

Pink stars, bells and children leaping for joy

A fun new way for students at St. Francis Xavier School in Taos to let off steam honors the memory of a woman who used to play in the same hallways.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

January 24, 2020 • Vol. 63 No. 15

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Pope tells Midwest bishops to radiate Gospel joy



Speaks with 15 bishops of 4 U.S. states about abuse crisis, evangelization, parish life, pro-life issues

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis spent a significant amount of his Jan. 16 meeting with U.S. bishops from the Midwest bolstering parish life and outreach, along with other issues that are crucial to upholding and carrying-out the work of the Church.

Answering questions about "*Evangelii Gaudium*" ("Joy of the Gospel"), his apostolic exhortation on the New Evangelization, the Pope in an animated conversation stressed the importance of parish life, according to Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City.

"I explained that I found number 28 of '*Evangelii Gaudium*' to be especially edifying in my ministry as a bishop," Bishop McKnight said, "and told him how we were using it as the focus of a pastoral plan for our parishes and dioceses. He reiterated how important parishes are in the life of the Church, and encouraged us to seriously reflect on the purpose of a parish."

In "*Evangelii Gaudium*," the Pope wrote that the parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, and it is responsible for reaching out to all.

Bishop McKnight was one of 15 bishops from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska making their "*ad limina*" visits to the Vatican in mid-January to report on the status of their dioceses.

"I am grateful for the Holy Father's encouragement to be close to the people I serve," he said.

In that meeting, the Pope also stated unequivocally that ending and honestly reckoning with the scourge of sexual abuse and the cover-up of

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Pope Francis greets Bishop W. Shawn McKnight at the Vatican Jan. 16 during the "ad limina" pilgrimage of 15 Catholic bishops from Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska to the four major basilicas in Rome and Vatican City and to report on the status of their dioceses to the Pope and Vatican officials. — CNS photo/Vatican Media

Fr. James Offutt, 81, retired priest, laid to rest, remembered for love of teaching, the Eucharist

By Jay Nies

An adept horticulturist, Father J. James Offutt Jr. maintained that there are only two good times for planting: "when you should ... and when you have time."

He applied a similar calculus of ideals and reality to leading people to Christ.

"He tried to meet you where you were and take you where he thought you should be," observed Harvey Million, a long-time friend from Holy Spirit parish in Centralia.

Fr. Offutt, 81, an Audrain County native and retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese, died peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 14, in Columbia.

The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Jan. 21 in St. Brendan Church in Mexico, with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight presiding, Father Russell Judge preaching the homily,

and other priests of the diocese concelebrating.

Visitation and an ecumenical prayer service took place the previous evening in Holy Spirit Church in Centralia.

Burial was in St. Brendan Cemetery.

Fr. Offutt was one of only a handful of priests to have served actively under all four bishops of this diocese.

Through 57 years of Priesthood, he ministered as an assistant pastor in Glasgow and a high school teacher in Salisbury; as a chaplain at the University of Notre Dame; and as a pastor in St. Thomas, Columbia, Linn, Lake Ozark, Jefferson City and Centralia.

He retired from active ministry in July 2018 but continued to offer adult education classes in his home.

See FR. OFFUTT, page 15

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Women's Lenten retreat

DATE: February 29
TIME: 8 am - 12:30 pm

"Recognizing Christ in Our Lenten Journey: If You But Knew the Gift of God ..." will

be the theme of the third annual Tri-County Parish Women's Retreat in Columbia.

It will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 29, at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

Speakers will include Dominican Sister Karen Freund of St. Thomas More Newman Center parish, and Erin and Shannon Cerneka of St. Peter parish in Fulton.

The cost is \$25 per person in advance if registering before Feb. 27, or \$30 at the door.

A continental breakfast will be served to guests upon arrival.

For information or to register online by Feb. 27, visit www.comonewman.org. Click on the "parish" icon, then click on "sign-ups."

Pray for deceased priests

Jan. 27 — **Fr. Charles A. Pfeiffer**, St. Stephen, Indian Creek (1999)

Jan. 29 — **Fr. William J. Berkel**, Holy Spirit, Centralia (1959); **Msgr. Joseph J. Morrell**, St. Patrick, Rolla (1989)

Jan. 31 — **Fr. James M. Denner**, St. Boniface, Koeltztown (1962)

Feb. 2 — **Fr. Francis J. Stangl**, St. Jude Thaddeus, Mokane (2008)

Feb. 7 — **Msgr. Joseph H. Winkelmann**, Sacred Heart, Rich Fountain (1960)

Principal Needed



Sacred Heart School is a Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade Catholic school located in Sedalia, Mo. Established in 1882, our vision is to provide Extraordinary Catholic Education, Through Christ, For All. Sacred Heart School offers a high-quality Catholic education to willing students of all faiths and economic backgrounds.

The school is seeking a highly effective, transformational principal for the 2020-2021 academic year to drive change and continue building our academic culture. The selected candidate will have a proven track record of increasing and accelerating student achievement and evaluating and implementing effective curriculum and will be prepared to lead students, staff, and the community towards success.

The Principal is part of a three-person leadership team, with the School President, Principal, and Assistant Principal collaborating in a comprehensive educational agenda. Candidates must be active practicing Catholics.

Letters of application and resumes should be directed to Dr. Mark Register @ mregister@gogremlins.com.

Seeking Christ for Our Nation

The next "Seeking Christ for our Nation" Masses will be celebrated on **Tuesday, February 4**, at 6:30 p.m. in St. George Church in Linn; and on **Tuesday, February 18**, at 6 p.m. in Our Lady of the Snows Church in Mary's Home.

Helias Catholic open house

DATE: February 1
TIME: 11 am - 1 pm

Helias Catholic High School, 1305 Swifts Highway in Jefferson City, will hold its annual Open House from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Visitors will be able to tour the facilities, meet teachers, coaches and administrators, explore activities and clubs, and learn how Helias Catholic is building Saints and Scholars.

Call (573) 635-6139 for information.

Mass in Cedron

DATE: January 25
TIME: 1 pm

Father Anthony Rinaldo will offer Mass in historical Assumption Church in Cedron at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The church is located on Cedron Road, about half a mile north of Highway U on Highway D in Moniteau County.

The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City
Mailing address: P.O. Box 104900 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900. Phone: (573) 635-9127

"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.S., July 7, 1957

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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'Walk in Her Sandals' diocesan women's conference in Cathedral

DATE: March 7
TIME: 9 am - 3 pm

Inspirational Catholic author and speaker Kelly Wahlquist will be the featured speaker at the Diocese of Jefferson City Women's Conference on Saturday, March 7, in Jefferson City.

It will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St.

The theme will be "Walk in Her Sandals."

Looking at the gifts of what Pope St. John Paul II referred to as the "feminine genius" through the eyes of women in the Gospels, the conference's participants will be guided on "a creative, inspirational and prayerful journey that will help you grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus by relating to Him in a profoundly intimate way — the way in which you were created to relate to Him: as a woman."

Ms. Wahlquist is a wife, mother of three, inspiring Catholic author and speaker residing in Minnesota.

She is the founder of WINE: Women In the New Evangelization and is director of the Archbishop Flynn Catecheti-



Kelly Wahlquist

cal Institute in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

She is the author of *Created to Relate* and the author and editor of *Walk in Her Sandals* and *Gaze Upon Jesus*.

Registration includes lunch, snacks, inspirational talks by Mrs. Wahlquist, fellowship with other women, and a "goodie bag" filled with fun items.

The \$40-per-person registration includes a bundle containing a *Walk in Her Sandals* book, journal and study guide.

Registration without the book bundle is \$30.

The conference is sponsored by the Jefferson City diocese's Women's Ministry Office.

Register online at www.diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry.

For information, contact LeAnn Korsmeyer, director of parish and charitable services, at (573) 635-9127, ext. 222, or email lkorsmeyer@diojeffcity.org.

Sedalia SHS open house

DATE: January 26
TIME: 10 am - noon

Sacred Heart School, 416 W. Third St. in Sedalia, will host an Open House from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Jan. 26. Visitors will be able to meet students and faculty members, take a tour, enjoy homemade cinnamon rolls, and learn about a Sacred Heart education.

Alumni, families, parishioners and future students are especially welcome.

WINTER CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Monday, January 27
Resurrection & St. Peter Cemeteries
Jefferson City

All floral arrangements and decorations must be removed before this date, and should be done by a person designated by the family. Unauthorized persons found removing flowers and decorations from graves will be prosecuted.

NOTE: Items in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed. Cemetery reserves the right to remove any damaged items or faded flower arrangements.

info@rccjc.org — www.rccjc.org

Bishop McKnight's February prayer intention for our Local Church

For those discerning a vocation: May they have the grace to hear the voice of God in their hearts, and may they experience the encouragement of the Church to respond with grateful hearts.

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

Por aquellos que discernen una vocación: para que tengan la gracia de escuchar la voz de Dios en sus corazones y que se sientan alentados por la Iglesia para responder con un corazón agradecido.



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



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

JANUARY

- Jan. 24** Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee Meeting, 10 am, Missouri Catholic Conference Office, Jefferson City
- Jan. 25** Guest on Open Air Saturday with Hal Dulle Radio Talk Show, 8 am, KWOS 950 AM
- Jan. 26** Mass & Bless New Bell Tower, 8:15 am, St. Jude Parish, Richland
- Jan. 27** Keynote Speaker, Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Meeting of Dan C. Coppin General Assembly, 6 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, Jefferson City
- Jan. 28** Annual Knights of Columbus Religious and Teacher Appreciation Supper, 6 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, Jefferson City
- Jan. 29** Catholic Rural Life Staff Conference Call Meeting, 9 am, Jefferson City; Dinner with Seminarian Parents, 5:30 pm, Catholic Center, Jefferson City
- Jan. 30** Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, 11 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Catholic Rural Life Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call, 2 pm, Jefferson City
- Jan. 31** Meeting with SSM Health Administrators, 10:30 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Check Presentation with St. Mary's Foundation and Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, 2 pm, Shikles Recreation Center Jefferson City

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1** Midwest March for Life Pre-Rally, Welcome and Bless the Cross, 9:30 am, St. Peter Parish Selinger Centre, Jefferson City
- Feb. 3-5** National Catholic Bioethics Conference Bishops' Workshop, Dallas, Texas
- Feb. 6** Speaker on Leadership Panel, Annual Meeting of Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, Clearwater Beach, Florida
- Feb. 8** Diocesan-wide Pastoral Planning Training, 9:30 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Feb. 11** Meeting of Deans of Diocese of Jefferson City, 11 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Annual Visit to Missouri Supreme Court, 5:30 pm, Jefferson City
- Feb. 12** Confirmation Mass, 6:30 pm, St. Anthony Church, Camdenton
- Feb. 13** Pastoral Governance Meeting with All Priests and Parish Life Collaborators, 11 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City

MAKING CONNECTIONS



Bishop McKnight

Dr. Martin Luther King

Bishop McKnight issued the following message on Jan. 20, 2020, in remembrance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

On this day, as we remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I ask

that we recognize the best way we can strengthen our communities, our nation, our Church, is by working together to ensure every human being is treated with dignity.

As Dr. King wrote in *Letters from Birmingham Jail*, "In a real

sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be..."

Together, we can build a society in which all humanity can flourish. Let us honor Dr. King's legacy not just by our words, but also by our actions.

Catholic Schools Week to be celebrated Jan. 27-Feb. 2

Catholic schools called "essential, integral" to Church's ministry

By Sydney Clark
Catholic News Service

National Catholic Schools Week is Jan. 26 to Feb. 1.

The mission and foundation of Catholic education are directly related to evangelization, stated the head of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

Catholic schools are obligated to evangelize simply because that is the core and mission of the Catholic Church, according to Thomas Burnford, president and CEO of the NCEA.

"The Apostles told the Good News of Jesus Christ, and Catholic schools are an essential and integral ministry of the Catholic Church," he told Catholic News Service (CNS).

Nationwide, 1.8 million students are enrolled in 6,300 Catholic schools, he noted.

Among them are 5,664 students in the Jefferson City diocese's 37 Catholic elementary schools and 1,086 students in the diocese's three Catholic high schools.

There are 555 elementary-school teachers educating children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade and 99 high school teachers in the diocese's Catholic schools.

Much to celebrate

The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2020 is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

Schools typically observe the annual celebration week

with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our Church, our communities and our nation.

The week also highlights the educational and community successes of Catholic schools nationwide.

Ninety-nine percent of Catholic school students graduate from high school, and 86 percent of Catholic school

graduates attend college.

This percentage has been consistent for over 20 years.

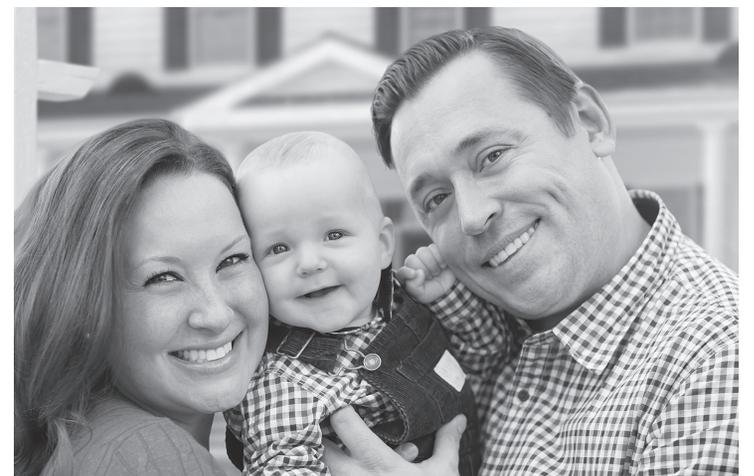
Witness and culture

Mr. Burnford pointed out that nationwide, 80 percent of students in Catholic schools are Catholic, and the remaining 20 percent are non-Catholic.

He said the mission of Catholic education is the same for Catholic and non-Catholic students.

