grandparents at Chandler Tripp School in San Jose, Ca. The children called her “Grandma Marie.”

the MMS motherhouse in Fox Chase.

She started in the kitchen but was soon assigned to tend the land — work she loved.

She was entrusted with care of the chickens and soon also took on milking the cows on the motherhouse property.

and perform similar tasks.

She drove the tractor and supervised all the work.

“I learned to live in the Society in the years when its growth was greatest,” she once recalled, “cooking with help for up to 150 sisters to 200 at meetings and the 1947 Chap-



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Double Effect: Catholic Teaching on the Death Penalty

America's system of law is known for being based on legal precedent – that is, it is a system of law that evolves based upon inviolable principles – principles that must function together cohesively without contradiction. This is a system our country inherited from Old English common law; however, long before England established this system of law, the Catholic Church has operated under a system of precedent of its own. People say God can do anything – specifically, God can do anything EXCEPT contradict Himself.

The Church has carried this rule of non-contradiction for close to 2000 years. Our shepherds, through apostolic succession, have taken the divinely-inspired writings of the Bible and the sacred tradition started by Christ and the Apostles, and safeguarded and used these truths to apply to the various situations they encountered in our world. Through the precedent set by scripture and tradition, the Church is able to determine which acts are moral and immoral.

In light of this rule of non-contradiction, it is only natural for some confusion to arise regarding the Church's history with capital punishment. Today the Catholic Church preaches that the death penalty is inadmissible; but we know that in the past, the Church has allowed executions to occur within the Papal States. One executioner in particular, Giovanni Battista Bugatti, served as papal executioner for six popes during the 18th and 19th centuries, and executed over 500 felons. Before the Papal States conducted its final execution in 1870, Blessed Pope Pius IX himself responded to a prisoner's request for clemency, saying that he could not grant clemency, and that carrying out the execution was a necessity. If we truly have a system of precedent and non-contradiction, how can we reconcile Pope Pius' words with current dogma?

continued on next page ...



“[T]he death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person” – *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2267

In order to do so, we need to understand the purpose of the death penalty in Catholic morality. The fifth commandment says thou shalt not kill; however, if we kill a would-be murderer in self-defense, that is not a sinful act. This is because of the principle of double effect. If an act produces a double effect, part good and part bad, it is morally permissible if certain criteria are met. First, the action itself must be morally good. In the previous example, the action would be to stop an assailant from committing murder. Second, you must not desire the negative consequence, and if you can produce a good result without any negative consequence, you should. Incapacitating an attacker is preferable if it's possible, but if killing your attacker is the only way to stop him or her, then it is morally permissible. And third, the good effect must be as immediate as the negative effect – because as the two effects become more distant in time from one another, the more likely it is that we are committing two separate acts, one good and one bad, rather than one action that has a double effect.

Within the past 150 years, various popes have made statements regarding the death penalty, each time referencing the death penalty in terms of necessity. In 1901, Pope Leo XIII said the death penalty was “both necessary and efficacious.” In 1908, Saint Pius X said “it is necessary to kill when fighting in a just war... and likewise, to carry out a sentence of death in punishment of a crime.”

When we see a shift in church teaching on the death penalty in the later half of the 20th century, we see more of this “necessary” language. Saint John Paul II wrote that execution is only appropriate “in cases of absolute necessity, in other words, when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society without the execution.” Pope Benedict XVI encouraged countries to reconcile keeping public order and safety with dignified treatment of prisoners, and that the death penalty is only permissible in situations where no other option is viable. This is the same view espoused by Pope Francis and the 2018 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. So, what happened in the middle of the 20th century for the popes to have such different views?

In the past century, our society has overseen the largest acceleration of affluence, technology, and standards that humanity has ever experienced in such a short timeframe. In 1910, less than 2 percent of the United States had electrical power, and now virtually every American adult has a portable phone, television, and mailbox all wrapped in a single device. With these advancements came improvements to our ability to protect victims of crime and in the effectiveness of our incarceration system. We are able to more securely contain criminals than ever before in history. And this is where the question of double effect and the death penalty's “necessity” come into play.

Executions per year, 1977-2023



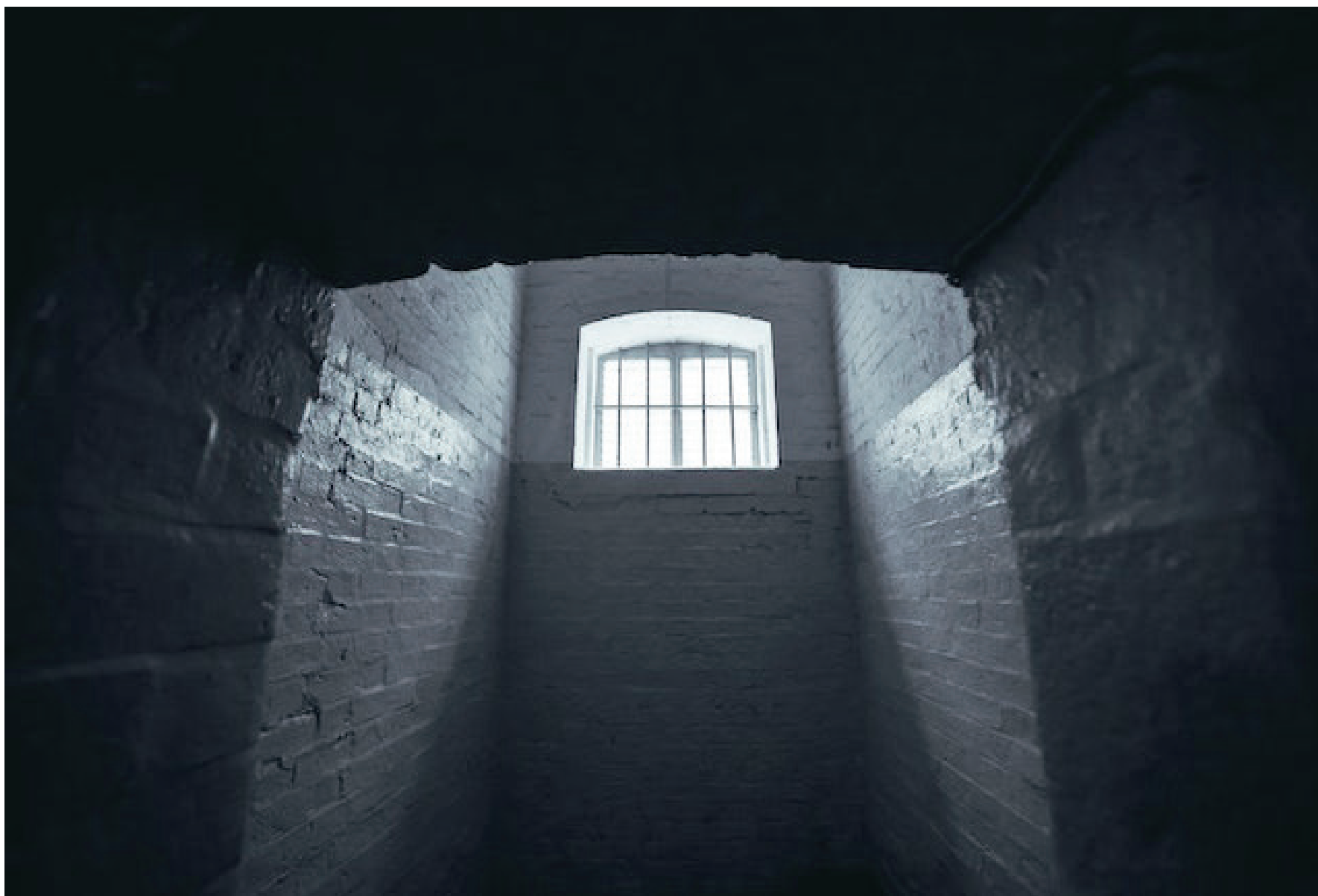
Source: Death Penalty Information Center

Since the U.S Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, there have been 1564 executions nationwide, 95 of them in Missouri.

One-fourth of the executions in the U.S. in 2023 occurred in Missouri.



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Many will say that the death penalty is necessary to act as deterrence from more murders occurring later. Certainly, if you execute a murderer, he or she is not going to murder again. However, if you incarcerate a murderer for the rest of his or her life with no possibility of release, then he or she ALSO won't murder anyone ever again. Through the principle of double effect, you can kill an attacker in self-defense, and commit no moral wrong. However, the principle of double effect cannot apply to the executions performed in most of the developed world today because the criminals eligible for the death penalty are already incarcerated for life and unable to reoffend. As a result, the "good effect" (the criminal's incapacitation) has already occurred, leaving only the "bad effect" of the execution occurring years after the criminal has already been living a sentence of life without parole. We, as Catholics, are called to follow the path of producing as few negative consequences as possible. Because modern societies have developed more effective detention systems, the less negative consequence of life without parole is not only viable – it is morally obligatory.

