

Hale Hentges: "I used to be right where you are"

Washington Redskins tight end Hale Hentges talked to junior-high students at Immaculate Conception School working and praying hard to glorify God.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Young people soak up the love at D.C. March



By Jay Nies

Mae Cross was basking in the hope and fellowship of this year's March for Life in Washington, D.C., when she caught sight of a man with a sign:

"To the mothers of all four of my adopted children, thank you for choosing life."

Miss Cross, a senior at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, and her younger brother were both adopted.

She and her best friend, Emily Konrad, stopped and talked to the man.

"He was very kind," said Miss Cross. "I'm very grateful to my birth mom, too, and to my brother's. It meant a lot to be able to talk to someone who understands that."

They were two of several hundred thousand — 290 from the Jefferson City diocese — who converged in the nation's capital Jan. 24 for the 47th annual March for Life.

The peaceful, prayerful gathering marks the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion-on-demand through all nine months of pregnancy, throughout the United States.

Since then, an estimated 61 million lives have been lost to abortion in this country.

The theme for this year's March, a nod to the 100th anniversary of women in the United States gaining the right to vote, was "Life Empowers: Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman."

"One of the things about the pro-life movement is that we really, really reinforce the idea that you can be the most pro-women when you are pro-life," said Miss Konrad, a Tolton Catholic senior

Representatives of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia were among the 290 people from the Jefferson City diocese who were on pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the National Mass and Prayer Vigil for Life and the 47th annual March for Life.

New J.C. hub for Catholic Charities gets a boost from St. Mary's Hospital Foundation

\$200,000 toward estimated \$4 million needed to transform former community center to center of mercy and charity

By Jay Nies

It was built to be a chapel and gymnasium for young men discerning a call to Priesthood in faraway missions.

It later served as a senior center, youth sports venue and home to a local theater group.

Now back in Catholic hands, it will be remade into a multifaceted center of charity and the corporal works of mercy.

"Having a resource center within walking distance for those who are in need of food, basic healthcare and other charitable and educational services is our dream," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

He spoke at a Jan. 31 gathering in the Shikles Community Center building on Linden Drive, not far from Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City.

Members of the St. Mary's Foundation Board of Trustees presented the bishop a \$200,000 gift toward the estimated \$4 million cost of buying and upgrading the building.

When completed, it will serve as a new headquarters for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) and a hub for helping people in need.

Also present were representatives of the Catholic Charities staff and board of directors, the Jefferson City diocese, the Jefferson City Housing Authority and the St. Mary's Foundation.

See PRO-LIFE, page 19

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See CHARITIES, page 21

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Pray for deceased priests

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Feb. 14 — **Fr. Bernard H. Luebbering**, St. Mary, Shelbina (1972)

Feb. 19 — **Fr. Peter B. O'Rourke**, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1975)

Middle/High School Principal



Hastings Catholic Schools in Hastings, Nebraska, is seeking qualified candidates for St. Cecilia Middle/High School Principal, grades 6-12. The candidates will be able to effectively lead the faculty and students in carrying-out the mission of the school, where students encounter Christ, grow in knowledge and become Christian witnesses. Apply at www.hastingscatholicschools.org.

Position openings - Hannibal, Mo.

Holy Family School in Hannibal, Mo., an accredited elementary school (PreK-8) of 170 students, is seeking a **Third Grade Teacher** for the 2020-2021 school year.

In addition, we are looking for a dynamic, faith-filled **Principal** with proven leadership skills for the 2020-2021 school year, effective July 1, 2020. Qualified candidates for this position must be a practicing Catholic with administrative certification or the ability to become certified, and must have teaching experience of a minimum of 5 years. Catholic school experience preferred.

Applications for both positions are available at www.diojeffcity.org, scroll to bottom and select Schools Office, then click Job Opportunities.