"The teaching of the faith,

See CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, page 11



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Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, Father Paul Clark, Deacon Tyler McClay, Father James Finder and Father Joshua Duncan stand in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph Jan. 22 with 290 people from 19 parishes in the Jefferson City diocese who were about to embark on a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the National Mass and Prayer Vigil for Life and the 47th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The events, which draw hundreds of thousands of people every year to the nation's capital, mark the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions that legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States. — Photo Jay Nies

Bishop McKnight blesses 290 pro-life pilgrims to Washington, sends them on mission as ambassadors of the local Church

By Jay Nies

The 290 people from 19 parishes in the Jefferson City leaving on pilgrimage for the National Mass and Prayer Vigil for Life and the 47th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. were intending to change hearts, not laws.

"We are not protesters. We are not going to debate with people," stated Father Paul Clark, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight's moderator for pro-life ministries in the diocese, who is leading this year's diocesan pilgrimage.

"We are pilgrims entering into a sacred pilgrimage," Fr. Clark stated in his homily at a Jan. 22 Mass in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

"The reason we go is not to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the law that has allowed the taking of so many human lives in our country," he said.

Presiding at the Mass was Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, who blessed the pilgrims, telling them that they would be "serving as ambassadors of me and the entire Church of the diocese of Jefferson City."

He said the purpose of a pilgrimage is to encounter God in some way and experience conversion of heart.

He noted that when he and 14 other bishops from Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska met with Pope Francis on Jan. 16, one of the bishops asked the Pope whether abortion is "the preeminent issue of

our time."

"The Holy Father was very emphatic in his response," said Bishop McKnight. "He said, 'Of course, it is the preeminent issue. For without life, none of the other rights make sense.'"

The Pope further cautioned the bishops against allowing the issue of abortion to become a religious issue, rather than the human-rights issue that it actually is.

"He meant, of course, that while religion has a role to play in supporting the dignity of each and every human life, it is a basic human right," Bishop McKnight noted.

"It is not the result of one's faith. It is the result of recognizing the humanity of one another."

Five stones

Fr. Clark emphasized in his homily that "we are witnessing to a reality, witnessing to a truth that we have come to know and to believe: that we are all beloved sons and daughters of God, and that human life is precious at all stages."

So the people making the pilgrimage are doing so in order to change hearts through their witness.

"And the crazy thing about a pilgrimage is that the first heart that changes is our own," the priest noted.

That's why the pilgrims began with Mass, giving thanks to God in the Eucharist and being strengthened with the

Body and Blood of Christ.

The first reading was the story of young David confidently confronting the giant Philistine warrior Goliath (1 Samuel, Chapter 17).

"What a perfect image for what we are doing as we stand up for life within a country that does not respect the life of every human being, that does not respect the reality that human beings are created by God and thus have dignity that cannot be taken away from them!" said Fr. Clark.

David was not afraid of Goliath because he knew that it

was not his battle to win.

"Ultimately, the battle is the Lord's," said Fr. Clark. "David's role was to answer a call from God, so that all people of Israel might recognize and see that God is with us."

Just as the future King of Israel prepared for battle by picking up five stones, Fr. Clark urged everyone attending the pro-life pilgrimage to think of five reasons why they are going.

"And let's carry those five stones with us, so that as we enter into Washington, D.C., by our presence and how we conduct ourselves, we will wit-

ness to the reality that we are not there to change laws but to change hearts with our witness," he said.

Sent on a mission

Before blessing the pilgrims at the end of Mass, Bishop McKnight told them never to lose sight of their obligation to uphold the dignity of each and every human life, "especially the most vulnerable and those who have no voice of their own."

"That's the mission of the Church," he stated. "And that's the mission I now entrust to you."

Bishop to bless cross Feb. 1 at Midwest March for Life in J.C.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight plans to attend the 10th annual Midwest March for Life on Feb. 1 in Jefferson City and to begin the event with a few words and a blessing of the cross that is to be carried at the front of the March.

The event is scheduled to begin outside the Selinger Expo Hall at St. Peter Church near the Capitol in Jefferson City.

Doors to the Selinger Expo Hall will open at 7:45 a.m., with life-affirming exhibits until 2 p.m. The pre-rally will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by the march at 10 a.m., and a rally with keynote 40 Days for Life founder David Bereit at 10:45 a.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.



A Youth Rally led by Jacinta Florence of Students for Life of America will be held in the lower level of the Selinger Centre at 1 p.m.

Also at 1 p.m., Mr. Bereit, Founder of 40 Days for Life will lead a training workshop for adults on successfully

discussing pro-life issues, in the Father Ahrens Room in the lower level of the St. Peter Rectory.

The events are sponsored by Columbia 40 Days For Life through the St. Andrew Pro-life Committee.

For information or to register for the 1 p.m. workshop, visit www.midwestmarchforlife.com or call (573) 340-8444.

Taos school's Sensory Pathway honors graduate's spirit, memory

By Jay Nies

Two of Corrie Talken's nieces and a family friend hopped, skipped, jumped and twirled with delight through the newly-created sensory path in St. Francis Xavier School.

Her parents, a former classmate and other adults who remember Corrie couldn't help thinking how much she would have enjoyed blowing off steam in the same way when she was a student there.

The Sensory Pathway, a meandering trail of colorful vinyl decals permanently affixed to the floor in the school's widest, busiest hallway, is a gift from the Pink Star Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in Corrie's memory by her parents, Ron and Peggy Talken.

Corrie graduated from St. Francis Xavier School in 2003 — the same year as Jordan Tobar, the school's current principal.

She was 25 when she died in a boating accident on the Gasconade River in 2014.

"Everybody remembers Corrie as a fun-loving girl," said Mr. Tobar. "She was always in a great mood, she always had a wonderful smile. She could light up any room."

This is Mr. Tobar's sixth year on the St. Francis Xavier School faculty and his first as principal.

"I actually had a picture in my old P.E. office of Corrie and me when we were little at this school," he said.

He believes Corrie and hundreds of other graduates as far back as eight generations are actively helping sustain the school with their prayers before God's heavenly throne.

"We're a school that thrives on our traditions and those who have gone before us," he said.



LEFT: Ron and Peggy Talken and Betsy Byers of the Pink Star Foundation cut the ribbon at the dedication of the new Sensory Pathway in St. Francis Xavier School in Taos. RIGHT: Students try out the Sensory Pathway. — Photos by Jay Nies

"While we're always trying to move forward and improve ourselves, I think that's something we always keep in mind and in heart — those who went before us and what they have done to make this all possible."

Three kisses

Corrie Talken once posted on Facebook, "I'm finally ready in my life to trust God. I'm going to 'let go and let God.'"

She died two days later.

Peggy Talken misses her daughter terribly but is certain that she is at home with God.

Corrie wanted to help people who are elderly, so she earned a bachelor's degree in child and family development at Central Missouri State University.

She then served as activities director at Westphalia Hills Senior Living Center in Westphalia.

Every morning, she would stop in each resident's room and spend five minutes visiting and listening. She would kiss each resident on the forehead three times.

That, according to her mother, meant, "I ... love ... you."

Some were lonely. Some were sick. Some were confused.

"But when I sit down with them for five minutes," she once stated, "that's five minutes when those things aren't bothering them."

More than 2,000 people went to the visitation after Corrie died. So many people logged on to the funeral home's website that it crashed three times.

"None of us had any idea that she had touched so many people," said Mrs. Talken. "And she still is!"

"Spirit of Corrie"

The Talkens started the Pink Star Foundation in Corrie's memory.

The nonprofit foundation raises money to help people in the Jefferson City area who are elderly or homeless — two of Corrie's passions in life — along with other charitable endeavors.

"That's the spirit of Corrie!" said Mrs. Talken. "That's what we want to be made known."

Money from the foundation has helped create a scholarship fund for one graduate apiece each year from Helias Catholic



and Blair Oaks high schools; paid for fireworks at Westphalia Hills; created a fund to be distributed through the Salvation Army to help elderly people with their winter utility bills; and made donations to Project Homeless, the Special Learning

Center, and a foundation that helps homeless veterans.

"We have an absolutely magnificent board!" said Mrs. Talken, nodding to board member Betsy Byers. "They

See PINK STAR, page 14

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Kent, Christy and Kyle Trimble



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Boonville, Fayette parishioners to pray 33-day consecrations

By Jay Nies

Men and women of Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville and St. Joseph parish in Fayette are being invited to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family.

Men of both parishes will take part in a 33-day Consecration to St. Joseph, beginning on Feb. 16 and ending on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

"I cannot challenge the men of these parishes enough to step up out of love for their spouses, children and if applicable, grandchildren," said Father William Peckman, pastor of both parishes.

"Since so much of your children's coming to faith statistically hinges on you, my goal is for at least 150 men between the parishes to do this consecration," he said.

Women of the parishes will take part in a 33-day Consecration to the Blessed Mother, beginning on Feb 21 and concluding on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

"I cannot challenge the women of our parishes enough to step up for the good of their spouses, children and if applicable, grandchildren," said Fr. Peckman.

"Since you play such a major role in your children's religious formation, my goal is for at least 150 women between the parishes to do this consecration," he added.

The parishes are bulk-ordering the books for both consecrations and offering them to parishioners at cost.

People will be encouraged to pray each day's devotions at home, concluding with a gathering at church on the 33rd day of both consecrations.

The number 33 points to Jesus's age at the time of His death and resurrection.

Fr. Peckman said all of this is part of both parishes' goal for 2020 to build-up the spiritual lives of families and help parents, especially dads, grow as the spiritual leaders they are called to be by virtue of their vocation.

He emphasized the importance of Catholic fathers practicing their faith consistently at home and in the sacramental life of the Church.

"In study after study, the largest single determining factor of the practice of the children is the practice of the dad," he said.

"Not just through going to church," he added, "although that is a great part of it. But also being a man of prayer in the family and being the spiritual head of the home."

Fr. Peckman has seen those statistics bear out through his 22 years as a pastor in several parishes throughout the diocese.

"There are certainly exceptions, but the norm is, if mom

goes to church and dad does not, confirmation is the end of us seeing the kids," said Fr. Peckman.

"But if dad does come to church, the norm is that the kids will still come to church after confirmation."

"Step up and see"

At the conclusion of Sunday Masses in both parishes, the people kneel down and pause for a short period of silent thanksgiving.

Throughout 2020, that silence will conclude with the praying the Knights of Columbus Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Family, followed by the Prayer to St. Michael.

"If you're praying that consecration 50-plus times a year, those words will hopefully sink into your heart," Fr. Peckman stated, "especially the part about loving each other and forgiving from the heart."

Those, he asserted, "for lack of a better term, are traditional family values."

prayers of consecration to be one of many increasingly concrete steps toward promoting deeper spirituality throughout the year.

"We've been trying very hard not just to get families back to church but also to get regular prayer back into the homes," he said. "We're trying to restore a sense of Catholic devotional life beyond Mass."

He pointed out that the spiritual life is meant to grow in such a way as to help people — including husbands and wives — live out their vocation more effectively.

"Don't let pride get in the way of this spiritual exercise of the consecrations," he advised his parishioners. "Step up and see in it what an athlete sees in training: a chance to

Consecration to the Holy Family

O Lord Jesus, You lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. There You grew in age, wisdom and grace as You prepared to fulfill Your mission as our Redeemer. We entrust our family to You.

O Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our Savior. At Nazareth, you cared for Jesus and nurtured Him in the peace and joy of your home. We entrust our family to you.

O Saint Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary, and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work. We entrust our family to you.

Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you. May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful and open to the gift of new life.

Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts, and to live in peace all our days.

Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need.

May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic Church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Fr. Peckman and both parishes' Christian education commissions intend these

greater master your calling as a spouse, parent and grandparent."

Signed, sealed and delivered



Pope Francis gives a thumbs up as he looks at a football jersey presented by Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese, during a meeting with U.S. bishops from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska during their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican Jan. 16. The jersey has the name and signature of Patrick Mahomes, quarterback of the Kansas City Chiefs. The AFC champion Chiefs will face the San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl on Feb. 2

— CNS photo/Vatican Media

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Endowment helps Catholic schools recruit, keep great teachers

By Jay Nies

Keeping Catholic education affordable and paying Catholic school educators a living wage need not be mutually exclusive.

An important factor is the Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund (DEEF), a separately incorporated endowment that helps the Jefferson City diocese's 37 Catholic grade schools and three Catholic high schools pay their teachers better.

A board of trustees appointed by the bishop oversees the proper investment of DEEF's principal assets and allocates annual grants to qualifying Catholic schools in the diocese.

"If you look at the budget of a parish that has a school, at least half if not more is for their school," stated John Wegman, who recently completed his term as president of the DEEF board. "Of that, probably 90 percent is the teachers' salaries.

"If DEEF can help with that, then it's helping the whole school," he said.

The DEEF board this past fall distributed \$580,500 to parishes and schools.

That went directly toward bolstering teachers' base salary.

To receive funding, a school must pay its teachers at least 85 percent of what teachers make in the local public school district.

The size of each school's grant depends on number of full-time and part-time teachers in each school, and the yield of the previous fiscal year's investments.

Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe, now deceased, established DEEF in 1990 and initiated a five-year capital campaign to build up the endowment.

"As the Church, we need to model just salaries," he stated in announcing the effort. "We cannot, however, expect the parishes to do this alone, so we are establishing this fund to which many persons can contribute."

Businesses and corporations that benefit from the presence of Catholic schools within their communities as well as individuals who have benefited from their Catholic educations were asked to contribute.

The idea was to keep the money invested and only make grants from the interest or dividends it generates each year.

The endowment received another influx of money as part of the diocese's three-year capital campaign in 2006-08.

Additional money has come from large individual gifts and bequests from people's estates.

John Wegman, a member of Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City, has been on the DEEF board since in 2005 and recently served two terms as its president.

He said that under the board's oversight, DEEF investments generate solid returns without subjecting the fund to too much risk.