“The death penalty cannot be employed for a purported state justice, since it does not constitute a deterrent nor render justice to victims, but only fuels the thirst for vengeance,”
- Pope Francis, January 9, 2023

This understanding of the death penalty's moral impermissibility is also the basis for how the American justice system has evaluated capital punishment. American courts have noted how the meteoric rise in affluence and resources in the United States has affected what is perceived as morally permissible, and this phenomenon is commonly referred to as “evolving standards of decency.” The court of *Trop v. Dulles* (1958) ruled evolving standards of decency played a key role in determining whether a criminal punishment violates the 8th Amendment's “cruel and unusual punishment” clause – ultimately resulting in the *Furman v. Georgia* ruling that ended the death penalty in the United States for a brief time. Even after the death penalty was reinstated on a state by state basis, 23 states have decided to bar the death penalty within their borders, and additional states have informally suspended capital punishment via statute. More states have determined the moral impermissibility of the death penalty, which has led to only 11 states carrying out death sentences within the past decade – Missouri being one of them.

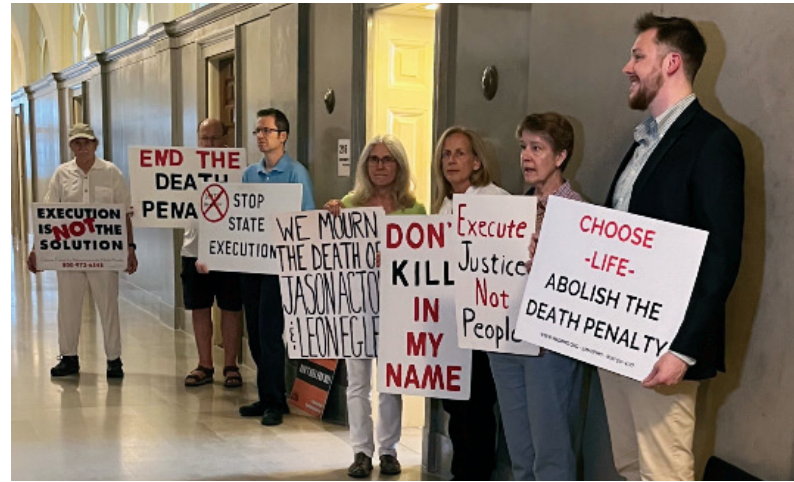
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So far in 2023, 15 inmates have been executed in the United States, three of which have occurred in Missouri. Missouri's fourth execution, scheduled for August 1, would mean 25% of America's executions this year have taken place in Missouri, giving the state the highest per capita rate of execution in the country.

Though various bills to limit the death penalty are presented in the Missouri legislature every session, it is rare for any of these bills to gain traction, let alone be passed into law. Missouri has a long road to tread before the death penalty is eliminated, which makes it all the more important for Catholics to promote mercy in the criminal justice system.

Each time a prisoner in Missouri is set to be executed, the Missouri Bishops, through the Missouri Catholic Conference, send a letter to the governor requesting clemency on behalf of the prisoner. We also organize a vigil outside the governor's office on the day of an execution, where advocates hold signs and request mercy through peaceful protest.

Proponents of the death penalty often justify the use of the death penalty by claiming it is something the convicted murderer "deserves" to receive; however, even assuming this statement is correct, is that truly the way we as Christians want punishment to be exacted? Do we as sinners strictly *deserve* God's sanctifying grace, or is it an act of mercy God exercises upon us? No action of our own can merit sanctifying grace; it is instead a gift from God that we only receive because He gives it freely – we need only accept it through faith and good works. Regardless of whether one can independently determine a prisoner "deserves" execution in a draconian sense, is it not better to emulate God's mercy when choosing whether a prisoner receives either execution or life without parole? Murder is described by the bible as a "sin that cries out to heaven for vengeance." Given the gravity of these sins, it's all the more important that, whenever possible, we give murderers as much time as possible to amend their ways and repent for their sins in the remaining time they have on this earth.



Prayer to End the Use of the Death Penalty

Merciful Father, we ask your blessing on all we do to build a culture of life. Hear our prayers for those impacted by the death penalty.

We pray for all people, that their lives and dignity as children of a loving God may be respected and protected in all stages and circumstances.

We pray for victims of violence and their families, that they may experience our love and support and find comfort in your compassion and in the promise of eternal life.

We pray for those on death row, that their lives may be spared, that the innocent may be freed and that the guilty may come to acknowledge their faults and seek reconciliation with you.

We pray for the families of those who are facing execution, that they may be comforted by your love and compassion.

We pray for civic leaders, that they may commit themselves to respecting every human life and ending the use of the death penalty in our land.

Compassionate Father, give us wisdom and hearts filled with your love. Guide us as we work to end the use of the death penalty and to build a society that truly chooses life in all situations.

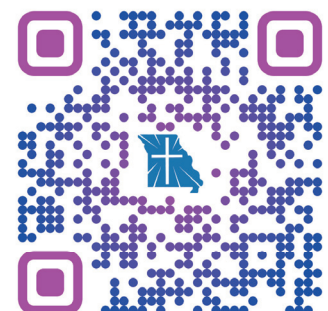
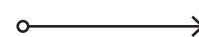
We ask this Father through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen



Bishop Edward Rice, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and MCC lobbyist Curt Wichmer discuss the history of the Catholic teaching on the death penalty and how the principle of double effect interacts with capital punishment's validity, in this episode of MCC from the Capitol.

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ADMINISTRATORS

From page 1

my life. I continue to trust in him and follow his plan for my future.”

She believes the purpose of a Catholic school is best summed up in Father McCartan Memorial School’s mission statement: “to provide a Christ-centered education so that students can grow academically, spiritually, emotionally, and physically to reach their full potential.”

She knows that her example, encouragement, support and leadership for the staff and students will be important to make the school’s mission successful.

“I need to continue to focus on our school’s mission and perform work to the Glory of our Lord,” she said.

She’s convinced that her role as a Catholic school administrator is to provide support for the faculty and staff in educating the students.

“A large part of that is instilling the Catholic faith in our daily tasks so that they become a part of who our students are when they leave our building,” she said.

She called to mind some advice her former principal, Matt Finch, an influential mentor, gave her.

“When decisions had to be made, he would always ask the most necessary question: ‘What is in the best interests of all our students?’” she recalled. “That was the basis for moving forward.”

Mr. Finch also reminded her that each day, good or bad, is a part of God’s plan, “and that my job is to trust God’s plan,” she said.

Her favorite prayer is the Rosary.

“I truly believe that the holy Rosary is the most powerful weapon of our time and I pray it daily,” she said.

She enjoys traveling with her husband to visit her daughters, and nieces and nephews.

Two of her favorite books are *Loved As I Am*, by Sister Miriam James Heidland, and *My Sisters The Saints*, by Colleen Carroll Campbell.

“Each tells a story of the author’s life and the important lessons learned as they relied on their Catholic faith,” she said. “They empower me to

live a good Catholic life and to share my story, when possible, to encourage others.”

Mrs. Harlan believes that if a Catholic school is doing its job well, its graduates will go on to be academically successful in their future educational endeavors.

“But, most importantly, they will be strong Catholics who believe in the power of the Eucharist and importance of Holy Mass,” she said.

Likewise, she stated, they will spend the rest of their lives demonstrating their commitment to the Church and their love of the Lord, and will pass their beliefs onto their own children someday.

Seeing so many Fr. McCartan parents who were once students there shows her that the job has been done well there in the past.

“I am excited to do my part in continuing that success,” she said.

She asked for prayers for her and her colleagues at Father McCartan to “reach the needs of each student in a positive godly way to instill in them a strong educational foundation as well as a strong Catholic foundation.”

“Both will be so important when they leave the halls of our school,” she said.

“Loved by God”

Maggie Rush said that of the many responsibilities as a Catholic school administrator, “the most important role I must complete is the task of helping to lead the school community to a closer relationship with God.”

“In everything we do at Visitation, I must ensure that we are keeping the well-being of students in mind — especially their spiritual well-being,” said Ms. Rush, a graduate of Visitation Inter-Parish School in Vienna, and the school’s new principal.

She was raised on a small farm in Maries County, near Argyle and is a lifelong member of St. Aloysius Parish.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in middle school education and a master’s degree in educational leadership, both



Maggie Rush, principal of Visitation Inter-Parish School in Vienna; Tina Forbis, principal of St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville; Bobbi Rankins, principal of St. Mary School in Frankenstein; and Kathy Harlan, principal of Fr. McCartan Memorial School in Marceline gather for a photo in the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center in Jefferson City Aug. 1.

— Photo by Annie Williams

from William Woods University in Fulton.

She previously taught in public schools and is excited now to be a part of Catholic education.

She believes that the purpose of a Catholic school is “to provide students with a safe and structured environment to learn and grow into the person that God has created them to be.”