Rectory & Church Cleaner Wanted

St. Peter Church in Jefferson City, Mo. announces the opportunity for Rectory and Church Cleaner. Key responsibilities include rectory housekeeping, church cleaning, laundry, ironing, cleaning interior windows, vacuuming and dusting. Flexible hours, 25-30 hours per week, some weekend hours required. Wage is \$12-13/hour to start.

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- work well with priests, parish staff and parishioners.

Background check and Safe Environment training required. To apply, call Michelle at 573-636-8159 for a job description/application, and submit to St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101, by February 21, 2020.

Camdenton parish to host Lenten "Catholics Returning Home" program

St. Anthony parish in Camdenton will host a six-week program called "Catholics Returning Home."

Meetings will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the six Tuesdays of Lent, beginning March 3, in the St. Anthony Education Center, 1874 North Business Route 5.

"As baptized, practicing Catholics, we have a precious gift of faith and love from the



Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters," the program's organizers stated. "First, we need to pray for them. Second, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return."

Many non-practicing Catholics carry guilt and misinformation about the Church, so they are afraid of approaching the Church for fear of being rejected.

"You can make a tremendous difference in someone's

life, simply by reaching out to them and telling them we miss them and would like for them to come back home to our Church family," the program's organizers stated.

Facilitators and participants will share their stories, begin to heal old hurts, clear up misunderstandings, and answer questions. They will also refresh their understanding of the Creed, the sacraments and the Mass.

There is no obligation and no pressure, "just friendly folks who, perhaps like you, were once non-practicing Catholics."

"No matter how long you have been away, no matter the reason, all are invited to return to the Catholic Church."

For information, call (573) 346-2716 or (573) 317-0121.

Seeking Christ for Our Nation

The next "Seeking Christ for our Nation" Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday, March 3**, at 6:30 p.m. in St. George Church in Linn.

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Mission on the Mass, Feb. 16-19 in Laddonia

Deacon Mark Dobelmann will lead a parish mission on the "Beauty and Grace of the Mass" from Sunday through Wednesday, Feb. 16-19, at the St. John mission in Laddonia.

Sessions will be held at 7 p.m. each night in St. John Church, 601 Elm St.

Topics will include the Entrance Rites, Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Father Louis Dorn will offer the Closing Mass on Feb. 19.

The information will be useful to all Catholics seeking to understand the true meaning behind the mystery of the Mass.

Executive Assistant to Bishop's Office



The Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking an Executive Administrative Assistant to coordinate the daily business of the Bishop's office. A minimum of 7 years experience as an executive assistant to a high-level executive within an organization is required, as well as a strong knowledge of the Catholic faith.

The ideal candidate will have advanced capabilities with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and proficiency with Google or Outlook Mail and Calendar.

As the executive assistant to the Bishop, we are looking for the following competencies:

- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Professional demeanor and appearance
- Organized and deadline-oriented
- Ability to handle multiple tasks and priorities as needed
- Collaboration with other staff members
- High degree of trustworthiness and confidentiality
- Life-long learner

A cover letter, resume and 3 letters of reference are required for this position. Qualified candidates are directed to apply on **Indeed.com** for application and skills assessment testing.

Midwest March for Life draws over 2,000 to Jefferson City

By Jay Nies

The streets ran red in Jefferson City during the 10th annual Midwest March for Life Feb. 1.

More than 2,000 people from all over Missouri and beyond — many dressed in blazing crimson — gathered to testify to the sanctity of what been created in God’s image and likeness.

“We stand together this day to give honor and glory to God by standing up for innocent human life,” stated Bishop W. Shawn McKnight at a pre-march rally outside the St. Peter Church.

While faith and devotion were evident throughout the day’s march and rallies, he emphasized that believers and non-believers should stand united in protecting pre-born human life.

“It is a basic human-rights issue,” he said. “It is never good, just, charitable or life-giving to choose the death of the innocent.”

He recalled that during a recent meeting at the Vatican with the Catholic bishops of Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, Pope Francis reaf-

firmed that the preeminent issue is the protection of vulnerable human life, especially the life of the unborn.