The DEEF investment

manager is required to follow the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' investment guidelines, "so we don't invest in anything that goes against our Catholic beliefs," said Mr. Wegman.

The distribution amount sent each fall to the parishes/schools is based on their number of full-time equivalent faculty.

Mr. Wegman and his wife Connie both attended Immaculate Conception School and Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, as did their children.

He believes unequivocally

that families', parishes' and the diocese's investment in Catholic education is worth the effort and cost.

"It's so important to have curriculum in the school that's more than just the basic information," he said. "You also have to have the spiritual and the religious aspect. You need clearly defined morals and values to be part of your education through all of elementary school and high school. That's all the more important today, when a lot of those values are no longer being held up in society."

He said he's amazed at how many people he talks to who

have never heard of DEEF.

"I think if more people knew about it, more people would be interested in helping us grow this thing," he said. "I think it's one of those out-of-sight, out-of-mind things. But it's really a great way for people to help with Catholic education."

People who wish to support the Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund either through a direct contribution or as part of the estate-planning process should contact Jake Seifert, diocesan development director, at (573) 635-9127 or development@diojeffcity.org.

Excellence is focus of new leadership structure for Sacred Heart School in Sedalia

By Jay Nies

The diocese's only Catholic school that offers pre-kindergarten through high school is laying the foundation for growth and a new leadership model to help handle it.

Beginning next fall, Sacred Heart School in Sedalia will have a three-person leadership team, consisting of a president, a principal and an assistant principal.

Dr. Mark Register, the current principal, will serve as the school's first president.

He will go from full-time to part-time and will continue to teach one high school religion class.

The school will hire a new full-time principal and a part-time assistant principal.

The principal will also teach one high school class. The assistant principal will spend three hours a day teaching in addition to part-time administrative responsibilities.

This arrangement means there will be no increase in the school's administrative budget.

The president will focus primarily on spiritual leadership, collaborating with the pastors of St. Vincent de Paul parish and the parish finance director on finances and management of buildings and grounds.

"Our goal is for the person in this position also to enhance marketing, communications and public relations efforts," Dr. Register stated.



Sacred Heart School in Sedalia, left, stands in the shadow of Sacred Heart Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul parish. — Photo by Jay Nies

The principal and assistant principal will focus primarily on day-to-day operations as well as continuous improvement in the teaching process, including implementation of appropriate professional development and more-effective teacher observation and evaluation.

The principal and assistant principal will also focus on curriculum evaluation and development, along with the addition and improvement of student programs and co-curricular offerings.

All three administrators will work together to develop and effectively implement a comprehensive educational agenda for the school.

This new administrative model, developed by the school's Strategic Growth

role of administration might accept promotions into larger roles as skills and experiences are developed," he said.

Dr. Register, who graduated from Sacred Heart, taught and coached there for many years and is serving as principal for the second time, believes the new arrangement holds great promise for the school.

"With confidence, I am predicting that this team will design and support Sacred Heart's key instructional and spiritual initiatives, develop teachers and staff, and lead students through a challenging college preparatory curriculum," he said.

"In this manner, Sacred Heart School will continue to progress in the pursuit of extraordinary Catholic education, through Christ, for all!" he said.

Anyone interested in applying for the principal position should contact Mr. Register at (660) 827-3900 or at mregister@gremlins.com.



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QUESTION CORNER

Work assignment on Sunday / Mass card for non-Catholic ceremony?

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. My wife sometimes travels on work assignments on a Sunday and is not able to attend Mass. I am wondering whether she is committing a sin. (Lagos, Nigeria)

A. The obligation for Catholics to attend in Mass on Sundays does admit of exceptions. This is what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: “The faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor” (No. 2181).

I, and every priest I know, would view your wife’s work assignments as a “serious reason.” But she might feel more comfortable if she spoke to her pastor and was formally dispensed from the Sunday obligation. This does not dispense her, however, from the responsibility every Catholic has to pray and worship regularly. Is it possible that she could attend a weekday Mass, so as not to be deprived of the unique strength that comes from the Eucharist?

When the opportunity does present itself again for Sunday worship, she should of course go to Mass; and meanwhile, she should not forget to pray. The Church’s *Code of Canon Law* notes that when one is deprived for a grave reason of the chance for Sunday worship, it is “strongly recommended” that a person “devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time” (Canon 1248.2).

Pope Francis has, on more than one occasion, lamented the fact that some no longer set Sunday aside as a special day for worship and rest. At a Wednesday audience in December 2017, he urged Catholics to go to “Sunday Mass to encounter the Risen Lord, or better still, to allow ourselves to be encountered by Him.”

In that same talk, the Pope said, “The Sunday encounter with the Lord gives us the strength to experience the present with confidence and courage, and to go forth with hope.” And Sunday Mass teaches us “to entrust ourselves during the course of the week to the hands of the Father,” he added.

Q. My nephew and his bride were married recently in a non-Catholic ceremony. He was raised a Catholic (baptized and confirmed), but I’m not sure what his wife’s religious upbringing might have been. Like many young couples, they have lived together for some time, and to the best of my knowledge have not been practicing any religion.

I do not condone their lifestyle of living together before marriage — due to my Catholic upbringing — but I am not their judge. I thought about sending them a Mass card as a congratulatory message on their marriage, but part of me thinks that would be hypocritical. (My mom always taught us, though, that a person can never have “too many” Masses said for them.) Your thoughts? (Cleveland)

A. I agree with your mom: How could a Mass possibly hurt? But rather than make your note a “congratulatory message,” what if you said something like this? “Thinking of you on the day of your marriage. I pray that God will bless you in your life together, and I will keep you in my prayers in the years ahead. I can think of no greater gift to give you than the gift of the Eucharist; this is where I have always found my greatest strength.”

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.



Papal Audience January 22, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today’s catechesis occurs in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, whose theme this year — on hospitality — was prepared by the Christian communities of Malta and Gozo. The theme is based on St. Paul’s dramatic experience of being shipwrecked at Malta, and the welcome he and his companions received there. Indeed, in contrast to the sea’s violence, the survivors received “unusual kindness” (Acts 28:2), reflecting God’s love for them. This hospitality was then repaid when Paul healed many sick people, thus revealing God’s merciful love. Hospitality is an important ecumenical virtue, which is open to listening to the experience that other Christians have of God.

When we welcome Christians of a different tradition we reveal God’s love to them and receive the gifts that the Holy Spirit has sown in them. In this way, we Christians are challenged to overcome our divisions and to show Christ’s love more effectively to others, especially the many migrants who, like Paul, face danger at sea, as they flee from peril. Working together like this will make us both better disciples of the Lord and more united as the People of God.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s audience, especially the groups from Belgium, Korea, Australia and the United States of America. In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, I offer a special greeting to the students from the Bossey Ecumenical Institute. I also greet the priests of the Institute for Continuing Theological Education of the Pontifical North American College. Upon all of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!

Contemplative Outreach pre-Lenten retreat in Columbia

DATE: February 22-23

Contemplative Outreach of Missouri will hold a Pre-Lenten Urban Retreat presented by Susan Komis on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 22-23, in Columbia.

It will be held at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, 2220 I-70 Drive SW.

The theme will be “From Seeker to Sage: Journey to the Unknowable.”

“This retreat will provide Centering Prayer in community, presentation, interactive experience, small group process and periods of silence and solitude,” the organizers stated.

They explained that the “Spiritual Journey” is a metaphor for how people’s beliefs change and develop throughout life.

“We are all always ‘on the way,’ and everyone travels at a different pace,” they stated. “As seekers, many of us find the more intimately we come to know God, the more intense the desire for an even deeper relationship becomes.”

Some people approach the Journey from an intellectual or

educational perspective; others may seek reconciliation or desire to know the existence of God.

Some people simply want to become a better human being and ponder the true meaning of life.

“Join us as we move through the different seasons of spiritual growth from our awakening moments, through our seeking and a gradual restructuring of consciousness,” the organizers stated.

Susan Komis is the former director of chapter programs and services of Contemplative Outreach and continues to serve Contemplative Outreach as a commissioned presenter and retreat director.

She is a pastoral minister and has been active in adult faith

development, spiritual direction and interspiritual dialogue.

She previously worked in Human Resources for two corporations.

The \$85 cost for the retreat (\$80 if registered by Feb. 2) includes conferences, break snacks and beverages, and lunch on both days.

It does not include lodging, breakfast or dinner on Saturday evening.

For full details and to register online or to download a mail-in registration form, visit www.cocemo.org, or call COCEMO at (573) 864-1097 and provide your name, full postal mailing address and phone number. Payment will be by check with registration form.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank You for calling men and women to serve in Your Son’s Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send Your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to Your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

A queen and two Popes

By Greg Erlandson
Catholic News Service



“Verisimilitude” is a \$10 word that is quite handy these days. It means “giving the appearance of being true or real.”

It might be an appropriate, if clunky, label for a new genre of docu-fiction, where relatively recent or even current events are portrayed, but with a blending of fact and fantasy that both gives the appearance of being true while at the same time claiming creative license when challenged.

The third season of the “The Crown” is a case in point. It continues to tell the story of Queen Elizabeth II and the royal family.

It is more than just a documentary’s recounting of history, for it tries to get at the inner dynamics of this famously reserved queen and her unusual family. Affairs, cruelties and excesses are all played out for a titillated audience.

One biographer of the real queen, Sally Bedell Smith, told *The Washington Post* that now when she gives talks, the audience only wants to talk about “The Crown.” “They take it as gospel,” she said of her audiences.

The article goes on to say that “because [the show] is based on real and famous people, because the production values are so rich and convincing and the writing and acting so polished, viewers are unable to distinguish what is real from what is embellished.”

The same could be said of “The Two Popes,” now streaming on Netflix. It takes two very real Popes — Benedict XVI and Francis — and imagines an encounter over a period of days between the two. The title is misleading, since the primary encounter takes place before Francis is actually Pope.

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio flies to Rome to submit his resignation to a rather grumpy and unsympathetic Benedict. Over the course of the film, Bergoglio gives stirring talks, both men hear each other’s confession and Benedict uses the backdrop of the Sistine Chapel to con-

fide his plan to resign.

While the secular reviews have been fairly enthusiastic, commenting on the production values, the dialogue and the acting, those who know a bit more about the Vatican have trouble with the blurring of a teaspoon of fact with a shovelful of fiction.

Indeed, the sets are striking, as are Jonathan Pryce as Bergoglio and Anthony Hopkins as Benedict. But the script they inhabit paints one Pope as hip, sensitive, enlightened and progressive, while the other is reactionary, backwards looking, anti-social and out of touch. I’ll let you guess which is which.

We see the two men pontificate (pun intended), debate, soften and ultimately become unlikely allies, all set against some great backdrops (Castel Gandolfo, the Sistine Chapel, even the courtyard in front of the Apostolic Palace where Bergoglio dances the tango with Benedict in front of the bemused papal staff).

But, as Commonweal’s Rita Ferrone notes “all of this, of course, is fiction.”

Most disturbing is that the film suggests Benedict somehow bears responsibility for the monstrous sexual abuser Father Marcial Maciel, which is exactly “not” the case, while suggesting Bergoglio was a stirring advocate for abuse victims, which was a role he only gradually grew into.

What has disturbed me is that friends and family members who have seen the film are often completely unaware of how false the film is. They treat it as revelatory, not fantasy.

Their reaction recalls the comment about “The Crown,” that “viewers are unable to distinguish what is real from what is embellished.”

The filmmaker’s artistry creates the illusion of reality, but the liberties it takes make it neither true nor real. Rather its oversimplified caricatures do damage that today’s journalists and tomorrow’s historians will have to correct.

Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

Peace is the first greeting

By Carolyn Woo
Catholic News Service



On Jan. 18, 1968, St. Paul VI inaugurated the World Day of Peace and designated the first day of every year for this focus. This day is also devoted to the veneration of Mary, the mother of Jesus,

and the Holy Name of Jesus.

Connecting the events, Pope Paul VI commented, “Those holy and loving religious remembrances must shed their light of goodness, wisdom and hope upon the prayer for, the meditation upon, and the fostering of the great and yearned-for gift of peace, of which the world has so much need.”

I had a glimpse of the lingering effect of war as a teenager. At the showing of “Tora! Tora! Tora!” a film about the bombing of Pearl Harbor, my mother sobbed uncontrollably. She was carried back to how her life was upended by World War II.

Her family left everything behind in mainland China to settle in Hong Kong. The respite was short-lived as Hong Kong was soon occupied by the Japanese. Schooling and income came to an abrupt halt for the family. The days were punctured by sounds of execution at a nearby schoolyard commandeered as a Japanese military compound.

Though they hardly knew each other, my father and mother married to forestall an offer of marriage she received from a

Japanese colonel, and my dad was drafted to work for the Japanese as a naval architect. They fled to mainland China to stay ahead of the occupation and had two babies during that chaotic period.

Reluctantly, they abided by the agreement among their fellow refugees that any child whose cries endanger the safety of the group would be smothered. Fortunately, my brother and sister timed their cries to innocuous moments.

While my older relatives’ experiences of war became part of my memory and formed my affiliation with the refugees served by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), my own experience of war was something rather different.

What I witnessed was the speed and scope with which Hong Kong engaged and sought out Japanese businesses shortly after the war. By the 1960s, enmity was minimal as the Japanese provided for the Hong Kong people opportunities for technology transfer and outsourced manufacturing. Both countries prospered.

In my CRS work, I have seen the desire, capacity and actions for peace after destructive conflicts. In Cambodia, people wanted to direct their energies for economic development rather than hunting down the last leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime which, during a four-year reign, caused the death of 1.2 to 2.8 million people.

Twenty-five years after its genocide, Rwanda continues its national strategy to replace the ethnic identities of Hutus and Tutsis with one common designation as

REFLECTION

Eternal life, now

By Mark Saucier

I’ve attended three funerals in five days.