She’s convinced that Catholic education is important because it allows students to learn about the Catholic faith, and put that faith into practice every day.

“Catholic education provides opportunities for students to learn how to be disciples of Jesus and grow in their relationship and love of him,” she stated.

She said that if a Catholic school is successful, its graduates will have a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility.

“They will be active parishioners who take part in their parish community,” she said. “They’ll be on the path to forming a genuine relationship with Jesus.”

“Most of all, they would know that they are loved by God,” she stated.

In her spare time, Ms. Rush enjoys playing musical instruments, reading, crafts, fishing

and watching movies.

Her favorite prayer is titled, “*Suscipe*” (“Receive”), which is attributed to St. Ignatius Loyola:

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.

“It helps me to remember that I need to surrender myself fully to God and his will,” she said. “He is enough.”

Being an organist at her parish, she knows and loves many hymns.

Among her favorites is the “Song of the Body of Christ.”

“It was the first song I played in church, and the words are truly beautiful,” she said. “They paint a beautiful picture about what it means to live as part of the Body of Christ.”

Her favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:4-9, which begins: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

“It is a wonderful reminder to me to pray instead of worrying,” she said.

Having received many words of wisdom from experienced educators, she believes the best came from a former teacher of hers who was an as-

sistant principal while she was student teaching.

“He told me that when parents call in with concerns about the school,” she recalled, “it is important first to listen. They are always calling from a place of love and concern for their children. Always remember that parents just want what is best for their children.”

“This has helped me tremendously thus far, and I believe it will continue to help me, especially in my new role as principal,” she said.

Ms. Rush asked for prayers for her to have the ability, courage, patience and understanding to do what God has called her to do.

“Only through prayer can these things be achieved,” she noted. “I ask that they pray for a successful school year full of growth opportunities for the students, their parents and the school.”

“Help them grow”

Tina Forbis believes a good sign of a successful Catholic school is when its graduates continue going to church and receive the Eucharist when they’re out on their own.

“It is wonderful seeing young adults coming to church by themselves or even with friends,” said Mrs. Forbis, the new principal of St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville.

She brings 17 years of teaching experience in Catholic schools into her role as a first-time school administrator.

“Everyone in the St. Stanislaus community has been very welcoming and helpful,” she stated. “I am very thrilled to begin my 18th year in the Diocese of Jefferson City as an administrator and excited to get to know everyone.”

She and her husband, Jay, have three children — a senior and a sophomore at Helias Catholic High School and a sixth-grader at St. Francis Xavier School in Taos.

They recently adopted a dog.

The family is very active in

SEIBERT

From page 4

the Roman Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian

Initiation of Adults in 1995. Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

ordained him a permanent deacon of the diocese in 2019.

“I am a prime example of God’s grace and ability to change people,” Deacon Seibert said at the time of his ordination. “I’m always willing to testify to God’s love.”

He said Columbia College’s Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award was a surprise.

“I really like to kind of stay under the radar,” he stated.





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FIRE

From page 1

would not go out.

“All day and especially tonight at the Holy Hour, the people of the parish in the midst of their grief and mourning were showing powerful signs of faith,” said Fr. Corel.

Parishioner Liz Kehl heard from a friend about the fire’s destruction and drove by with three of her children to see for herself.

Sarah, her second-oldest, was astonished to recall receiving her First Holy Communion in the chapel exactly three years previously.

“I was silent,” said Mrs. Kehl, “a little bit detached, thinking, ‘Maybe I’ll wake up and the church will still be here.’”

“The good Lord has other plans for us,” Mr. Bahner’s wife, Mary, noted.

The Bahners’ son, Micah, has been organist at the chapel for 21 years.

Their daughter, Maria Embry, married her husband there last year — following in the footsteps her parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents had made on their wedding days.

Looking around, Mr. Klein pointed out the various sizes of square-shaped nails that were still attached to the charred beams.

“They’ve got a better grip than a round nail,” he noted.

His daughter, April (Klein) Pilant, said the chapel had changed very little since she was a child.

She recalled arguing with friends over who would get to carry which figures to the creche in the sanctuary each Christmas.

But first, the men of the parish had to retrieve the figures from the choir loft, lowering each piece with a rope.

“Now, it’s all gone,” she said, her voice trailing off. “It feels kind of like a funeral.”

Parishioner Don Klein expressed a combination of grief and relief.

“It would have been a lot worse if anyone had been inside,” he said.

“Holy darkness”

Parishioners and visitors filled the Community Center



LEFT: Parishioners and neighbors gather on Aug. 1 around the place where St. John the Evangelist Chapel stood for 142 years before it was struck by lightning and burned down that morning. **RIGHT:** Father Joseph Corel, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, blesses the people with the Blessed Sacrament during a Holy Hour with parishioners in the Community Center the evening of the fire.



— Photos by Jay Nies

that evening for a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Together, they sang hymns expressing hope, trust and reverence.

Fr. Corel cautioned against allowing the natural emotions of anger, frustration and sadness to bring division to the community.

“Remember, we’re all on the same team,” he stated. “The devil wants to separate and divide us. He wants to make us angry and point fingers at each other.”

“We need to keep heading in the same direction, together,” he insisted. “We’re listening, grieving, processing, trying to make as much sense of this as we can.”

“We will continue to persevere, the way we have been doing for generations,” he stated.

Nonetheless, he acknowledged that the people probably had more questions than he had answers.

“It’s natural in a time like this to want answers about the future, but tonight is too soon for that,” he said.

“We’re taking care of our grief, our mourning, attending to what was, and sharing stories of all the things that happened in this beautiful, sacred place,” he stated.

“We are still bleeding and assessing our damage in the field,” he said. “We have not even gotten ourselves to the hospital to know what the prognosis is, to know about recovery.”

Fr. Corel said he had been in contact with Brad Copeland, diocesan director of buildings and properties, as well as the

company that insures the diocese.

He had spoken to Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, who was attending an international Knights of Columbus gathering in Florida, as well as Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, vicar general, and others in the diocesan Chancery offices.

Administrative matters were being attended to.

“So, let’s just sit with the reality of tonight; let’s sit with the reality of what happened this morning, and then begin to ask what the Lord is calling us to do as a community, knowing that He leads and guides us,” the pastor stated.

He turned the focus back to the Eucharist.

“The Lord is here with us tonight, just as he is every time we gather for Mass,” Fr. Corel noted.

“He gives himself totally to us. Let us give him our very selves tonight, and place all of this in his hands.”

Fr. Corel referred to the song that was to be sung next during the Holy Hour.

“Hopefully, it captures what we’re feeling but also gives us great hope that God will provide,” he said.

The song is titled, “Holy Darkness.”

Historically resilient

Bishop McKnight said that the flames may have consumed the physical structure of St. John the Evangelist Chapel, “but they cannot destroy the spirit and resilience that have defined the chapel community of St. John in St. Vincent de Paul Parish for years.

“We must remember that a church is not just a physical building,” he stated. “It is the people who gather within its walls.”

He noted that the members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish — created by joining the two former Sedalia parishes and the former Bahner mission together — “now belong to a wider

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

group of parishioners for the benefit of all.”

“Now, more than ever, the support of this community is needed to carry each other through this challenging chapter,” he said.

St. John the Evangelist was founded by nine Catholic families from what is now Germany, who settled around present-day Bahner in 1837.

They gathered in each other’s homes each Sunday for prayer and religious instruction.

Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias, now known as the Apostle of Central Missouri, became the first priest to visit the community and offer Mass there.

Other horseback missionaries visited from time-to-time, including Father H. Plarrer, who came frequently from Jefferson City.

The community had grown to 18 families by 1848, prompt-

ing the construction of a simple church building in nearby Lake Creek Township.

A second, larger church — the one that was recently lost — was built in 1881 while Precious Blood Father Andreas Gietl was pastor.

It became the mother church for what is now Sacred Heart Chapel in Sedalia.

In recent years, weekend Masses at St. John have been offered on Saturday evenings. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament has been held every Wednesday.

“The people here work hard and take you in and make you part of the community,” said Michael Bahner.

“I hope that’s not going to be lost” after the fire, he said. “It would be a tragedy for people never to get to experience the kind of camaraderie we have.”

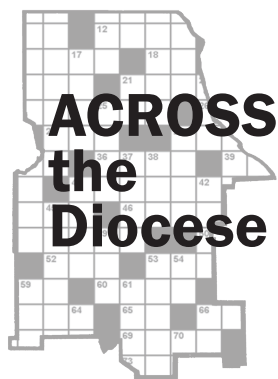
Deacon Turf Martin grew up in Pettis County and moved back to the area with his wife, JoAnn, 21 years ago.

“It’s a community that has rekindled its fire,” he said of the people, not the chapel.

“It has become very close-knit and open to strangers and to people moving in from out of town,” he said. “That means we’re still growing. You still hear babies crying out in the congregation.”