“Why wouldn’t it be?” the Pope asked the bishops. “Without life, there are no other rights to protect.”

While acknowledging that there are always other important issues to consider, Bishop McKnight noted that “this has become an even more important issue now that politicians and others are openly advocating making legal the monstrous killing of babies who survive abortions.”

He called the taking of innocent human life “an egregious sin against the Creator of all life.”

“The habit that we have developed in our society of elimi-



LEFT: Bishop W. Shawn McKnight speaks at a pre-march rally outside the Selinger Centre at St. Peter Church during the Midwest March for Life, Feb. 1 in Jefferson City. **RIGHT:** The marchers make their way around the Capitol Circle on their way to the Governor’s Mansion, the Supreme Court building and back to the Capitol.



— Photos by Jay Nies

nating or snuffing out the life of human beings whom we consider inconvenient, burdensome or undesirable leads to utter misery and a soulless society,” he said.

“We must choose life, a blessing,” he stated, referring to a verse from the Book of Deuteronomy. “If our state or country cannot muster the ability to defend the smallest and weakest among us, how can we expect God’s blessing?”

“Never waver”

Gov. Mike Parson also spoke at the pre-march rally.

“Every life is precious,” he stated. “Every life has a purpose. That’s why we fight to protect the unborn, to protect those who can’t defend themselves.”

He said Missouri is on track to becoming one of the most pro-life states in the country. He noted that the number of abortion clinics in Missouri had fallen from five to one in the past 15 years, while the number of abortions in the state had dropped from 8,000 to around 1,500.

“We have saved 6,500 lives a year right here in Missouri,” he said. “That’s what’s important — saving lives.”

“Never, never waver on the right to life,” he said. “We have to keep fighting battle after battle after battle. But we are winning the war.”

Next, a member of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, made up of women and men who have found healing and forgiveness after suffering the effects of abortion, gave her

testimony.

“I will continue to speak the truth of abortion’s evils to honor the memory of my son” who died in an abortion, she said.

“Abortion is not the answer,” she stated. “It simply creates more problems in our lives. It has a ripple effect on families and fathers and siblings that come after.”

“Voice for the voiceless”

Susan Klein, executive di-

rector for Missouri Right to Life, pointed to a 54-percent drop in the number of abortions in Missouri between 2018 and 2019.

She credited the governor and Missouri lawmakers with enacting HB 126, “the most pro-life legislation in the history of the state of Missouri.”

“Today, we march together to be a voice for the voiceless,”

See MIDWEST, page 17



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 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
- Feb. 19** Kenrick Theology Day of Recollection for Seminarians and Holy Mass with Candidacy of Theology I Seminarians, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis
- Feb. 26** Ash Wednesday Mass, 8 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Feb. 28-29** Leadership Roundtable Catholic Partnership Summit, Washington, DC

MARCH

- Mar. 1** Diocesan Rite of Election, 3 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

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.



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Bishop thanks, blesses teachers, catechists at Knights' event

By Jay Nies

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight struck up a harmonious conversation with several hundred catechists and teachers who are actively engaged in the formation of young Catholic disciples.

"Tonight I'm with the choir of the Church," he told a capacity crowd at the Jefferson City Knights of Columbus Hall on Jan. 28.

It was the annual Religious and Teacher Appreciation

Dinner cosponsored by the Knights' Fr. Helias Council 1054, Bishop McAuliffe Council 12992 and Msgr. Pleus Council 14906.

Honored guests included the teachers and staff of Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph Cathedral and St. Peter schools and Helias Catholic High School and the city's three Parish School of Religion programs.

"You play a critical role in the mission of the Church, especially in the mission of our parishes," Bishop McKnight told them.

He thanked the teachers and catechists for their commitment to Catholic education and for the sacrifices they make to carry-out their important work.