One was a priest of 57 years. He was challenging but rewarding. You had to slog through a slough of opinions, but the trek would often lead to deep pools of vision and insight.

I visited him the day he learned of his unrequested retirement. He was angry and frustrated, unable to see, or admit, the reasons for the decision. But what I saw beneath the fury a still fiery passion for his vocation. Despite a litany of degrees, titles, and citations, his deepest desire was to be a parish priest.

Another was a woman, my age, who died after a long journey with cancer. I don’t say battle because she never seemed to be at war. She never even mentioned it unless asked and then her response was always honest, but brief. She refused to let her affliction define or confine her. She lived until the day she died.

It’s hard to picture her without her husband by her side. They were both smart and accomplished, but the other always came first. It wasn’t clingy — just the sense that they chose each other every day. That elected love embraced a family that was both their personal joy and their gift to the world.

The third was a woman religious who died just after her 90th birthday. She had dementia, but in a community of common care, it loses some of its fear and sadness.

During her life, she was a teacher, a missionary, a counselor, congregational president, administrator, pastoral minister, and hospital volunteer. As her cousin ad-libbed at the intercessions, “My Lord, is there anything this woman didn’t do?”

In fact there was little she couldn’t do, but everything she did, each new road she took, she did so at the request of her community. She lived with her sisters for 70 years. When they remember her, they don’t talk about her roles, but her wisdom, her humor, and her concern.

At each funeral, we prayed for admission to eternal life. Perhaps those prayers had already been answered.

My bet is that each of these, one in his Priesthood, one in her marriage, and one in the bonds of community, had many moments when they were immersed in the waters of eternal life. That’s what refreshed, nourished and impassioned them.

I have no idea what awaits beyond the threshold of death, but I don’t think any of these three were surprised. They’d visited before.

Linn St. George teacher bolsters faith with science, social studies

Attributes his longevity to community's prayers, support

By Jay Nies

It's no "Mr. E" how "Mr. M" has been able to keep on doing the Lord's work for all these years at St. George School in Linn.

"I've been lifted up and carried by prayers and support of the great staff here, the whole school community, the parish, the pastors, the students, and of course, my family out in New Jersey," said Bob Maranowski, the middle-school science and social studies teacher at St. George.

"They literally carried me," said Mr. Maranowski, who has been going by "Mr. M" for as long as he's been at the front of a classroom. "They've been really good to me. That helped me stay at this for a long time."

He maintains that his job as a Catholic educator is to help build up the whole student — soul, mind and body — by integrating faith concepts into secular subject areas.

"I believe that the key components of faith can be achieved through those secular subjects of science and social studies, which I am teaching

this year to sixth-through eighth-graders," he stated.

He believes that by imparting facts and knowledge revealed in science and social studies, he will be able to reinforce his students' understanding of the unchanging, objective truth contained in Catholic doctrine.

At the same time, "by incorporating faith principals into daily activities, I am hoping that my students leave my class with a stronger relationship with God," he said.

He emphasized that the hallways and classrooms of St. George School are overflowing with stories more interesting than his own.

For example, "we have a teacher here who has taught in Europe, who has taught in the Middle East, taught in Russia," he noted, referring to Jennifer Gast, who has been teaching middle-school science and math at the school for the past two years.

He and his colleagues are united in a mission that dates back not only to 1883, when School Sisters of Notre Dame welcomed the first students to St. George School, but to Apostolic Times, when Jesus's first followers began handing on the Catholic and apostolic faith.

"When you look at it that way, my story is very brief," said Mr. Maranowski. "I love my work and I love working in the diocese. I plug away year after year and enjoy what I do in the presence of my students and the parish and the staff and the whole school community."

Mr. Maranowski grew up in



Bob Maranowski is honored in St. George Church in Linn Oct. 2 on the occasion of his birthday. "Mr. M" is in his 50th year as a teacher at St. George School. With him on the right is Principal Lisa Grellner.

New Jersey. He began teaching at St. George in 1970, after receiving his degree in history and education from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana.

His experience there as an undergraduate convinced him that he wanted to teach in a Catholic school.

"I like Catholic schools," he said. "I like their philosophy. I like the values they teach. I like the fact that every teacher I've had — and principals and administrators — have always tried to live the message of Jesus."

"I see that in the interaction of our teachers, our principal and our staff, as well as the parents," he said. "They've always been supportive, and the kids have been great."

He has heard people say they would never teach the junior-high grades because of all the challenges students that age are facing.

"But I find them to be very interesting and fun to teach and be around," he said. "I enjoy engaging them in learning, motivating them and seeing them respond."

The Catholic Missourian in 2008 published an article about what Mr. Maranowski considers to be his miraculous recovery from pneumonia and an infection that was shutting down his liver and kidneys and poisoning his blood.

He hadn't missed a full day of school in years when the infection took hold in October of 2007.

Within 24 hours, he was unconscious and hooked up to a ventilator in the Intensive Care Unit of the old St. Mary's Health Center in Jefferson City.

Doctors had placed him in a medically-induced coma and were estimating his chances of survival at 1 in 10.

That's when three generations of students, parents, parishioners and other members of the community gathered in St. George Church to storm the gates of heaven with prayer.

"He is an icon. There would have been a real emptiness here without him," Kelly McReynolds, a fellow St.

of his doctors and nurses were calling him a "miracle man."

"Prayer does work!" he said in response. "Nothing is impossible with God!"

Now, having taught children and even grandchildren of some of his former students, Mr. Maranowski plays down his longevity at the school.

"I don't want to feel old!" he said.

Nonetheless, he is grateful for having been able to continue doing exactly what he's always wanted to do.

"The Catholic school system is beautiful, and I love the people here at St. George and in Linn," he said.

George teacher, told *The Catholic Missourian* in 2008.

She is one of hundreds of Mr. Maranowski's former students.

The prayers continued. Signs around town urged residents and passers-through to "Pray for Mr. M."

Twice, he almost died. Twice, his doctors were able to save him.

The prayers and cards kept coming in the months after he regained consciousness and began fighting to regain his health.

By the time he returned to work, some



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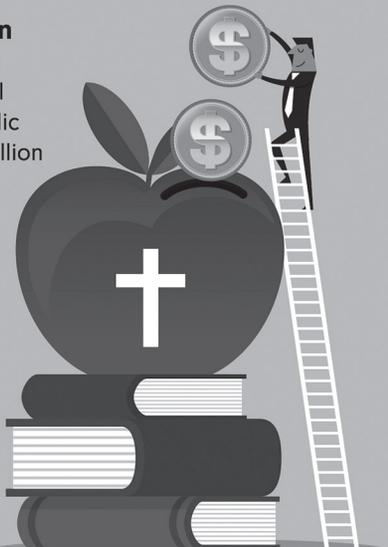
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NCEA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics

A Gift to the Nation

Based on the average public school per pupil cost of \$11,841, Catholic schools provide \$21 billion in savings each year for the nation.



Source: U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2018-2019: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing (NCEA).

Pope appoints first woman to Vatican foreign ministry post

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis named Francesca Di Giovanni, a longtime Vatican official, as an undersecretary in the Vatican's foreign ministry office, making her the first woman to hold a managerial position at the Vatican Secretariat of State.

The Vatican announced Jan. 15 that within the Vatican Secretariat of State's Section for Relations with States, Di Giovanni will head the multilateral sector, which deals with intergovernmental organizations and multilateral treaties.

With the new appointment, the Vatican foreign ministry, led by Archbishop Paul J. Gallagher, will have two undersecretaries. Di Giovanni will serve as undersecretary alongside Msgr. Mirosław Wachowski, who will continue to work in the area of bilateral diplomacy.

In an interview with Vatican News published shortly after the announcement, Di Giovanni said that there had been a need for an undersecretary for the multilateral sector, but "I sincerely never would have thought the Holy Father would have entrusted this role to me."

"It is a new role and I will try to do my best to live up to the Holy Father's trust, but I hope not to do it alone," she said. "I would like to count on the harmony that has characterized our working group so far."

Born in Palermo, Di Giovanni earned a law degree and began working as



Pope Francis named Francesca Di Giovanni, a longtime Vatican official, as an undersecretary in the Vatican's foreign ministry office, making her the first woman to hold a managerial position at the Vatican Secretariat of State. She is pictured in an undated photo with Pope Francis. — CNS photo/Vatican Media

an official at the Section for Relations with States in 1993, focusing her work on issues such as "migrants and refugees, international humanitarian law, communications, private international law, the status of women, intellectual property, and tourism," the Vatican said.

While acknowledging that her appointment was "an unprecedented decision" by Pope Francis that "represents an indication of an attention toward women," Di Giovanni said that her new responsibilities were connected to her work "rather than to the

fact of being a woman."

As the first woman to hold a managerial position within the Vatican Secretariat of State, Di Giovanni said she hopes her role will "contribute to the realization of the Holy Father's vision" of women being "fully included in decision-making processes."

"A woman may have certain aptitudes for finding commonalities, healing relationships with unity at heart," she said. "I hope that my being a woman might reflect itself positively in this task, even if they are gifts that I certainly find in my male colleagues as well."

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

From page 3

the way we witness the Catholic faith fully to Catholic students is the same for all students," he said. "All students are invited and welcomed to participate fully in the whole culture of the school, the formation of the school and the life of the school."

Evangelization is present within schools because students are presented with a Catholic worldview that reveals the reality of God and the Gospel through the curriculum, he said.

"In that way, we are evangelizing students by giving them a real understanding of the world and society. Everyone in a Catholic school is being moved along in the process of evangelization and outreach," Mr. Burnford said.

Founded for evangelization

Acknowledging the inherent relationship between Catholic education and evangelization in the presence of faith, community and identity, Pope Francis in a June 2018 address said: "Schools and universities need to be consistent and show continuity between their foundational mission and the Church's mission of evangelization."

He delivered the address to members of the Gravissimum Educationis Foundation, which he established in October 2015 at the invitation of the Congregation for Catholic Education to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Christian Education.

In that same address, Pope Francis proposed a challenge to members of the foundation, which aims to renew the Church's dedication to Catholic education, saying: "To fulfill your mission, therefore, you must lay its foundations

in a way consistent with our Christian identity, establish means appropriate for the quality of study and research and pursue goals in harmony with service to the common good."

"Deeper questions"

Elisabeth Sullivan, executive director of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, identified roles within Catho-



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lic schools that help bring Catholic and non-Catholic students together.

"I think Catholic schools have a unique opportunity to provide hope in a world that is increasingly beset by hopelessness," she said. "A world without God is a world without hope."

Ms. Sullivan believes that Catholic education is uniquely distinct from other education systems due to its long tradition of conveying the inherent and inseparable relationship between faith and reason.

Consequently, Catholic schools "restore what the industrialized model of education has stripped from the classroom — an understanding of the meaning and purpose of things," she told CNS.

Catholic education asks the deeper questions, regarding the nature of something and its purpose, according to Sullivan.

"Secular education can't offer that, can't decide on a meaning or a purpose, so it has to stay away, and therefore, it's incomplete," she explained.

"Catholic understanding of reality"

Mary Pat Donoghue, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, expressed a similar viewpoint regarding evangelization efforts within Catholic schools.

Ms. Donoghue said because formation in a Catholic school is integral, students are not solely taught religious doctrine in a religion course.

"What we seek to do is bring forward the Church's intellectual tradition and form their minds in all of the content and areas that they study," she said. "This is an excellent tool of evangelization because it exposes kids not just to Catholic practices, regarding prayer and liturgy, but also to a Catholic understanding of reality."

Ms. Donoghue is hopeful that Catholic schools will continue to fulfill their mission of bringing children and young adults into a relationship with Christ.

As populations shift, she said, many Catholic schools will be located in new areas, creating a changing landscape.

However, she said, Catholic education in America has been around for centuries and "will renew itself by turning toward the Church's own tradition and that can be the way forward in the future."

For more information about Catholic Schools Week, visit: www.NCEA.org.

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Diocese of
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Stewardship as way of life to be topic of Boonville night of recollection

DATE: February 3
TIME: 6 pm

Father Jarrod Lies will lead a parish "night of recollection" titled "Stewardship as a Way of Life," on Monday, Feb. 3, in Boonville.

It will be at 6 p.m. in the parish hall below Ss. Peter & Paul Church, 322 Seventh St.

Fr. Lies (pronounced "Lease") said he "finds his greatest fulfillment in preaching and teaching the Eucharistic person of Jesus Christ so as to inspire and enliven in the fire of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God the Father unto the salvation of souls."



Father Jarrod Lies

Ordained for the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, in 2001, he has ministered in parishes, in a Catholic high school and as director of his diocese's Office of Faith Formation.

He holds a Master's degree in Sacred Scripture and a Master of Divinity Degree, both from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio.

He is currently pursuing a License in Sacred Theology for the New Evangelization through Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit.

At Bishop W. Shawn McKnight's request, he gave a vocations presentation to the priests of the Jefferson City diocese last October.

Steve Angrisano Lake Ozark concert

DATE: February 9
TIME: 3 pm

Our Lady of the Lake parish in Lake Ozark will welcome nationally-renowned Catholic composer, performer, evangelizer and youth minister Steve Angrisano for a concert on Sunday, Feb. 9.

It will be at 3 p.m. in Our Lady of the Lake Church, 2411 Bagnell Dam Blvd.

Mr. Angrisano is undoubtedly one of the

most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today.

He composed and sings such spiritual anthems as "Go Make A Difference" and "My Soul is Thirsty," as well as the popular "Mass of a Joyful Heart" arrangement of the Mass.

Tickets will be \$8 for adults, \$5 for students. For information, contact the parish music office at (573) 365-2241 or olalamusic@sbcglobal.net.

net.

College scholarships available

Applications for the 2020-2021 Simon Scholarship and Warack Scholarship are being accepted through March 31, 2020.

Applications can be acquired through your pastor or parish life collaborator or may be downloaded at diojeffcity.org/scholarships.