Mrs. Martin said her prayer now is “that our strong sense of community will be able to remain intact.”

“Of all of the parishes I have been a part of, I have never felt the level of true caring, faith and community that I have felt here at St. John,” she stated.



By Father Don Antweiler
Across

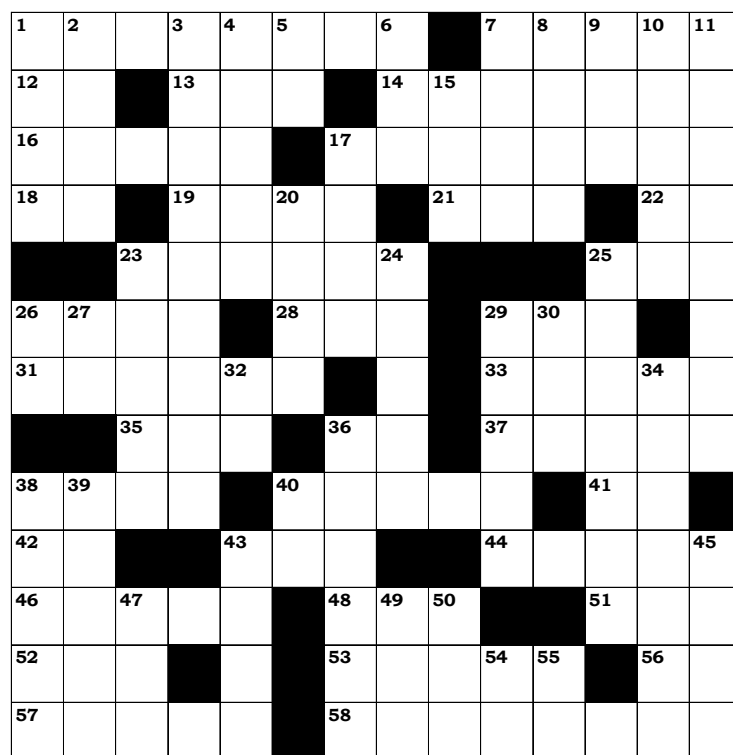
1. The Hannibal & St. Joseph RR, across the ____ part of our diocese, was featured in a previous crossword. However, four other RRs have played significant roles in other parts of our diocese.
7. Home of Mo. S&T.
12. Stomach muscle.
13. Greek goddess of the dawn.
14. "He will change our lowly body...by the power that ____ him to bring all things into subjection to himself," (Philippians 3:21).
16. Home of the NFL Dolphins, MLB Marlins and NBA Heat.
17. The Mo. Kansas Texas RR (the "Katy," from the last two letters of MKT) was a ____ but extensive southern-Midwest line. At one point, tired of running on Union Pacific tracks, it built tracks on the north side of the Mo. River, though it was hampered by periodic floods.
18. ____ *cum spiritu tuo*.
19. Sound to get someone's at-

- tion quietly.
21. Shout at a bullfight.
 22. "Supernatural mysteries ____ not go against our reason or experience, simply beyond them," —Scott Hahn in *Catholic for a Reason*.
 23. "Abba, Abba father. You are the ____; we are the clay, the work of your hands," —Refrain for "Abba Father," 1977 Catholic song by Carey Landry, recorded by several other artists right up to 2020.
 25. Letters for the US Navy.
 26. A type of pressure?
 28. This country has the longest border with a single country in the world: 5,530 miles.
 29. Affectionate term for a spouse perhaps.
 31. The little town of __, __ Osage County in our diocese is the site of the heritage beginnings, and a main factory plant, of Diamond Pet Foods.
 33. A desert bush also widely grown as ornamental plants in gardens.
 35. In nursing, letters for Emergency Response Team.
 36. Common college degree.
 37. A section of the old famous Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific RR in Mo. is 144 ____ long and is in process to eventually become the "Rock Island Trail." It is projected to run through Benton, Morgan, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries and Gasconade counties in our diocese.

38. ____ Magdalene.
40. Brother of Moses (Exodus 7:1).
41. Prefix for core or trance.
42. Bone.
43. Deface or disfigure.
44. Roller or ice.
46. The full-time vowels.
48. Decay.
51. Gun club.
52. Letters for National Public Radio.
53. Historically, in 1860, the Frisco's railhead reached Rolla, Mo., but construction suddenly halted with the advent of Civil War in Mo. Many stranded ____ RR workers decided to settle in Rolla and helped establish a Catholic church there, named for St. Patrick, of course.
56. Letters for audio/video.
57. Amtrak runs ____ trains with stops in Mo. The Amtrak Mo. River Runner has stops in our diocese at Hermann, Jeff. City and Sedalia. The Amtrak Texas Eagle has several stops in SE Mo. The Southwest Chief stops in our diocese only at La Plata, Mo., south of Kirksville.
58. "On the contrary, we endure everything so as not to place an ____ to the Gospel of Christ," (1 Corinthians 9:12).

Down

1. The Union Pacific RR in Mo., from St. Louis to Kansas City, was intended to go all the way to the Pacific, hence its _____. It today is the 2nd largest RR in America.
2. Last words?
3. The Union Pacific tracks reached Jeff. City in 1855. The inaugural run from St. Louis to Jeff. carried 600 passengers, with many state and RR dignitaries. Tragically, a ____ bridge over the Gasconade River collapsed injuring hun-



- dreds and killing over 40 others.
4. "The United States will eventually fly the communist red flag...The American people will ____ it themselves," —Nikita Khrushchev.
5. Prefix for cape or team.
6. Word indicating birth name.
7. The Katy RR is today called the "Katy Trail," the longest ____-to-trail project in the nation.
8. Double reed woodwind musical instrument.
9. The Law of Large Numbers (____) is the official theorem describing the results of performing the same experiment multiple times.
10. The detective still had several ____ in the case to follow up on.
11. "I will bless you ____ I live..." —Psalm 63:5 (3 wds.).
15. Letters for Non-Governmental Organization; a voluntary group or institution with a social mission independent from a government. The Catholic Church is the largest in the world.
17. Abbr. For routes.
20. "If the storm within gets too loud, I take a glass too much to ____ myself," —Vincent Van Gogh.
23. This apostle in the Gospels is always first on any list of the apostles.
24. Company clerk "____" O'Reilly was a character on the TV series "M*A*S*H"; played by Gary Burghoff.
25. "He...began to send them out...and gave them authority over ____ spirits," (Mark 6:7).
26. Afternoon or evening.
27. Wide shoe size.
29. Church songs.
30. Yes in Marseille.
32. Doggone ____!
34. The St. Louis-San Francisco Railway, known as the Frisco, was dominant in the south ____ U.S., primarily Mo., Ar., Ks., Ok. It is now part of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe RR, the largest RR in America.
36. Neighborhood in Spanish South America.
38. "As (Jesus) was sitting on the ____ of Olives opposite the temple area..." (Mark 13:3).
39. Director of music in the temple during the reign of King David. He is explicitly given credit for the music in verse 1 of Psalm 50 and in every one of the Psalms from 73-83.
40. Letters for American Airlines.
43. Lawn burrowing pest.
45. The overhang edge of a roof.
47. "To ____ is human. To forgive, divine," —attributed to Alexander Pope, Poet of the Enlightenment in "An Essay on Criticism."
49. Earth or moon.
50. "Shut up your doors, ____ a wild night," —"King Lear," Act 3; Shakespeare.
54. Abbr. before a canonized person.
55. That's a laugh!