"You are teaching our young people not only about the catechism of the faith but about how God is present in our world in so many different ways and how He can be encountered, how we can experience God, in creation, science, mathematics and literature," the bishop said.

He recounted a discussion

he recently participated in at the Vatican with Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, prefect of the Church's Congregation for Catholic Education.

"The cardinal made it very clear that when you're talking about a Catholic school, it is the faculty above all else that preserves the institution as being Catholic," the bishop recounted.

"I recognize that as well," he said. "Your faith is very important to me as well as to the parents of the children that we have entrusted to your care."

The grand knights of all three councils echoed the bishop's appreciation.

"We Knights are supposed to be defenders of the faith," Danny Vaught, grand knight of the Msgr. Pleus Council, told the catechists and educators, "but our schoolteachers are right behind us. You prop us up. We really appreciate that."

Joining the bishop at the head table were Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, diocesan vicar general and pastor of St. Michael parish in Russellville; Kenya Fuemmeler, interim diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools; Father Stephen Jones, president of Helias Catholic High School and administrator of St. Martin parish in St. Martins.

Msgr. Kurwicki led the prayer before the meal.

"We feel Your presence here tonight among these outstanding, dedicated Catholic professionals," he prayed. "We ask You to bless them, to bless their families, to bless their students and the alumni of the schools that they represent."

The priest asked God to fill everyone present with the holiness and zeal of St. Thomas Aquinas, "who changed the world by being not only a good student but an excellent teacher."

The annual dinner has been a Catholic Schools Week tradition since Fr. Helias Council member Ron Vossen started it about 30 years ago.

Dan Smith of the same council, and his wife Kathy have been organizing the event for the past several years.

See EDUCATORS, page 18

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Pillars of Stewardship were the foundation for CSW celebration at Holy Family School in Hannibal

By Jay Nies

Holy Family School in Hannibal spent Catholic Schools Week celebrating the Pillars of Catholic Stewardship.

The school has been emphasizing the Pillars — formation, hospitality, prayer and service — and related concepts since the current academic year began.

“We’re really trying to focus on these Pillars so we can all have a better understanding of what it means to be stewards of God’s grace,” said Holy Family’s principal, Sister Betty Uchytel of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

“We all have something within us that the world needs,” noted second-grade teacher Sara Hooley. “That’s the whole point of stewardship. We have to discover that and cultivate it and get it out there.”

“What gifts has God given you? You might not know yet,” said Mrs. Hooley. “If we can help you unearth that and help you see the importance of putting it to use the way God wants us to, then I think we’re doing our job.”

Hospitality and prayer

Catholic Schools Week started with Holy Family students serving in various liturgical roles in the weekend Masses at Holy Family Church.

Several graduates who are now in high school or college came back to talk about how their time at Holy Family had helped prepare them for the next phases of their education.

Monday, Jan. 27, was a celebration of hospitality.

Students stood along the driveway leading up to school to greet parents and other adults who were dropping off children.

Third- through fifth-graders gave the adults a gift in thanksgiving for supporting the school.

These included thank-you notes, granola bars and painted rocks that say “Holy Family School Rocks!”

Tuesday was a celebration of prayer. Students placed



LEFT: Eighth-graders at Holy Family School in Hannibal gather up the food and personal-care items collected for Holy Family parish’s Good Neighbor Project for people in need. **RIGHT:** Students in the primary grades display the puzzle-piece artwork they created to illustrate their own place in the Communion of Saints.

spiritual bouquets, made of paper petals with prayers for others written on them, before the altar at Mass.

First and second-graders led a decade of the Rosary, followed by Benediction.

Each of the classes then spent time in Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Parents and teachers joined them throughout the day.

Father Michael Quinn, pastor of Holy Family parish, led an all-school prayer service and talked to the students

fits into God’s plan.

“We talked about how cool it is to be a saint, and how we can teach others how to pray, serve and grow in stewardship,” said Mrs. Hooley.

Thursday was a celebration of service.