Workshop on planning music for the Triduum

DATE: February 22
TIME: 9 am - noon

The Jefferson City diocese's chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians will hold a workshop on planning music for the Easter Triduum, on Saturday, Feb. 22, in Moberly.

It will be from 9 a.m. to noon in St. Pius X Church, 209 S. Williams St.

Father Dylan Schrader, pastor of St. Brendan parish in Mexico, will be the presenter.

The Triduum includes the lit-

urgies for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Fr. Schrader will address the topic: "What do the Church documents say about planning for the three most holy days of the Church year?"

Lunch will be served afterward.

Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Education Center.

The cost is \$5 per person.

Advance registration is requested by Feb. 15. Write to npmjeffcitydio@gmail.com.

Project Rachel Unfailing Mercy Retreat near K.C.

DATE: February 22
TIME: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Project Rachel in Kansas City, Missouri, and Project Rachel in Kansas City, Kansas, will hold an Unfailing Mercy Retreat from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22.

This is a ministry of the Catholic Church offered at no cost to people of all faith traditions.

The Project Rachel ministry's purpose to help women, men, and families affected by abortion.

"Our retreats offers a special experience of God's mercy, an intensive time wherein God often brings about profound healing," the organizers stated.

This is a private retreat with strict confidentiality. With small groups in a peaceful retreat setting, participants will receive care and compassion while hearing stories of healing after abortion, as well as Scriptural stories of Christ's healing love and resources for further study.

For information, Contact Teresa at (816) 591-3804 or projectrachel@diocesekcsj.org.

www.projectrachelkc.com

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Washington Redskins tight end Hale Hentges, graduate of Immaculate Conception School and Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, signs autographs while visiting Immaculate Conception School with his wife, Shannon, on Jan. 21.

— Photo from Immaculate Conception School's Facebook page

Liturgical Composers Concert to include OddWalk performers

DATE: January 30
TIME: 7 pm

Shannon Cerneka of St. Peter parish in Fulton and Orin Johnson of St. Louis will perform "Fill Us O Lord," a Lenten hymn they composed, at a Liturgical Composers Concert on Thursday, Jan. 30, near St. Louis.

The concert will be at 7 p.m. in the Mercy Center Chapel, 2039 N. Geyer Road in Frontenac.

"Come enjoy an evening of music and song," the event's organizers stated. "Sing with the composers who wrote some of your favorite songs for the Mass."

Published by GIA Music, "Fill Us, O God" "is a Lenten piece, asking God to help us empty ourselves of worldly things that leave no room for the divine," said Mr. Johnson.

He and Mr. Cerneka perform as OddWalk Ministries, mostly at youth gatherings. They have also recorded several collections of their songs.

Other performing composers will include: Bob Dufford SJ ("Like a Shepherd"), John Foley SJ ("Come to the Water"), David Haas ("You are Mine"), Marty Haugen ("Shepherd Me, O God"), Paul Inwood ("Center

of My Life"), Michael Joncas ("I Have Loved You"), Donna McGargill OSM ("Servant Song"), Roc O'Connor ("Lift Up Your Hearts") and Dan Schutte ("These Alone Are Enough").

Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$50 for preferred seating, including an after-concert reception with the composers.

For tickets, visit www.mercycenterstl.org or call (314) 966-4686.

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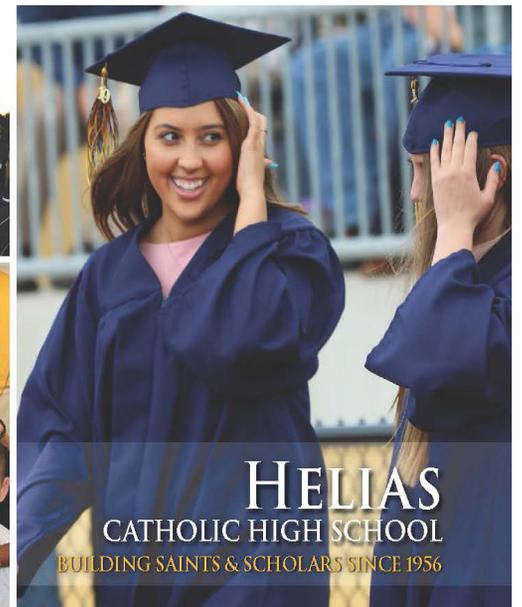
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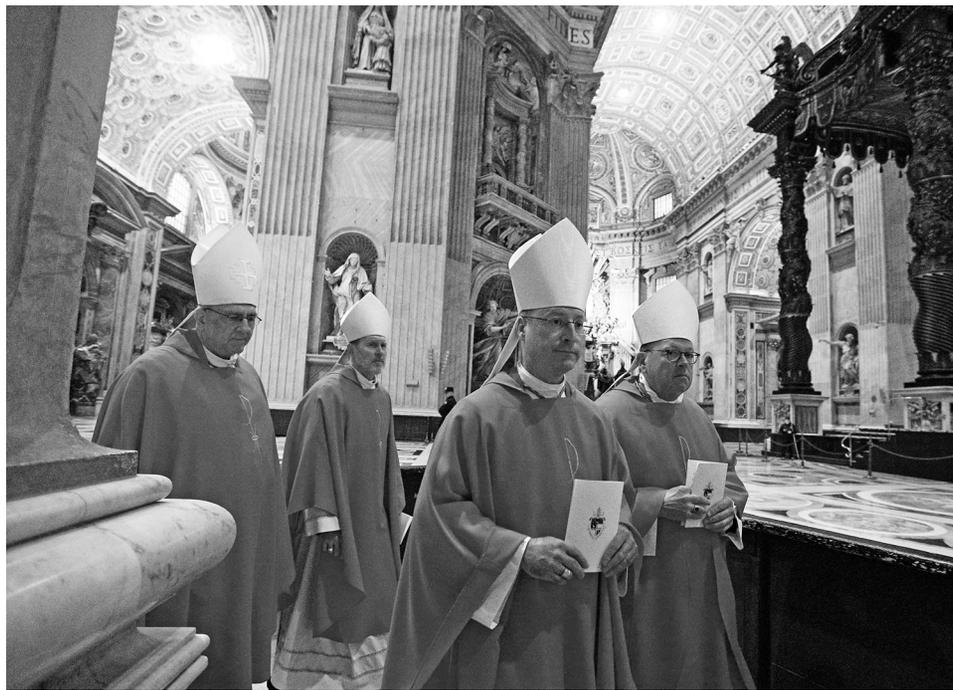
From page 1

criminal activity must remain a priority for the entire Church in the United States.

Bishop McKnight spoke to Catholic News Service and to diocesan staff Jan. 16 after he and the other bishops met with the Pope for more than two hours.

Bishop McKnight said that during the meeting, he thanked Pope Francis for expanding the section of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith that investigates clerical sexual abuse.

It was clear during the discussion how much the clerical sexual abuse crisis “pains the Holy Father,” he said. “He reiterated that this must be dealt



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and fellow bishops from the United States arrive to concelebrate Mass in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City Jan. 16.

— CNS photo by Paul Haring

with, it's a crime, it can't just be swept under the rug or dealt with only in the confessional — no, it's a crime.”

Bishop McKnight said one of the bishops at the

meeting brought up the question of the Vatican's promised report on the case and career of Theodore E. McCarrick, the former cardinal and archbishop of Washington. “I must respect the confidential nature of our conversation today,” Bishop McKnight said. “I can just say I am very confident the Pope is doing everything he can in order to rectify the problem and to help the entire Church learn from the mistake of McCarrick's promotion in the Church.”

with, it's on the issue of abortion, Pope Francis “simply reiterated what he's already said in many different ways,” which is that “without life, what other rights are there? So, you have to begin with that. It's not the only issue — I don't think anybody has ever said that. But when you're looking at the core beliefs and the more essential rights, the right to life of the unborn is very important.”

The Pope, Bishop McKnight recalled, “put it in a very beautiful way: Do we always want to simply eliminate those who are inconvenient? And, unfortunately, that's part of our culture in the United States — the practice, the habit, if you will, of just eliminating the uncomfortable, the unwanted, as the solution. And we're called to be better than that. We as a country are better than that.”

When the U.S. bishops say, “the right to life is the ‘pre-eminent issue’” in Catholics' political concerns, “that word is carefully chosen,” Bishop McKnight noted. “Because we want to avoid the perspective or the understanding that it's the only issue — because it is not.”

Catholic voters, Bishop McKnight stated, need to be aware of a more general tendency or temptation “to get rid of unwanted people,” whether they are the unborn or the aged, immigrants or the poor. “There is a certain consistency that is required of us as Catholics.”

In the meeting, the Pope also affirmed that protecting human life must be seen as the preeminent foundational social and political issue for U.S. society. Bishop McKnight said that



Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general for the Jefferson City diocese, greets Pope Francis.

— CNS photo/Vatican Media

PINK STAR

From page 5

work unbelievably hard and they sure keep me on my toes.”

Last summer's “Corrie's Birthday Bash” fundraiser for the Pink Star surpassed all expectations, “which allowed us to do a lot more things like this,” Mrs. Talken said of the Sensory Pathway.

Corrie loved St. Francis Xavier School, so the foundation's board was happy to purchase the materials for the Sensory Pathway to help children channel their energy.

“Having this here means the world to us,” said Mrs. Talken, “especially now that our grandchildren are here and get to use it.”

The foundation also donated two sets of tuned bells to the St. Francis Xavier School music program, so the students can form a bell choir.

In appreciation, students gave performances at four local nursing homes.

“That's what it's all about!” said Mrs. Talken. “The Holy Spirit and Corrie's love.”

The Corrie's Birthday Bash 2020 event is scheduled for Aug. 29.

Mrs. Talken also helped form a monthly support group for mothers who have lost children.

“You don't ever get over it, and you don't really ever get through it, you can't make sense of it, so you figure out a way to live with it,” she said. “You learn to absorb this crushing pain, you learn how to survive.”

She used to imagine standing face-to-face with God, asking Him why Corrie had to die so young, and having God explain it to her satisfaction.

“I don't think that anymore,” she said. “I believe when I am finally in heaven with my Savior and with my beautiful daughter, I'm not going care about the ‘WHY.’ What I'm going to care about is that I survived the worst nightmare a parent can face with a stronger faith in God and His plan, that I listened to God and with His blessing and Corrie's spirit and beautiful memory, took a horrible tragedy and turned it into something that helps people by spreading kindness.”

She's grateful to St. Francis Xavier and the

whole Taos community for helping Corrie become who she was.

“Good Catholic community! Good Church, good school, good people!” she said.

“Brain break”

At the Jan. 15 dedication of the Sensory Pathway, Mr. Tobar thanked the Talken family and the foundation for a gift that's useful and fun.

With his wife at his side, Mr. Talken cut the red ribbon with giant scissors.

Father Michael Penn, pastor of St. Francis Xavier parish, blessed the pathway and prayed for all the children who would use it and for the people who provided it.

The hall filled with laughter as children stamped and jumped and twisted and balanced and bobbed and coasted backwards on their hands and feet through the meandering course.

“The whole basis behind this is to get kids up and moving,” said Mr. Tobar. “It gets their blood moving. It gets some of the energy out of their bodies and leaves them more focused and ready to go. I refer to it as kind of a brain break.”

Students get to use the Sensory Pathway only at designated times, in order not to disturb others.

“But I would imagine all of our students will want to go through it at some point,” he said.

Secretary Patti Wieberg has been at St. Francis Xavier School long enough to remember when Corrie Talken and Mr. Tobar became friends in kindergarten.

“Don't get me wrong — they pulled some pranks,” said Ms. Wieberg. “But she could be such a delight — that smile, the sparkle in her eyes. I really miss her.”

Ms. Wieberg said getting to work for and with Mr. Tobar makes her proud.

“He's one of us,” she said. “He went through school here. His family lives here and he's come back, and I think it was meant to be. He's doing a remarkable job. We're very proud of him.”

Search “Pink Star Foundation” on Facebook.

FR. OFFUTT

From page 1

Friends remember Fr. Offutt as a gifted teacher, fervent reader, gentle confessor, attentive conversationalist, avid golfer and consummate minister of the Most Holy Eucharist.

"He loved to teach," said Fr. Judge, a friend of many years. "If he could research it, he could teach it."

Fr. Offutt impressed many Catholics and non-Catholics alike with his passion and insight into Sacred Scripture.

"He had a better understanding of the Bible than anybody I ever met in a parish," said Fr. Judge. "He was always reading, always educating himself."

His quick wit and dry sense of humor opened him up to conversations on just about any subject.

"He would let you set the topic," said Fr. Judge. "He always wanted to think about who could be included rather than who you were going to exclude."

Even when weakened by pain and illness, Fr. Offutt resolved to let nothing keep him from offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

"The man gave his life to the Priesthood and particularly to the celebration of the Eucharist," said Mr. Million. "He epitomized the meaning of community and sacrifice."

One of Fr. Offutt's favorite phrases was "Hear and heed."

"He was one of the best listeners I've ever been around," said Mr. Million. "He stressed listening to the Lord and paying attention to where you're going to hear Him: Will you hear Him speak through your friends, through your family, through the people you meet in your daily life?"

A time to sow

Preaching and teaching were in Fr. Offutt's DNA.

He was related to several Catholic priests from north-eastern Missouri.

His grandfather was superintendent of the Audrain County School District.

His great-uncle died of scarlet fever while studying at Hannibal-LaGrange College to become a Baptist preacher.

"I cherish the people and places of my roots," Fr. Offutt

once stated.

He was born on June 19, 1938, in Mexico, a son of the late Joseph J. and Martha Jane Offutt.

He started school at St. Brendan in Mexico before moving with his family to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, for eight years.

He continued at St. Brendan High School in Mexico when his family moved back home.

He entered seminary formation at Cardinal Glennon College in St. Louis, followed by four years at the Pontifical North American College (NAC) in Rome.