ANSWERS on page 23

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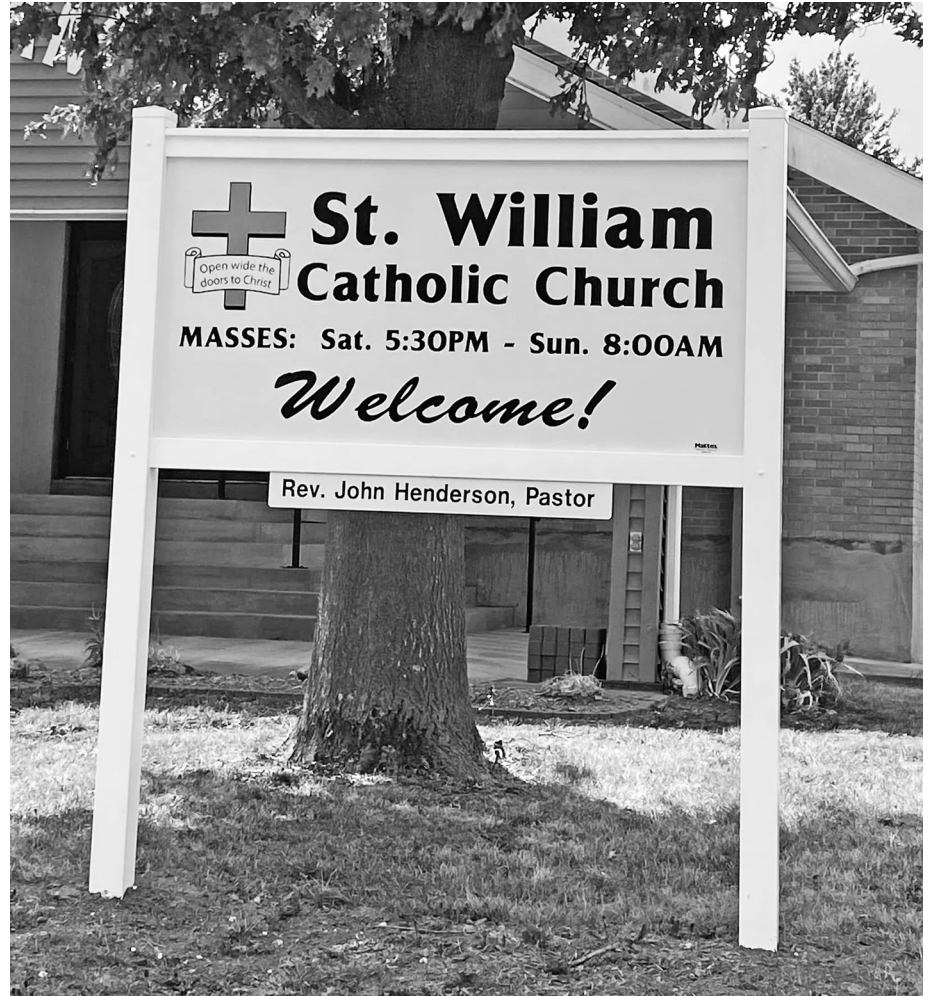
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Sign, sign, everywhere a sign ...



An electronic sign in Busch Stadium in St. Louis welcomes a delegation from Holy Spirit Parish in Centralia on July 18. This is the third year parishioners chartered a bus to the stadium for a game.

— Photo by Father Mike Coleman



A new sign welcomes parishioners and visitors to St. William Church in Perry.

— Photo by Cassie John Gonzales

Supreme Knight: Knights of Columbus deepen faith in Jesus, make charity personal

By Peter Jesserer Smith

Orlando, Florida

OSV News

At the Knights of Columbus annual convention in Orlando, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly had a message for the 2,300 Knights and family members gathered Aug. 1 to hear his report on the state of the world's largest Catholic fraternal order.

"As Knights, what we do reflects who we are. We are faithful Catholics — and disciples of Jesus Christ," he said.

In his address for the 141st Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus, Kelly illustrated how the Knights' goal of being "first in faith, first in charity" drew its source from a commitment to follow Jesus Christ. For 2 million Knights of Columbus, the \$185 million dollars given to charity, 49 million hours of volunteer service, and record \$121 billion dollars of life insurance in force over the past year sprang from the "one mission" their founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, gave them: "to follow Christ."

"And he called us to fulfill it through faith and charity," Kelly said.

Since he became the fraternal order's 14th Supreme Knight, Kelly has emphasized the importance of cultivating discipleship as the heart of a Knight's Catholic identity. And in his Aug. 1 address, giving the annual report titled "First in Faith and Charity," Kelly emphasized that for Knights, their faith in Jesus Christ is personal — and therefore so is their charity.

"In these difficult times, so much depends on our commitment to our mission. Will we be credible witnesses to a living faith? Will ours be a charity that evangelizes? Will we stand for the truth without apology — without counting the cost?"

Kelly said the Knights' answer will be the same as Father McGivney's: yes.

"We will point the world to Jesus Christ," Kelly said. "He is the light that shines in the darkness. And he will shine through the Knights of Columbus."

Kelly started with laying out the formation efforts of the Knights, saying "forming Catholic men must be our top priority."

"I have said it before, and I will say it again: If we get the man right, we

get everything right — the marriage, the family, the parish, the community," Kelly said.

Kelly said the church needs "men who say 'yes' to their God-given vocation," such as St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe entrusted her message on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. Kelly noted the Knights are preparing for the 500th anniversary of the 1531 apparition and that the Knights have been consecrated to the Virgin Mary under this title for two decades now.

Returning to the theme of forming disciples, Kelly said the Knights' new formation program, "Cor" (Latin for "heart"), was a "game-changer" successfully piloted by some councils. Now being rolled out to all councils, he said Cor will provide Catholic men fellowship — which is needed in a world where people are lonelier than ever — and will "deepen our relationship with Christ, making it easier to profess and defend what we believe."

Cor is just one of the new faith-formation programs the Knights are rolling out. Kelly said the Knights are

introducing a new Bible study called "Men of the Word" and a new video series on marriage, family and fatherhood.

Kelly drew the Knights' attention to a January 2023 Pew Research Center survey that showed only 35% of Catholic parents think it is very or extremely important if their children share their beliefs in adulthood. Kelly said the new video series will help Knights show parents why "a relationship with Christ is the greatest gift we can offer to the next generation."

Kelly then turned to encourage Knights in one of the most prominent displays of their belief in Christ's personal presence among them: the Eucharist. He noted the local Eucharistic processions the Knights have held as part of the National Eucharistic Revival and that one of the revival's processions to the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis starts from Blessed McGivney's tomb in New Haven, Connecticut.

"I encourage every Knight to embrace the revival and deepen his faith in our Eucharistic Lord," Kelly said.

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

Fundraisers & Social Events

Aug. 5

St. Martins, K of C farmer's tractor pull, 3-10 pm

Aug. 6

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch Parish picnic, 11 am-6:30 pm

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels Parish picnic, 11 am-10 pm

Aug. 11

Jefferson City, St. Peter Parish block party, 5-9 pm, parish campus

Aug. 10

Jefferson City, Helias Catholic High School Athletic Booster Club BBQ, 4-7 pm, Crusader Commons

Aug. 13

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

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Aug. 20

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Aug. 26

Westphalia, Lions Club tractor pull, 3 pm-midnight

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

agosto 5

Sedalia, Retiro para Preparación de Quinceañera, 9 am-3 pm, San Patricio, para más información contacte el equipo de quinceañera de su parroquia; **Sedalia**, Planificación Familiar Natural – Familia de las Américas, 9 am-noon, Parroquia San Patricio, para información sobre instructores y clases contacte a Diácono Enrique o Crisithia Castro al 573-680-3650 o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

agosto 11

Varios lugares, Asambleas de Jóvenes, 7-9 pm, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

agosto 20

Sedalia, Retiro Parroquial: Buena Administración, 9 am-5 pm, San Patricio, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecasatro@diojeffcity.org

agosto 25-27

Carthage, Mo., Encuentro Regional, Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

agosto 26

Columbia, Retiro Parroquial: Buena Administración, 9 am-3 pm, Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

ACCOMPANIMENT

From page 9

piety, especially pilgrimages," which "attract young people who do not readily feel at home in ecclesial structures, and represent a concrete sign of their trust in God."

We must help them worship the Lord in reverent, beautiful liturgies, taking full advantage of the joy many young people find in Eucharistic adoration and confession.

Listening to young people is a vital first step in nurturing their faith.

However, the Catholic Church must go beyond listening to young people and embrace the responsibility to instruct and evangelize them.

Listening opens a dialogue; that dialogue cannot terminate in a vague sense of affirmation or in relativizing the truth.

Listening must grow to conversation, which, in turn, must lead to a genuine revealing of the truths of the Catholic faith.

Authentic accompaniment

This is the authentic accompaniment young people need: conversation that leads to the discovery of eternal principles.

Those eternal principles will help young people discover the joy of faith, allowing them to flourish and build a lasting personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Young people need clear guidance to navigate the complexities of today's world while remaining rooted in their Catholic identity.

We must provide them with a solid foundation in Catholic moral thought.

By offering instruction that addresses their unique challenges, we equip them to face societal pressures, temptations and moral dilemmas with confidence and wisdom.

We must not shy away from raw conversations about difficult topics, like human sexuality or abortion, which they

readily discuss in any number of other forums.

We owe them the full breadth and depth of Catholic teaching, including and especially on controversial topics, responding directly to their needs, curiosities and desires.

But catechesis reaches much deeper than instruction in Christian morality.

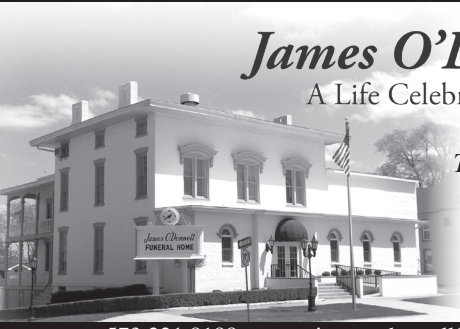
Education in the faith must be an ongoing process, engaging both the mind and the heart.

It should incorporate the broad range of teachings of the Church, the lives of the saints and an exploration of sacred Scripture.