He graduated in 1963 with a licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

On Dec. 19, 1962, in Christ the King Church in Rome, Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor, rector of the NAC, ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

He offered his First Solemn Mass in the United States on July 28, 1963, in St. Brendan Church.

He later earned a master's degree in English from the University of Missouri; and a master's degree and doctorate in sociology from the University of Notre Dame.

He cultivated an interest in contemplative prayer and meditation while serving as pastor of what is now St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia.

"The key to the whole mystical tradition, going back to medieval times, is to be open to, aware of and conscious of the power and presence of the Lord, all the time," he stated in 2012.

He believed that planning for the future is a deeply prayerful, spiritual activity.

"Face it," he said in 2012. "We don't know much about the Church. It's a mystery. But seeing how the Church has endured for all these years in spite of its all-too-human failings, we do know that the Holy Spirit mysteriously provides."

He was adamant that the Church's response to those who leave is an essential part of its evangelization.

"You don't plant a seed if

you don't expect it to grow," he said. "So when people drop off or drop out, we need to start with a good examination: Can I do something better to make myself a better instrument of God's grace? What can I do to make it easier for people to come back or to not leave in the first place?"

"Keep getting better"

Fr. Judge noted that Fr. Offutt loved the Eucharist, loved plants and flowers, loved people and loved golf.

"When you look at all of that together, it was a matter of him believing that no matter what, you had to keep getting better," said Fr. Judge.

"He played golf to get better at it. He watered his plants and took care of them because he wanted them to grow.

"He spent time with people in order to help them grow. And he offered the Eucharist so we could all get better."

Fr. Offutt promoted setting up pastoral councils and finance councils in every parish after the Second Vatican Council called for them.

In the mid-1970s, he helped establish the diocese's program for preparing candidates for the permanent diaconate and taught many of the courses.

His served in numerous diocesan roles through the years, including 26 years as executive director of the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee; 25 years as a judge on the Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal; 10 years as executive secretary of the diocesan Pastoral Council; and five years as diocesan director of campus ministry.

He wanted his parishes to be welcoming and engaged in lifelong learning and authentic worship.

Each year at Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family, he would invite all married couples into the sanctuary to renew their marriage vows.

He was proud of having worked with the people of

Our Lady of the Lake parish in Lake Ozark to make their church stand out to visitors to the Lake of the Ozarks.

They commissioned a

music on KBIA radio's HD channel, the other to "enrich adult spiritual development and adult religious education," specifically in the parishes in Mexico, Glasgow, Salisbury, St. Thomas, Linn, Lake Ozark, Centralia, and Etobicoke, Ontario.

Holy Spirit parish in Centralia named its education building in his honor in 2015.

"The world is a better place because of this man!" Anita Kiska said of Fr. Offutt on the diocese's Facebook page.

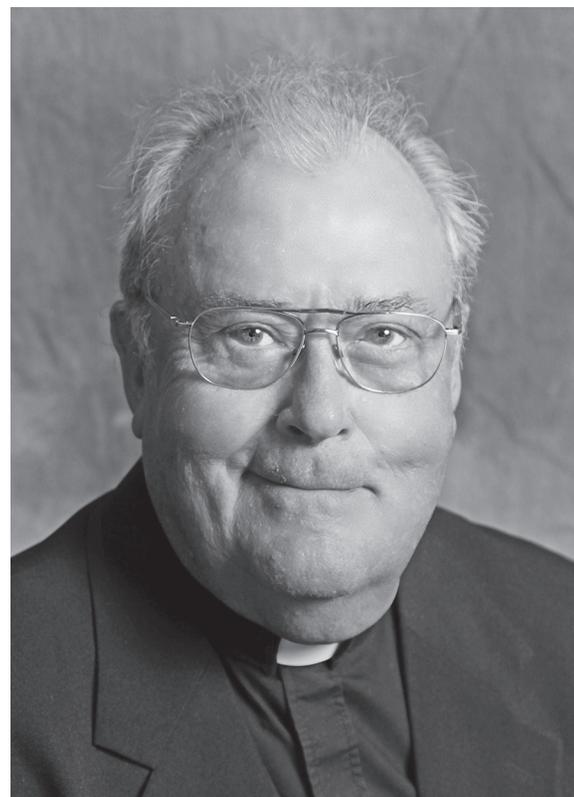
"Bumping into the Lord"

Bernard McGinn, who studied with Fr. Offutt in Rome, remembers him as "a very good friend, a devoted priest, and a model of kindness and generosity."

"He was always optimistic and open to others," said Mr. McGinn. "... He will be much missed by many, including all his Roman classmates."

"I loved his intelligence and his humor," stated Teresa Emanuel Thrasher. "A gentle soul to be sure!"

See PRIEST, page 23



Father J. James Offutt Jr. (1938-2020)

shimmering, life-sized image of the Blessed Mother under her title "Star of the Sea," and placed it on the roof above the entrance.

"Now, no one misses it," he stated.

Later in life, he set up two endowment funds: one to underwrite an hourlong weekly program of contemplative

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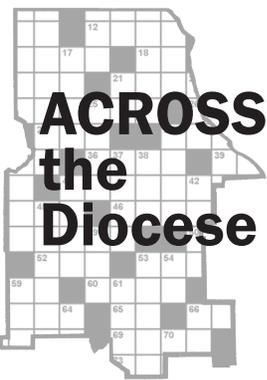
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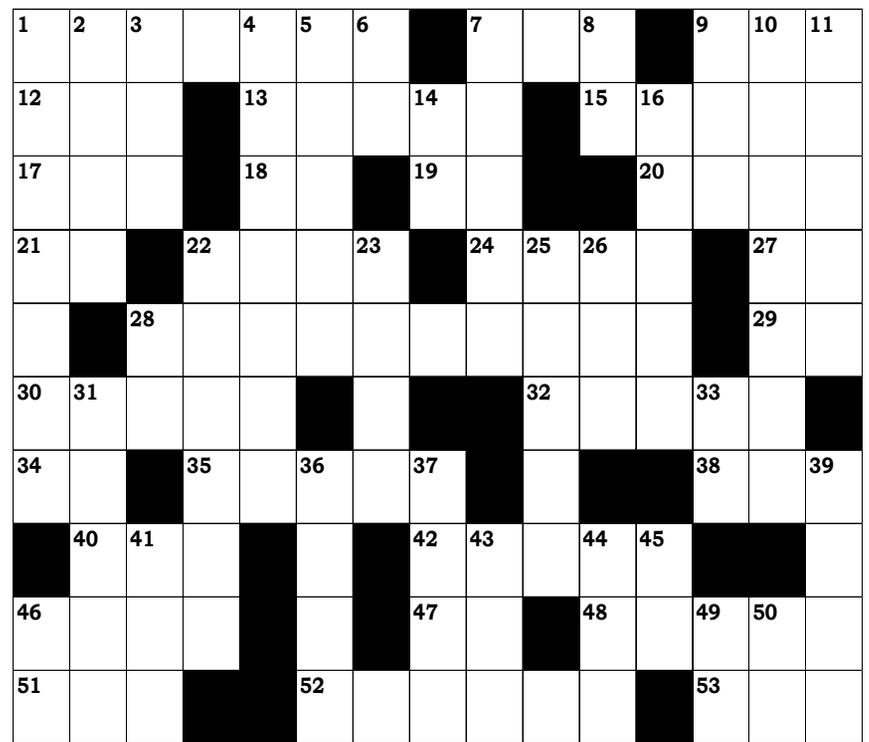
1. The Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome is the most _____ church in the world. It has served as an architectural model for many Catholic churches over the centuries and around the world.
7. Toward the back of the boat.
9. First 3 of 26.
12. In the science _____, we dissected frogs for biology class.
13. St. John Lateran was the residence of the Pope until he _____ to the Vatican in 1377 A.D.
15. Insurance company.
17. "Taxman" for Uncle Sam.
18. He played basketball well in his new _____ Flyers.
19. 7th note.
20. Little devils.

21. Preceded A.D.
22. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome. St. John Lateran has always been the _____ (cathedra) of the Bishop of Rome and so St. John Lateran, not St. Peter Basilica in Vatican City, is the Cathedral of the diocese of Rome.
24. Moslem leader.
27. _____ what do I owe the pleasure?
28. In 896 A.D., an _____ caused the collapse of St. John Lateran's central nave.
29. _____ you don't mind...
30. St. John (Don) _____ was a priest who reached out to the many poor uneducated street kids and juvenile delinquents in the overcrowded industrialized city of Turin in the late 1800's. He developed safe shelters and trade schools with teaching methods based not on punishment but on love. He integrated faith & sacraments with work, study and play.
32. "... (the lepers) raised their voice, saying, '_____, Master! Have pity on us,'" (Luke 17:13).
34. _____ long as I have the floor...

35. Sauer _____.
38. Phone co. letters.
40. Letters for the Congregation for Christian Ed., the pontifical dept. of the Roman Curia responsible for regulating seminaries.
42. As the Cathedral and Archbasilica of the Pope as Bishop of Rome, St. John Lateran ranks superior to all other Roman Cath. Churches in the _____. It is considered the mother church of the Catholic faithful.
46. The name Lateran comes from an early owner of the _____, Sixtius Lateranus, who built a palace (residence) there. The Church was built adjacent to the palace and donated by Constantine to Pope Miltiades in time to host a synod of Bishops in 313 A.D.
47. Letters for intentional walk, a baseball strategy.
48. Abraham's original name. (Genesis 17:5)
51. Prince Valiant's son.
52. Small bait fish or the name of the boat in the sit-com Gilligan's Island.
53. Chicago baseball player.

DOWN

1. "_____ and the 40 Thieves" is the most familiar of the Arabian Nights folk tales. "Open Sesame" is the famous phrase that opens the thieves' treasure den
2. DEA agent perhaps.
3. A leading network on #6 DOWN.
4. St. John Lateran Church was built by the first Christian Roman _____ Constantine during the time of Pope Miltiades, 311-314 A.D.
5. He was on a _____ diet (2 wds.).
6. Boob tube.
7. Good-bye to Pierre.
8. _____-da!
9. Donation to the poor.
10. The official title of St. John Lateran is Cathedral of the Most Holy Savior and of Saints John the _____ and John the Evangelist at the Lateran.
11. In the hosp. they gave him two _____ sedative (2 wds.).
14. _____ *cum spiritu tuo*.
16. _____ raged through St. John Lateran in 1308 A.D. and again in 1361 A.D.



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22. St. John Lateran was _____ by barbarians in 410 A.D. (the Vandals) and 455 A.D. (the Visigoths).
23. "Blessed art _____ among women..."
25. Repairs continued at St. John Lateran through the 1400's with _____ resplendent restorations in 1562, 1590, 1650 and 1735 A.D., following original blueprints.
26. White House nickname.
28. Prefix for teem or crow.
31. Little gold statuette coveted by Hollywood stars.
33. Country internet code for Ukraine.
36. Eve's squeeze?
37. Esau or Jacob (Genesis 25: 24-26).
39. The original St. Peter Basilica, also built by Constantine starting in 319 A.D., over the _____ of St. Peter, was in serious disrepair by the 1300's. Pope Julius II leveled it and built the present expanded St. Peter's Basilica on the same site in 1506.
41. News channel.
43. It's my _____ opinion.
44. Although 2.5 miles from Vatican City, St. John Lateran enjoys the same juridical exemptions from local Italian _____ as Vatican City, as provided by the Lateran Treaty of 1929.
45. On a baseball scorecard, abbr. for a double.
46. The _____. Dodgers.
49. A brand of soda.
50. Chemical symbol for gold.

K of C, N.Y. archdiocese and others providing aid to quake victims

Catholic News Service

Ponce, Puerto Rico

Jose Lebron-Sanabria, a Knight of Columbus and a general insurance agent for the fraternal organization, is coordinating assistance to Puerto Ricans in the aftermath of devastating earthquakes.

He led the Knights' recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria decimated Puerto Rico in September 2017.

Among other efforts this time, he is working with the Diocese of Ponce to bring

food, water and nutrition drinks, like Glucerna and Ensure, to a religious monastery, home to 25 elderly nuns.

"I have a tool to offer my community and that is the Knights of Columbus," Lebron-Sanabria said in a statement.

The island is home to 5,240

Knights and 81 councils.

The series of earthquakes, the highest being a magnitude 6.4, has leveled towns and parish churches on the southern coast of the island.

Gov. Wanda Vazquez Garced has declared a state of emergency. Aftershocks con-

tinue to rock Puerto Rico.

The Knights of Columbus, based in New Haven, Connecticut, has established an online portal for donations for those affected by the quakes:

<https://bit.ly/2FN5pG0>.

Catholic Charities USA has established a Puerto Rico disaster relief fund that can be accessed online at <https://bit.ly/30hHwQd>.