Encouraging young people to actively study and engage with these aspects of their faith leads them to encounter Christ and empower them to embrace the faith as their own.

That's how they will become effective ambassadors of Christ's message in the world.

With World Youth Day



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Liturgical

Aug. 8

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass, 11 am-2 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, for info visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org

Aug. 26

Cedron, Mass at Assumption Church, 4 pm

Youth & Young Adults

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

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

Nov. 16-19

Indianapolis, In., National Catholic Youth Conference, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/national-catholic-youth-conference

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Friday

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

about to begin in Portugal and the Synod of Bishops to meet in Rome in October, the Church must listen to young people, but that is only the beginning.

The Church must also accompany young people by handing on, with humility and love, the faith that has been handed down to us.

As Pope Francis told young people, "The Church needs

Health & Wellness

Aug. 7

Laurie, Blood drive, noon-5 pm, St. Patrick Parish's St. Leo Hall

your momentum, your intuitions, your faith."

But that faith must be formed, shaped by authentic catechesis and instruction that takes seriously the heartfelt desires of young people today.

Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board includes Father Patrick Briscoe, Gretchen R. Crowe, Scott P. Richert, Scott Warden, York Young

QUESTION

From page 8

To counteract this, such places often have strict policies of who is eligible to be married in their church or chapel.

It is possible for a Catholic to marry in a parish other than their own, but this takes extra planning and communication from all sides, and ultimately the necessary permission is up to the prudential decision making of local pastors.

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.

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

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

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

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Clayton & Cindy Light, 10 years

Camdenton, St. Anthony
Mark & Kathi Oppold, 50 years
Tim & Amy Hadfield, 30 years

Cole Camp, Ss. Peter and Paul
Leroy & Diane Morarity, 60 years

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes
Richard & Anne Hessler, 60 years
William & Sharon Gartner, 50 years

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph
Steve & Sandy Daniels, 45 years

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate
David & Sharon Fleak, 60 years
Joe & Pam Ziegler, 55 years
Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, OFS, 45 years
Adam & Andrea Davis, 40 years
Dan & Becky Martin, 35 years
John & Shawn Wichmann, 35 years

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows
Roy & Marietta Rutledge, 45 years
Kevin & Rosalind Beck, 35 years

Moberly, St. Pius X
Joe & Dawn Schmidt, 10 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph
Dale & Cindy Gervais, 50 years
Tim & Connie Schroeder, 45 years
Kirk & Anna Bross, 40 years
Aaron & Crystal Hudson, 20 years

Pilot Grove, St. Joseph
John & Roberta Schibi, 50 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus
Clinton & Christa Luebbering, 25 years

Baptisms

Marshall, St. Peter — **Camila and Celina Martinez-Calderon**, daughters of Jairo Martinez & Elsa Calderon

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Paisley Renn Goose**, daughter of Tevin Goose & Anja Nichols

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Noel Dawn Hoffman**, daughter of Dewight & Amy Hoffman

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Ellie James Armstrong**, daughter of Brad & Mollie Armstrong

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Theo Benjamin** and **Madilyn Jane Kempker**, children of Landre & Cali Kempker

cathmo.com

Birthdays

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Hildegard Bax**, her 97th on Aug. 8

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Thelma Kraus**, her 95th on Aug. 16

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception — **Bernard Haslag**, his 90th on Aug. 3

Marshall, St. Peter — **Alice Markes**, her 92nd on Aug. 16

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Betty Groose**, her 90th on Aug. 10; **Evelyn Mormann**, her 96th on Aug. 18

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **George Dorge**, his 90th on Aug. 8

HOMILIES

From page 9

The Lilly project is ambitious. It is also long term. O'Malley, whose program is working with both laity and clerics, sees it as a 10-to-15-year project.

But instead of waiting for change from above, maybe we the laity can start with ourselves. Subscribe to a daily devotional. Go online to find the Scripture readings before Mass. Take time to reflect on the Word. Complaining about poor preaching doesn't get us far. Better contemplation and listening may.

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

SR. BONIFACE

From page 12

Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia.

She gradually noticed her memory failing and wrote herself notes, trying to keep up with family dates and events.

Her conversation gradually lessened over the years, yet her smile never diminished.

One of the highpoints of this time for her was the celebration of her 100th birthday in April 2022. She cherished the toy tractor she received as a gift that day.

"I want Jesus"

Sr. Boniface's prolific writings contain many valuable life lessons.

"I speak Jesus' mercy to all," she once wrote. "To those God has given much, much is expected.

"I have not found a cure for lifetime prejudices in others," she continued. "Therefore, I learned to accept others' limitations, and thus mitigate stress in all such encounters."

In writing on her 25th anniversary

Deaths

Angela R. Zupancic, 92 — of Pueblo, Colorado, and mother of Paula Glynn, a senior bookkeeper at the Chancery office — on July 17. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 25 in Christ the King Church in Pueblo. Entombment was in Roselawn Cemetery.

William R. "Bill" Kramer, 90 — brother of Father George Kramer, a retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese — on July 18. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 21 in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City, with Father Jeremy Secrist presiding. Entombment with military honors was in Resurrection Catholic Mausoleum.

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Mary Louise Bell; Angeline Kroll; Betty Jane Stockman**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Anneliese Homm; Carl Stoecklein**

Laurie, St. Patrick — **Billie Lahay**

Marshall, St. Peter — **James Stedem**

SCHOOLS

From page 17

their home parish, St. Francis Xavier in Taos.

She said the purpose of a Catholic school is to "give our students a great education, help them to grow in their Catholic faith, and teach how to be the best versions of themselves in order to get to Heaven."

She believes the principal's role in all of this is to "lead by example, love what they do and have a passion to make a difference in the lives of those around them."

She's grateful for the advice she's received from mentors, including that she will make mistakes and "that is okay."

Her favorite Bible passage is Matthew 19:26: "With God, all things are possible."

Whenever things get difficult, she turns to St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of lost causes or desperate cases, to intercede for her.

In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, reading and watching television, especially old sitcoms.

She asks everyone to pray daily for the entire St. Stanislaus School community — parents, students and staff.

"Everyone needs a daily prayer," she said.

in religious life, she recounted how God had used her as an instrument to bring baptism to a dying patient at In-carnate Word Hospital.

"He nodded to the cross, 'I want Jesus,'" she recalled. "I, too, want Jesus — his will for me — and I rededicate myself to Mary, his Blessed Mother, who by accepting the motherhood of Jesus, became the cause of our joy today and forever."

Shortly after celebrating her 101st birthday, Sr. Boniface started showing signs of declining health.

She entered hospice care on Friday, May 5.

She died peacefully in the morning five days later.

"You have been such a witness of fidelity and commitment," a friend told her at that time. "Your inner joy was visible by your smile. You were steadfast, so down-to-earth, so practical.

"May we also hold fast to our commitment and be that same witness of faith and hope for others!" her friend

stated.

Sister Suzanne Maschek MMS is a member of the Leadership Team and coordinator for community for the North America Unit of the Medical Mission Sisters, headquartered in Philadelphia.

Crossword puzzle answers

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

VBS in St. Patrick



The Shrine of St. Patrick's Vacation Bible School in St. Patrick had 89 registered participants in its first-ever Vacation Bible School, held in July.

Vanessa Gray, parish youth minister for St. Patrick and Kahoka, was instrumental in the success of the program.

"In the passing days since the end of VBS, I have been talking to people around the community and they were very impressed that St. Patrick was able to plan and coordinate such an important event," stated Shrine of St. Patrick parishioner Myrna Daughtry. "The entire congregation of both the Shrine of St. Patrick and St. Michael in Kahoka were firmly com-

mitted to ensuring the success of such an important endeavor for our children. We had several children that attended from Canton and LaGrange, as well."

Many organizations pitched in to help feed the children every evening. The Daughters of Isabella and the Knights of Columbus from St. Patrick were instrumental, as well as St. Michael's Altar and Rosary Society, who furnished all of the table service for the entire five nights of meals.

The St. Patrick Betterment Group also helped with providing and serving a meal, as well as donations of time and talent.

— Photos from the St. Patrick, Missouri Facebook page

Mexico at Steubenville in Springfield



Teens from St. Brendan Parish in Mexico wrap up their Steubenville retreat in Springfield on July 15.

— Photo from the St. Brendan Catholic Church Mexico, MO



Tolton volleyball camp



Participants in the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Youth Volleyball Camp close out their three-day session on July 14. There were over 60 campers having fun, making new friends and learning a few skills along the way.

— Photo from the Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Facebook page

Bible Accent

Peter was a very special and important person to Jesus.

Jesus chose Peter to be his first apostle and said Peter would be the rock upon which he would build his church.

Even though Peter was special and important, he was not perfect. He sometimes had doubts and fears that made him do sinful things.

When Peter and Jesus first met, Peter had been fishing all night but hadn't caught anything. Jesus told him to cast his net where he had already fished and to prepare for a successful catch. Peter doubted Jesus but listened. He caught so many fish that the net began to tear.

When Jesus walked on the water during a storm and called Peter to him, it was Peter's doubt and fear that caused him to sink.

And just before Jesus was arrested, Peter promised he would never deny knowing Jesus. But after Jesus' arrest, Peter became afraid. When people asked him whether he was one of Jesus' followers, Peter lied and said he didn't know Jesus.

Even though Peter was imperfect, Jesus never gave up on him. Peter's example shows us that although we aren't perfect, Jesus never gives up on us and always wants us to have faith and follow him.

St. Joseph Calasanz

Joseph Calasanz was born in Spain in 1556. His father wanted him to be a soldier, but Joseph instead studied law and was ordained a priest in 1583. He became vicar general of a Spanish diocese. In 1592, he went to Rome, where he joined the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and worked with neglected children. In 1597, he and three other priests established the first free school in Rome. This work led him to found the Clerks Regular of the Religious (or Pious) Schools. He served as superior general of the order. Joseph died in 1648, and we honor him on Aug. 25.



Jesus walks on water to the apostles' boat

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

Jesus was very sad after learning of John the Baptist's death. He wanted to be alone for a little while, so he boarded a boat and went to a deserted place.

A crowd of 5,000 men — not counting the women and children — followed Jesus on land as he traveled by sea. Jesus saw them, so he came ashore and healed the sick.

When evening came, it was time for everyone to eat. The apostles worried about feeding the huge crowd because they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus blessed the food and gave it to his friends to distribute. Miraculously, there was enough for everyone to eat their fill, and there were even 12 baskets of leftovers.

Afterward, Jesus told the apostles to get into the boat and head across the sea while he went up the mountain to be alone and pray.

As Jesus was praying, a storm started brewing. The apostles' boat was a few miles offshore when the storm hit.

The boat was tossed about by the strong wind and the churning water of the sea. The apostles tried very hard to continue across the sea, but they were traveling against the wind.

In the very early hours of the morning, Jesus came down the mountain to the shore. He wanted to join his friends, so he went out into the water. Instead of sinking into the sea,



Illustration by Linda Rivers

he walked on top of the water toward the boat.

The apostles cried out in terror when they saw a figure walking on the water toward them.

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid," Jesus said.

Peter wanted to make sure it was really Jesus.

"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water," he said.

Jesus told Peter to come to him. Peter got out of the boat and began walking on the water. But when he became frightened, he started to sink.

"Lord, save me!" Peter

yelled.

Jesus reached out and grabbed him.

"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Jesus asked.

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down.

The apostles were amazed. "Truly, you are the Son of God," they said.

Read more about it...

Matthew 14

1. What happened when the apostles started to cross the sea?

2. How did Jesus reach the apostles in the boat?

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Puzzle

Using the Scripture hints provided, check the box next to the miracles that were performed by Jesus.

- Raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43-44)
- Turns water into wine (John 2:8-9)
- Heals a woman with a withered hand (Luke 8:43-44)
- Heals Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:38-39)
- Heals a paralyzed woman (Mark 2:3-5)
- Heals three women born blind (John 9:1-7)
- Heals the centurion's servant (Luke 7:2-10)
- Heals 10 lepers (Luke 17:11-14)

Answers: Raises Lazarus from the dead; Turns water into wine; Heals Peter's mother-in-law; Heals the centurion's servant; Heals 10 lepers.

Unbreakable helps parents live courageously for Christ in the world

Free study guide can be used for homeschool and Catholic school curricula, book clubs, family discussions, and personal reflection

Gastonia, North Carolina

Kimberly Begg, author of the new release *Unbreakable: Saints Who Inspired Saints to Moral Courage* from TAN Books, is committed to raising saints.

She wants to help other parents do the same.

With the release of *Unbreakable*, she is offering a free, companion 17-page study guide designed to help parents fulfill their duties to God and their children.

“We are living in a moment of great confusion,” Begg said, “where even many Catholics don’t understand who they are and why they were made; that they were born at a particular time and place, surrounded by the people in their lives, for a particular purpose; that at critical times in their lives, doing God’s will means choosing Christ over the comforts and approval of the world; and that there is beauty and honor in suffering and sacrificing for Christ.”

Unbreakable tells the stories

of the saints in a way that’s never been done before — in a more complete way that incorporates the favorite saints of some of the Church’s most courageous saints, and highlights moments in their lives that helped them develop a habit of acting courageously for Christ in the world.

the fascinating stories of how the saints have helped each other throughout the history of the Church, inspiring each other and interceding for each other, even crossing the divide between heaven and earth.”

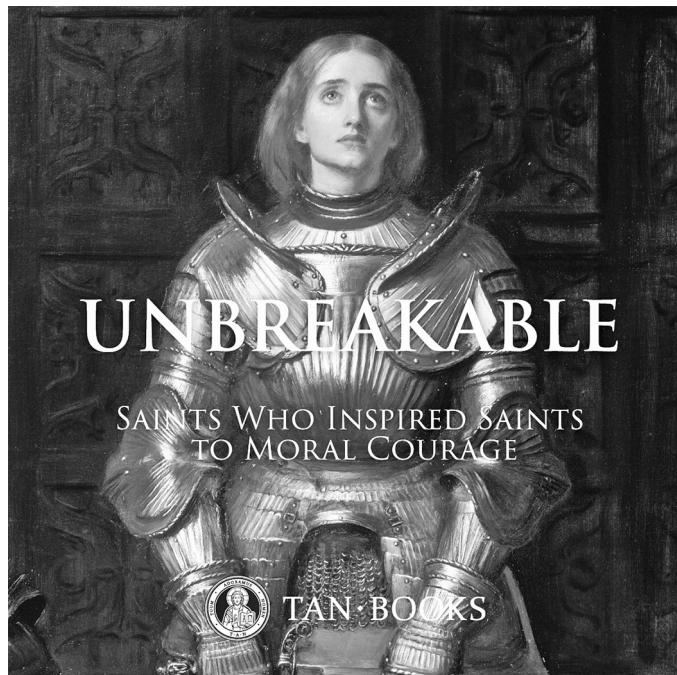
The saints in *Unbreakable* are real-life heroes who courageously took up their crosses, imitating Christ’s sacrificial love on their path to heaven — a path that was familiar to them because of the saints who came before them.

With special appeal to young people, *Unbreakable* features 14 saints, including five children and teenagers who exhibited heroic virtue in fulfilling God’s plan for their lives.

Begg’s hope is that *Unbreakable* will help Catholics embrace Christ’s instruction in John 16:33: “In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world!”

Kimberly Begg is a Catholic wife, mother of five, and attorney with more than 20 years.

To download the free study guide, visit kimberlybegg.com. To purchase the book, visit tanbooks.com.



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Movie Ratings

 Adults and Adolescents	<p>Barbie (PG-13) Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13) Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One (PG-13)</p>
 Adults	<p>Asteroid City (PG-13) Haunted Mansion (PG-13) Insidious: The Red Door (PG-13) The Miracle Club (PG-13) Oppenheimer (R) Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken (PG) Sound of Freedom (PG-13)</p>
 Limited Adult Audience	<p>Talk to Me (R)</p>
 Morally Offensive	<p>Joy Ride (R) No Hard Feelings (R)</p>

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

Writing of Georgetown’s history of involvement in slavery has not shaken author’s Catholic faith

OSV News

Washington, D.C.

Since 2016, Rachel L. Swarns has been researching Georgetown University’s involvement in the slave trade, including the 1838 sale of 272 enslaved people to help pay off debts the Jesuit priests incurred in running the university.

There were some detours along the way. A pandemic for one. A career (and literal) move from Washington for another, leaving her job in *The New York Times*’ Washington bureau to be a professor at New York University.

But the story needed to be told.

That’s what happens with *The 272*, Swarns’ new book published by Random House that details events in the decades leading up to the 1838 sale and what followed.

The attitudes and conduct of some of the Jesuits depicted in the book is grim stuff — the kind of stuff that could make somebody think long and hard about their relationship with a Church whose representatives engaged in slavery.

But Swarns, herself a Black Catholic, said that for her, she persevered in the Catholic faith.

“The truth is, the kind of crazy thing is, it has not shaken my faith. In a lot of ways, it has deepened my faith,” she said in an interview with the *Catholic Standard*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

“Unearthing the story of these people, these enslaved people, whose forced labor and the sale of their bodies helped to build the Catholic Church — it’s a story of heartbreak, yes, but it’s a story of family and love and faith.”

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RAGTIME

From page 5

tival.

His compositions — also including “Blue Chickery Rag,” “No One Knows (A Lonely Rag)” and “October Moon: A Nocturnal Rag” — have drawn the praise of ragtime royalty.

“Brandon’s unique compositions display unparalleled gifts and hidden virtuosity,” the late Max Morath, revered ragtime revivalist, once wrote.