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Jeff Fennwald
573-473-7590

Fundraisers & Social Events

Jan. 24

Marshall, K of C chicken dinner (freewill donation) for SOMO Training for Life Campus, 4:30-7:30 pm

Jan. 25

Mexico, Ladies of St. Brendan Quarter Auction, 5 pm, parish hall; **Taos**, St. Francis Xavier School chili supper & silent auction, meal 5:30-7:30 pm, silent auction 8 pm

Jan. 26

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School 8th grade pancake breakfast, 7:30 am-1 pm; open house 9 am-noon; **Frankenstein**, St. Mary School Archery Breakfast, 7-10:30 am; **Sedalia**, Sacred Heart School open house, 10 am-noon

Jan. 30

Frontenac, Liturgical Composers Concert, 7-9 pm, Mercy Center Chapel, for info visit mercycenterstl.org; **Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School Papa Murphy's fundraiser night, 11 am-8 pm; **Marceline**, Fr. McCartan Memorial Catholic School spaghetti supper, 4:30-7 pm

Jan. 31

Salisbury, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Feb. 1

Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Center trivia night, 6-9 pm, multipurpose room; **Lake Ozark**, Our Lady of the Lake parish trivia night to benefit Helping Hands Homeless Shelter, 6:30-10:30 pm, for info

call (573) 365-2241; **Marshall**, St. Peter School spaghetti dinner, book fair & carnival, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Mary's Home**, Our Lady of the Snows School Mexican feast & silent auction, 5:30-8 pm

Feb. 2

Argyle, Volunteer Fire Department breakfast, 7:30-11:30 am, K of C hall; **Loose Creek**, K of C #2027 pancake breakfast, 7:30-11:30 am, Immaculate Conception School basement

Feb. 7

Westphalia, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

Feb. 8

Holts Summit, "Escape St. Andrew's!" escape room-style fundraiser, 7-9 pm, for tickets or info, call 573-896-5010; **St. Martins**, K of C Valentine dinner & dance, 6:30 pm; **Sedalia**, St. Vincent de Paul parish 42nd annual ham & bean dinner fundraiser for vocations, 11 am-7 pm, St. Patrick Chapel Hall

Feb. 9

Belle, St. Alexander parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Lake Ozark**, Steve Angrisano in Concert, 3 pm, Our Lady of the Lake parish, for tickets call (573) 365-2241; **Westphalia**, Lions Club breakfast, 7-11:30 am, Lions Club Den

Feb. 21

Westphalia, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

Feb. 22

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul home and school auction & dinner, 5:30-10 pm; **Hannibal**, Holy Family School "Hats & Horses" dinner auction & fundraiser, 5-11:45 pm; **Montgomery City**, Immaculate Conception parish Mardi Gras, 6 pm-midnight, K of C hall

Feb. 28

Camdenton, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Holts Summit**, St. Andrew K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Lake Ozark**, K of C Council #9273 fish fry, 4-7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake parish hall; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, St. Leo Hall; **Marshall**, K

ATTENTION

Parishes and Knights Councils...

Lent will be here before you know it —
Ash Wednesday is on February 26!

Plan now to get space reserved in *The Catholic Missourian* for your **pre-Lent and Lenten FISH FRY** ads!!
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of C Council #1267 boiled shrimp dinner, 4-8 pm; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael parish hall

Meetings & Conferences

Feb. 1

Jefferson City, Midwest March for Life 2020, hall at Selinger Centre 7:45 am, pre-rally 9:30 am, march at 10 am, rally with keynote David Bereit 10:45 am Capitol Rotunda, youth rally 1 pm; for info visit midwestmarchforlife.com or call (573) 340-8444; **Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School open house, 11 am-1 pm

Feb. 4

Moberly, Moberly Area Ultreya for Cursillo, 6:30 pm, St. Pius X parish

Feb. 7

Boonville, Columbia/Boonville/Glasgow Area Ultreya for Cursillo & soup supper, 6:30 pm, St. Peter & Paul parish

Feb. 13

Columbia, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program Orientation, 5:30-7 pm, 916 Bernadette Drive

Feb. 22

Moberly, "Planning for the Triduum," for parish pastoral musicians, 8:30 am-noon, St. Pius X parish, for info call 573-645-6579 or email npmjeffcitydio@gmail.com

Mar. 7

Jefferson City, "Walk in Her Sandals" women's conference with speaker Kelly

Wahlquist, 9 am-3 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry

Mar. 9

Jefferson City, Vitae Foundation 28th Annual Jefferson City Pro-Life Event, featuring keynote speaker Trey Gowdy, luncheon program noon-1:30; dinner program 6:30-9 pm, for info or to register visit vitae.foundation.org

Liturgical

Jan. 26

Creve Coeur, "They Showed us Unusual Kindness," ecumenical gathering for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with Archbishop Robert J. Carlson presiding, 7-8:30 pm, St. Monica Church, 12132 Olive Blvd.

Feb. 2

Mexico, Solemn blessing of candles, procession & sung Mass in Latin in the extraordinary form, followed by potluck luncheon, noon-2 pm, St. Brendan Church

Feb. 4

Linn, Seeking Christ for our Nation Mass, 6:30 pm, St. George Church

Feb. 18

Mary's Home, Seeking Christ for our Nation Mass, 6 pm, Our Lady of the Snows Church

Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

Feb. 6

Columbia, "Acts 2:42: A Night

of Dinner & Prayer," featuring dinner, praise & worship music, talk, and Adoration and Reconciliation, 6-8:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center

Feb. 8

Columbia, Annual retreat for youth ministry and catechetical leaders with Steve Angrisano, 9:30 am-3 pm, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/youth-ministry-annual-retreat/

Feb. 22-23

Columbia, "From Seeker to Sage: Journey to the Unknowable," pre-Lenten urban retreat sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Central Missouri, Holiday Inn Executive Center, for register visit cocemo.org

Feb. 29

Columbia, Grand reunion of cursillistas and day of enrichment, 9:30 am-4 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo; **Columbia**, "Recognizing Christ in Our Lenten Journey: If you but knew the gift of God..." women's retreat, 8 am-noon, St. Thomas More Newman Center, for info visit comonewman.org

Health & Wellness

Jan. 26

Columbia, Blood drive, 8 am-1 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center, multipurpose room

Jan. 29

Sedalia, Blood drive, 1-5 pm, Sacred Heart School



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Eighth-grade regional retreat in Sedalia



Eighth-graders, priests and chaperones from five Catholic schools gather in Sacred Heart School in Sedalia for a day of recollection focusing on the sacraments.

Sometimes you can just feel the Holy Spirit in the room.

That certainly seemed to be the case in Sacred Heart School's gymnasium during the school's first-ever Eighth Grade Regional Retreat on Nov. 21.

Eighth-graders from Sacred Heart School, St. Mary School in Glasgow, St. Joseph School in Pilot Grove, St. Andrew School in Tipton and St. Peter School in Marshall attended.

Public school students in PSR at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Sedalia and surrounding parishes were also invited.

The goal was for the students to spend the day deepening their faith, making memories and creating new friendships.

The theme was "Applying the Sacred Sacraments to our daily lives."

Father Joseph Corel and Father David Veit, pastors *in solidum* at St. Vincent de Paul parish, led the retreat with help from pastors of neighboring parishes.

The talks focused on the Sacraments of Initiation and were followed by time for talk and discussion in small groups.

Sacred Heart High School juniors and seniors led the small groups.

Structured games, free play, and breaks were scattered throughout the day to make it an overall enjoyable experience.

The day concluded with Mass, with Fr. Corel presiding and Father Mark Smith of Marshall and Sweet Springs, Father Tony Rinaldo of Tipton and California and Fr. Veit concelebrating.

The high school choir led music ministry and assisted with other parts of the Mass.

"Whether it was talking or playing games, I really enjoyed watching the kids interact with each other," stated Sacred Heart eighth-grade teacher Timara Kennon, one of the event's planners. "It was great for both the eighth-graders and high school students to get to participate in this retreat. We are so grateful for our priests taking the lead and making the day a success."

When the students were asked what they thought the best parts of the day were, the most common responses included:

•"I liked meeting different people from other schools."

•"The lunch catered in by Colton's was great."

•"I liked that Mass was lively, and the music was really good."

•"There were lots of breaks, and the games and icebreakers were fun."

•"The small-group talks with the high school kids leading were great to participate in."

•"I liked learning more about the sacraments in a more relaxed way."

Organizers look forward to making this an annual event for eighth-graders.

Sing in exultation!



ABOVE: The St. Peter parish children's choir in Marshall, directed by Nancy Thompson and piano accompaniment by Carol Wolfe, leads the singing at Mass on Christmas Eve in St. Peter Church. **RIGHT:** Zoe Sherman provides accompaniment as "The Drummer Boy" is played. — Photos by Carol Wolfe



The Christmas story in Vienna



Students of Visitation Inter-parish School in Vienna depict the Christmas story with Mary, Joseph, donkeys, shepherds, sheep, angels, the innkeeper, kings, and the star, accompanied by the choir singing appropriate Christmas songs.

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Jesus asks four men to follow Him

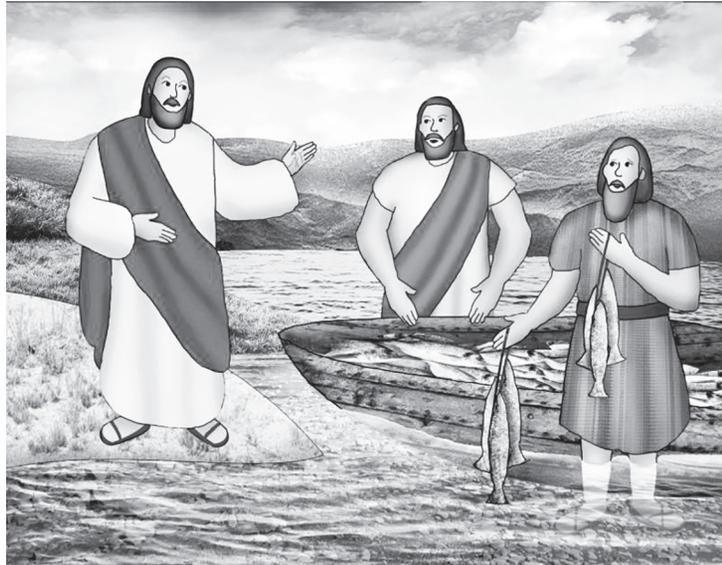
By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

Jesus had been in the desert for 40 days and nights. During that time, He fasted and was tempted by the devil.

After His time in the desert, Jesus learned that John the Baptist had been arrested. He then withdrew to Galilee and went to live in Capernaum by the sea.

Jesus' actions fulfilled a prophecy about the Messiah that can be found in the Old Testament book of Isaiah:

"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen."



From the time He withdrew to Galilee, Jesus began to preach.

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," He told the people.

One day, Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. That's when He saw two men, who were brothers. The brothers' names were Simon — who was called Peter — and Andrew.

Peter and Andrew were fishermen. Jesus watched as they cast their net into the sea.

Jesus walked up to the men and talked to them.

"Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men," He told the brothers.

Peter and Andrew immediately put down their nets and went with Jesus.

As Jesus walked along with His two new friends, the trio saw another set of brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They, too, were fishermen. The brothers were in a boat with their father mending nets.

Jesus called James and John, who immediately left their boat and their father so they could follow Jesus.

Jesus and His four new

friends traveled all around Galilee.

Jesus taught in the synagogues and proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom of God, and He also cured the people of diseases and illnesses.

Jesus' fame spread to all of Syria, and people who were sick, in pain, paralyzed or possessed came to be healed by Him.

And He cured them all.

Soon, great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond began to follow Jesus.

Read more about it...

Matthew 4

1. Where did Jesus go after His time in the desert?

2. How many sets of brothers did Jesus ask to follow Him?

Bible Accent

In the Bible, we read that many people who heard Jesus preach or who were healed by Him began to follow Him. We also read that some of His followers were called "disciples" and others were called "Apostles."

What is the difference between Jesus' followers?

As Jesus' reputation as a preacher and healer became known, random people would follow Him from town to town to hear Him talk or in hopes of being cured by Him.

Disciples, however, were

not random followers. As Jesus traveled around Galilee, He called specific people to follow and learn from Him. The first people He called were Peter, Andrew, James and John.

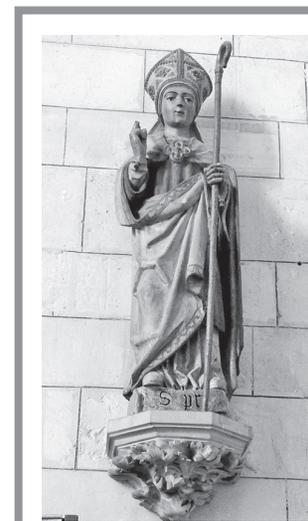
As Jesus' ministry continued, He chose 12 men from among His disciples to be His closest assistants. In Matthew 10, we read that these men — called Apostles — were sent on missions to preach God's Word, and they were given "authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness."

The Apostles are listed in Matthew 10:2-4. They were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean and Judas Iscariot.

Trivia

Who ministered to Jesus after He was tempted by the devil? (Hint: Matthew 4:11)

Answer: Angels.



Saint Spotlight

St. Vedast was born in western France. After hearing of Vedast's goodness, the bishop of Toul ordained him a priest. In 496, the bishop asked Vedast to travel to Reims with King Clovis I, the king of the Franks, who was being prepared for baptism. Along the way, Vedast restored the sight of a blind beggar, which confirmed the king's decision to become a Christian. Vedast helped

Bishop Remigius of Reims evangelize the Franks. In 499, Vedast became bishop of Arras and built up the Church there over the next 40 years. Vedast died in 539, and he is remembered on Feb. 6.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in Jesus' quotations about following Him.



1. "Follow Me, and let the dead _____ their dead." (Matthew 8:22)

2. "And whoever does not take up his _____ and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." (Matthew 10:38)

3. "Whoever follows Me will not walk in _____, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

4. "My _____ hear my voice; I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)



Answers: 1. bury; 2. cross; 3. darkness; 4. sheep.

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Books offer 'solid' explanation of Mary's importance in Catholic life

My Queen, My Mother: A Living Novena — A Marian Pilgrimage Across America, by Marge Steinhage Fenelon. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2019). 135 pp., \$14.95.

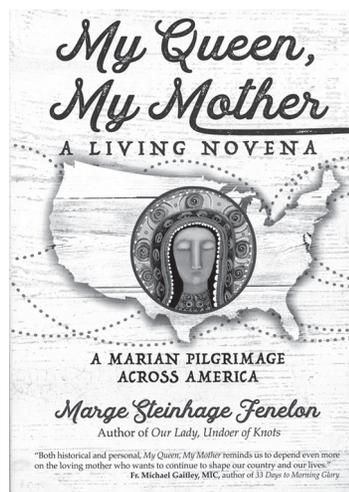
Our Lady of Charity: How a Cuban Devotion to Mary Helped Me Grow in Faith and Love, by Maria Morera Johnson. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2019). 110 pp., \$14.95.

Reviewed by Mitch Finley
Catholic News Service

Some wit once quipped about Christmas, "Ah, yes, the only season of the year when Protestants can't avoid talking about Mary."

There may be some truth to this. However, Catholic readers are likely as Protestant readers to find these two books both inspiring and informative when it comes to nourishing a healthy, theologically-balanced attitude toward Mary.

Any Protestant who only looks at the books' covers is likely to feel reaffirmed in the opinion that if Catholics don't literally "worship" Mary, they at least skate altogether too



close to it. Anyone who takes the risk of actually reading a chapter or two of either book, however, may find it difficult to talk about Mary only during the Christmas season.

Marge Steinhage Fenelon's *My Queen, My Mother* begins with fine explanations of what "pilgrimage" and "novena" mean. Her discussion of these traditional Catholic concepts will help many Catholic readers to nourish a healthy adult devotion to Mary and abandon any quasi-magical perspectives they may have.

At the same time, these introductory discussions will help any Protestant readers

to begin letting go of misunderstandings of Catholic veneration of Mary they may have lived with for many years.

Indeed, the deeply scriptural character of these concepts may surprise and challenge readers from both camps.

The core chapters of *My Queen, My Mother* focus on nine (hence, "novena" meaning "nine") of the many Marian shrines in the United States. The author visited all nine of these shrines, and she explains the history and unique character of each one, offers suggestions for making a "spiritual visit" to each, and concludes with questions for reflection and discussion.

In an appendix, Fenelon explains briefly how to pray the Rosary and provides the words of each of the Rosary's prayers including the "Fatima prayer" with its petition to "save us from the fires of hell" and the "prayer to St. Michael" with its petition to protect us "from the wickedness and snares of the devil" — prayers this reviewer would prefer to label "optional."

Too, including these prayers unremarked upon may constitute a missed opportunity to briefly discuss the metaphorical and analogical nature of religious language (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 40), a topic many Catholics could benefit from knowing more about.

This is to quibble, however. *My Queen, My Mother* is a

Movie Ratings



Cats (PG)
Dolittle (PG)
A Hidden Life (PG-13)
Little Women (PG)
Playmobil: The Movie (PG)
Spies in Disguise (PG)



1917 (R)
Black Christmas (PG-13)
Dark Waters (PG-13)
Jojo Rabbit (PG-13)
Jumanji: the Next Level (PG-13)
Just Mercy (PG-13)
Marriage Story (R)
Richard Jewell (R)
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13)
The Two Popes (PG-13)
Underwater (PG-13)



Bombshell (R)
The Irishman (R)



The Grudge (R)
Like a Boss (R)
Uncut Gems (R)

Ratings are supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office. Visit www.usccb.org for current reviews.

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solid, beautifully-written book that deserves many readers. Also, it would make a valuable addition to parish libraries and belongs on the reading list of any parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program.

Maria Morera Johnson's *Our Lady of Charity* is a remarkable book about the Cuban-American author's life with Our Lady of Charity, the patroness of Cuba.

The author was brought as a child from Cuba to the United States in 1965 by her parents, and growing up with Our Lady of Charity was part and parcel of her everyday family life.

"Whenever my mother referred to the Blessed Virgin Mary," Johnson writes, "she did so lovingly and with an affectionate diminutive, the *vir-*

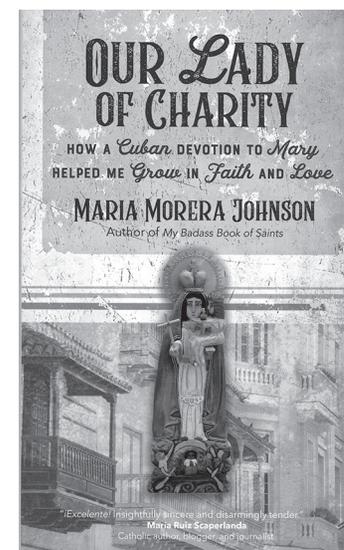
gencita.' In this way, Mary was always present in our home, a part of the family."

Recounting her first return to Cuba in 2015, on the occasion of the visit to that island-country by Pope Francis,

Johnson narrates the origin and development of devotion to Our Lady of Charity.

She does so in a way that is thoroughly Christian and Catholic, theologically complete and balanced.

"I want to introduce Our Lady of Charity to her North American children," Johnson explains. "Devotion to Mary under this lovely title comes at a time when our society, and our world, should revisit her message of love. We can turn



See BOOKS, page 23

PRIEST

From page 15

“Loved his laugh!” stated Tammy Wolfe-Kliethermes, at whose wedding Fr. Offutt officiated 38 years ago.

Juanita Kunzler was principal of the school when he was pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City. She said ministering with Fr. Offutt helped her realize “that each of us is different, as were the Apostles.”

“He had and used his many gifts in God’s service, inspiring many people’s lives,” she said.

Mr. Million recalled that Fr. Offutt often spoke of mysticism as “recognizing when you’re bumping into the Lord.”

“By his example, he helped me to be more aware of those moments,” said Mr. Million. “It really made me more aware of God’s love for me and for all humanity.”

“He could explain things in such a way that you could see the Incarnation,” he added. “He guided me to explore my faith in a way that really deepened my understanding and helped me become a better dad, a better son, a better husband, a better man.”

Through his last years, Fr. Offutt battled with infirmity including arthritis, shingles, cancer and the side effects of treatment.

None of that dimmed his desire to continue ministering as a pastor.

“He was here to serve, in spite of whatever pain he might have been in,” said Mr. Million.

His message to parishioners upon retirement was simple: “Thank you for 19 years of wisdom and peace. To those who I have offended, I am sorry!”

“Something to offer”

Edward Bode, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City, remembers the days when Fr. Offutt would drive a school bus from



Several members of the Centralia Ministerial Alliance gather for the laying on of hands for healing in a prayer service for Father James Offutt in November 2015, when he was recovering from cancer. Those who participated were the Rev. Mike Cooper of First Baptist Church, the Rev. Roxie McNelly of First Christian Church, the Rev. Bill Schnackenberg of United Methodist Church and the Rev. David Hartgrove of the Crossroads Cathedral Assembly of God, all in Centralia.

— Photo courtesy of the *Centralia Fireside Guard* newspaper

Glasgow to the old St. Joseph High School in Salisbury, where he taught and coached basketball.

“In the early 1960s, he travelled to Mexico,” Mr. Bode recalled. “The highlight of Mexico City was a short trip to the outskirts for a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.”

There, he celebrated Mass in the old basilica altar beneath the ‘tilma’ of Our Lady.

“Fr. Jim had this great vision of the Church,” Fr. Judge stated in his homily, “and he always wanted to get us all involved in it: The more you could bring in, the more you could include, the better the Church was going to be.”

“To Jim, strength lies in our diversity,” said Fr. Judge. “That each of us brought something to the table. That everyone, no matter where they are in life, had something to offer.”

He was pleased to return to St. Thomas the Apostle parish in St. Thomas this past October for the parish’s 150th an-

niversary celebration, having served as pastor there during the parish’s centennial.

For posterity, he returned the plaque the parish had presented to him at the end of his tenure there almost 50 years ago.

“It’s time to bring it back home,” he said.

“Teach us to pray”

For the Gospel reading at his Funeral Mass, Fr. Offutt chose the first verse from Luke, Chapter 11:

“He was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said, to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.’”

“That’s Fr. Jim for you,” said Fr. Judge. “He was always teaching people how to pray.”

Surviving are a brother, Edward C. Offutt; and four sisters, Jane Y. Offutt, Dorothy (Offutt) Arnold, Joan (Offutt) Honeyfield and Catherine A. Offutt.

Catholic War Veterans of America

The Catholic War Veterans of America Post 1933 in Quincy, Illinois, invites all veterans who are honorably discharged and in good standing with the Catholic Church to join them at their monthly meeting held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the old stone building on the grounds of the Illinois Veterans Home,

1707 N. 12th St.

You do not have to be a veteran who served in war or combat, just have an honorable discharge and a copy of your DD form 214.

Contact Commander Dan Lenane at (217) 224-7318, Jim Barnes at (573) 221-0496 or Jess Ornelas at (573) 406-1223.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jan 26
THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
Is. 8:23-9:3
Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14
1 Cor. 1:10-13, 17
Mt. 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday, Jan 27
2 Sm. 5:1-7, 10
Ps. 89:20-22, 25-26
Mk. 3:22-30

Tuesday, Jan 28
St. Thomas Aquinas, priest,
doctor of the Church
2 Sm. 6:12b-15, 17-19
Ps. 24:7-10
Mk. 3:31-35

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

Thursday, Jan 30
2 Sm. 7:18-19, 24-29
Ps. 132:1-2, 3-5, 11-14
Mk. 4:21-25

Friday, Jan 31
2 Sm. 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17
Ps. 51:3-7, 10-11
Mk. 4:26-34

Saturday, Feb 1
2 Sm. 12:1-7a, 10-17
Ps. 51:12-17
Mk. 4:35-41

Sunday, Feb 2
THE PRESENTATION OF
THE LORD
Mal. 3:1-4
Ps. 24:7-10
Heb. 2:14-18
Lk. 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Monday, Feb 3
2 Sm. 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13
Ps. 3:2-7
Mk. 5:1-20

Tuesday, Feb 4
2 Sm. 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a,
30-19:3
Ps. 86:1-6
Mk. 5:21-43

Wednesday, Feb 5
St. Agatha, virgin, martyr
2 Sm. 24:2, 9-17
Ps. 32:1-2, 5-7
Mk. 6:1-6

Thursday, Feb 6
St. Paul Miki and companions,
martyrs
1 Kgs. 2:1-4, 10-12
(Ps.) 1 Chr. 29:10, 11ab,
11d-12abcd
Mk. 6:7-13

Friday, Feb 7
Sir. 47:2-11
Ps. 18:31, 47, 50-51
Mk. 6:14-29

Saturday, Feb 8
1 Kgs. 3:4-13
Ps. 119:9-14
Mk. 6:30-34

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for February:

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

Sponsored by

Expert Care Close to Home



SSMHealth.
St. Mary’s Hospital
JEFFERSON CITY

BOOKS

From page 22

to the Blessed Virgin Mary as our model for living this call to love. She never fails to show us the true love of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Our Lady of Charity is a book to cultivate an adult Catholic faith, to renew one’s devotion to Mary by getting to know her through a special devotion nurtured for many generations by the Cuban people. In the author’s words: “Our Lady of Charity ... watches over all her children even though they are scattered far and wide. It’s what a mother does.”

Finley is the author of more than 30 books, including Surprising Mary, What Faith is Not, and The Rosary Handbook: A Guide for Newcomers, Old-Timers and Those In Between.

www.diojeffcity.org

Pancake, Sausage & Fried Eggs

Breakfast Westphalia

Lions Den

Sunday, February 9, 7-11:30am

Served Family Style ~ Carry-outs available
 Adults \$8 • Kids 6-12 \$4 • 5 & under FREE
 Bake Sale ♦ Prizes



Sponsored by Westphalia Lions Club

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mass 8:30 am
Bake Sale



Pancakes, whole hog sausage, scrambled eggs & applesauce

\$8-adults
\$4-kids 6-10
Free-kids 5 & under

Sunday, January 26 7:30-11:30 am
FOLK, MO

Love is never indifferent to other's suffering, Pope says

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Most Christians would agree it is wrong to hate someone, but it is also wrong to be indifferent, which is a camouflaged form of hatred, Pope Francis said.

Real love "must lead you to do good, to get your hands dirty with works of love," the Pope said Jan. 10 at morning Mass in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae. Commenting especially on 1 John 4:19-21, Pope Francis said the Bible "does not mince words."

In fact, he said, the Bible tells people, "If you say you love God and you hate your brother or sister, you're on the other side; you're a liar."

If someone says, "I love God, I pray, I enter into ecstasy, and then tosses aside others, hates them, doesn't love them or simply is indifferent to them," the Pope noted, St. John doesn't say, "You're wrong," but "you're a liar."

WHEN
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
 7:30-11:30 am

WHERE
 Immaculate Conception School Basement

COST
 Adults \$8
 Children 6-12 \$3
 5 & under Free

K of C Council 2027 BREAKFAST



Loose Creek

ALL YOU CARE TO EAT!
 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs & Whole Hog Sausage

Country Store & Bake Sale

Vitae Foundation's

28th Annual Jefferson City Pro-Life Event

Hosted by Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders



Monday, March 9, 2020

Featuring Keynote:
Trey Gowdy

Lunch & Program 12:00 PM
 Dinner & Program 6:30 PM

Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center
 415 West McCarty Street, Jefferson City, Missouri

Trey Gowdy tackled high-profile investigations representing South Carolina's 4th District during his 8-year tenure in the United States Congress. An ardent social conservative, Gowdy considers himself "pro-life plus," and he is looking forward to helping spotlight Vitae's important work.

General Reservations open February 3

Sponsorships Available
 Contact Stacey Kromer at Stacey.Kromer@VitaeFoundation.org

Call or visit us online
573.634.4316 | VitaeFoundation.org

\$50 Lunch Reservation
 (\$20 Tax Deductible)

\$100 Dinner Reservation
 (\$70 Tax Deductible)

vitae foundation

Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Breakfast

Argyle

K of C Hall

Sunday, February 2

Serving from 7:30 til 11:30 a.m.
Pancakes, Sausage & Eggs

Adults \$8—Kids 6-12 \$4
 5 & Under FREE

PRIZES

Proceeds go toward maintenance of all fire equipment.



Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Ozark



WELCOMES Steve Angrisano in concert

Sunday, February 9 @ 3 pm
Adults \$8 — Students \$5

Steve Angrisano is undoubtedly one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today. Always rooted in a spirit of humility and faithfulness, Steve has a keen intuition regarding the needs of any audience and engages them with his unique blend of humor, song, story and interaction.

2411 Bagnell Dam Blvd.
 Lake Ozark, MO

For more info:
 (573) 365-2241
olalamusic@sbcglobal.net

Our Lady of The Lake