“His music reflects the past and challenges the future. His playing will touch your soul.”

Haydn seek

Like many of the Joplin Festival’s other performers, Mr. Byrne is passionate about a broad range of music.

“Of course, I love ragtime,” he stated. “But some of my very favorite music is from the Classical era — early Haydn and early Mozart.”

He’s currently working on a short, modestly scored symphony.

It’s clear that his sons, ages 9 and 6, have inherited his passion for music.

“It made me all teary-eyed one



Brandon Byrne performs one of his own ragtime pieces during this year’s Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival in Sedalia.

— Photo by Jay Nies

day when Peter said his favorite piece of music is Mozart’s Fourth Symphony, which he wrote when he was 9,” said Mr. Byrne.

“My 6-year-old likes listening to Eric Clapton, which makes me think of my dad and me,” he continued. “All we wanted to do was listen to music and talk about it.”

Mr. Byrne believes Mr. Joplin would smile if he could

attend the annual event that bears his name.

“I think he would be especially proud of some of the younger composers who are writing in the Classic Ragtime style,” Mr. Byrne stated.

“Yes, young composers today are still writing ragtime, patterned after the old masters, and it’s beautiful and worth listening to,” he said.

WYD

From page 11

sophisticated weapons, which do not represent investments for the future but a depletion of its authentic human capital: that of education, health, the welfare state.”

Speaking off-the-cuff, the pope said an economist recently told him that the “best” investment one can make is in arms manufacturing. “There is more investment in arms than in the future of children,” he said.

“Where are you sailing, Europe and the West, with the discarding of the elderly, walls of barbed wire, massive numbers of deaths at sea and empty cradles?” he asked returning to his prepared text. He also criticized the “hasty but mistaken remedies” to life’s problems offered by Western societies, “like easy access to death, a convenient answer that seems sweet but is in fact more bitter than the waters of the sea.”

The pope lamented the developed world’s “creeping utilitarianism” which abandons the

unborn and elderly, recalling “the great challenge of welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating those who come from afar and knock on our doors, and the isolation felt by so many families that find it hard to bring children into the world and raise them.”

“Lisbon,” however, “gives us a reason to hope,” the pope said.

“At a time when we are witnessing on many sides a climate of protest and unrest, a fertile terrain for forms of populism and conspiracy theories, World Youth Day represents a chance to build together,” he said.

Pope Francis identified three areas where he urged people to work together: caring for the environment, creating a promising future for young people and promoting fraternity.

The ocean just beyond Lisbon’s coast “reminds us that human life is meant to be an integrated part of an environment greater than ourselves, one that must be protected

and watched over with care and concern for the sake of future generations,” he said. Yet humanity is “transforming the great reserves of life into dumping grounds for plastic.”

“How can we claim to believe in young people, if we do not give them healthy spaces in which to build the future?” the pope asked.

Pope Francis also listed many of the problems young people encounter as they enter adulthood: “lack of jobs, the dizzying pace of contemporary life, hikes in the cost of living, the difficulty of finding housing and, even more disturbing, the fear of forming families and bringing children into the world.”

Reflecting trends across the West, Portugal has suffered from declining fertility rates for decades, now reaching 1.4 births per woman according to the World Bank — well below the replacement rate of 2.1.

“The future,” Pope Francis said, “calls for reversing the fall

Daily Readings

Sunday, Aug 6

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14
Ps. 97:1-2, 5-6, 9
2 Pt. 1:16-19
Mt. 17:1-9

Monday, Aug 7

St. Sixtus II, Pope, and companions, martyrs; St. Cajetan, priest
Nm. 11:4b-15
Ps. 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Mt. 14:13-21

Tuesday, Aug 8

St. Dominic, priest
Nm. 12:1-13
Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13
Mt. 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday, Aug 9

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin and martyr
Nm. 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35
Ps. 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23
Mt. 15:21-28

Thursday, Aug 10

St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr
2 Cor. 9:6-10
Ps. 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9
Jn. 12:24-26

Friday, Aug 11

St. Clare, virgin
Dt. 4:32-40
Ps. 77:12-13, 14-15, 16, 21
Mt. 16:24-28

Saturday, Aug 12

St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious
Dt. 6:4-13
Ps. 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47, 51
Mt. 17:14-20

Sunday, Aug 13

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
1 Kgs. 19:9a, 11-13a
Ps. 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Rom. 9:1-5
Mt. 14:22-33

Monday, Aug 14

St. Maximilian Kolbe, priest and martyr
Dt. 10:12-22
Ps. 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
Mt. 17:22-27

Tuesday, Aug 15

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holyday of Obligation)

Vigil:
1 Chr. 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/1

Ps. 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14
Cor. 15:54b-57
Lk. 11:27-28

Day:

Rv. 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Ps. 45:10, 11, 12, 16
1 Cor. 15:20-27
Lk. 1:39-56

Wednesday, Aug 16

St. Stephen of Hungary
Dt. 34:1-12
Ps. 66:1-3a, 5 and 8, 16-17
Mt. 18:15-20

Thursday, Aug 17

Jos. 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17
Ps. 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Mt. 18:21-19:1

Friday, Aug 18

Jos. 24:1-13
Ps. 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24
Mt. 19:3-12

Saturday, Aug 19

St. John Eudes, priest
Jos. 24:14-29
Ps. 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11
Mt. 19:13-15

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for August:

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

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in the birth rate and the weakening of the will to live,” which he said involves “correcting the imbalances of a market economy that produces wealth but fails to distribute it.”

World Youth Day organiz-

ers expect more than 1 million people to travel to Lisbon from more than 200 countries for the six-day international gathering. Pope Francis was scheduled to celebrate the closing Mass Aug. 6.

Catholics hope WYD will boost lay people's involvement with the Church

OSV News

With 80% of the population identifying as Catholic, Portugal is among the countries with the highest Church presence in Europe.

The signs of the nation's intimate relations with Catholicism are visible all across Lisbon, where thousands of youth have already arrived for World Youth Day.

Pope Francis is joining them Aug. 2-6 — an uncommon second visit to the European country.

The hopes are high in Portugal that the pope's visit for WYD will revitalize the local Church.

"With Francis, there is a relationship of affection. People seem to know him better than their own bishop," Father Peter

Stilwell, who heads the Patriarchate of Lisbon's ecumenism and interfaith dialogue department.

Pillars of Stewardship podcast with Fr. Jones

Father Stephen Jones, diocesan director of stewardship, is host of a new diocesan podcast series titled, "The Four Pillars of Stewardship."

The first episode focuses on the importance of hospitality in the Catholic faith. The second episode focuses on prayer.

Additional installments are in production.

This series is designed to help deepen the understanding of the spirituality of stewardship in anticipation of the October Catholic Stewardship Renewal.

diojeffcity.org/podcast/

Aug. 26 Mass in Cedron

DATE: August 26
TIME: 4 pm

Mass will be offered at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26, in historical Assumption Church

in Cedron.

The Mass will satisfy the Sunday obligation.

The church stands at the site of one of Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias's original seven missions in Central Missouri.

It is located on at Zey Lane and Cedron Road, off of Highway D, near Jamestown and Prairie Home in Moniteau County.

SACRED HEART PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, August 13

Rich Fountain

German Pot Roast & Grilled Sausage Dinners
with mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, bread & dessert
Served from 11 am to 7 pm — \$15/meal

Due to construction at our parish, we will be serving Drive-thru and Carry-outs ONLY
(indoor air-conditioned seating & outdoor picnic table seating)

Quilt Auction 6 pm (www.sacredheartpf.com)
Prizes - Sandwiches & Refreshments - Country Store - Kiddie Tractor Pull - Kettle Corn - Sno-Cones - Games



St. Margaret of Antioch PICNIC

Sunday, August 6
OSAGE BEND

7 miles from Wardsville on Rt. W

Family Style Fried Chicken & Roast Beef

Served 11am-6:30 pm (air-conditioned hall)
Adults/Carryouts \$15, Kids 6-12 \$8
5 & under free

Quilt Auction - 5 pm
Kids Game Area - Refreshments - Country Store
Games & Prizes

Shaded Grounds Mass on picnic day is at 9 am

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

ST. THOMAS PARISH PICNIC

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ADULTS: \$15 CHILDREN: 6-12 \$7 5 & UNDER: FREE

ACTIVITIES

QUILT AUCTION 5:00PM

PRIZES, AIR-CONDITIONED GAMES, COUNTRY STORE, KIDSVILLE, BOUNCE HOUSE, KETTLE CORN, CRAFT STAND, REFRESHMENTS

LIVE MUSIC 1:00PM - 5:00PM & 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Fr. Antweiler anniversary photos

Father Donald Antweiler requests that anyone who has photos from the June 11 celebration of his 50th priestly anniversary in Jefferson City, especially the reception, please email those to vocations@ican.gels.com to include in the photo book.

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