Students worked on service projects, including gathering donations for Holy Family parish’s Good Neighbor Project.

“They’re good kids,” said Mrs. Hooley. “This is in their hearts. So in little ways, we’re helping them see that when they babysit or take care of the dog or do something for one of their neighbors, they are actually being good stewards of the time God has given them.”

Friday was a celebration of faith, family and fun, including a faculty-student volleyball tournament.

“Use it to serve”

Mrs. Hooley said the faculty chose the Four Pillars as the theme for this school year.

“It kind of fell right into place with what Bishop (W. Shawn) McKnight has been sharing with us about stewardship,” she said.

Teachers throughout the school have been sharing age-appropriate lessons with their students on stewardship and a verse from Scripture: “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)

They started by introducing the students to the concept of stewardship and what



it means.

Then they moved on to the first Pillar: hospitality.

“In the primary grades, we talked about being welcoming to people at our school,” said Mrs. Hooley.

“That includes looking up, making eye contact and communicating that love and peace that Jesus gave to everyone He encountered,” she said.

“We’re calling the kids to look around and ask: ‘In the hallways or the cafeteria or the playground, how do you help people feel welcome?’”

The next Pillar they turned to was prayer.

“Even though they’re young, there’s so much they can do through prayer because so many people are in need of it,” said Mrs. Hooley.

For example, whenever a family member or loved one of someone in the school dies, the second-graders write their names on colored pieces of paper and turn them into flowers for a spiritual bouquet.

“Then all week, we offer our prayers for that person,” said Mrs. Hooley.

Seasonal application

In Advent, students learned about how the Pillars of Stewardship tie into the story of Jesus’s birth.

For Lent, they will focus on mercy and forgiveness as extensions of the Pillars.

“We’re trying to show in ways that are appropriate for each grade level that stewardship means more than just ‘time, talent and treasure,’” said Mrs. Hooley. “We have to extend ourselves through hospitality, prayer, service and learning.”

The goal is for students to be able to understand why the Pillars are important and apply them to what they do at school and at home.

See PILLARS, page 12

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

about the impact of their prayers throughout the world.

Formation and service

On Wednesday, they focused on formation, including education and learning.

“We talked with the students about how when we share our faith and what we have learned, we become better stewards of what we’ve been given,” said Mrs. Hooley.

The students learned about the gift of being able to go to a Catholic school, where they learn to be like the saints who have gone before them.

They created puzzle pieces to illustrate the Communion of Saints and how everybody



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Redskins' Hale Hentges urges students to pray, persevere

Gives God the glory during Catholic Schools Week visit to his grade school, Immaculate Conception in Jefferson City

By Jay Nies

Washington Redskins tight end Hale Hentges goes into every play with a prayer in his heart.

"Jesus, I trust in You. I could score a touchdown or break a leg and never play again. So whatever is supposed to happen on this play, just let it happen."

Mr. Hentges, a 2015 graduate of Helias Catholic High School and a 2011 graduate of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, spoke at an I.C. School assembly Jan. 29.

"Not too long ago, I was right where you are," he said. "Life is crazy and unpredictable and fun and it will all be the time of your life as long as you keep God with you."

He talked to the students about the importance of forging an unbreakable relation-

ship with God, maximizing their talents for God's greater glory, carving out time for prayer, and paying close attention to the direction He gives.

"God has given me gifts and He has given you outstanding, phenomenal gifts and He wants you to use them to glorify Him and His kingdom," he said.

is my best friend," said Mr. Hentges, who prefers to go by Hale. "Friends may come and friends may go, but throughout it all, God is there with you."

In a separate gathering, he also spoke to the eighth-grade boys about respecting authority, embracing difficult challenges and treating women as treasured daughters of their Heavenly Father.

It was the Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week.

"What a blessing it is for you to be able to go to a Catholic School, where you can share your faith in a place that everybody shares it with you and you get to grow as disciples of God with one another," he told the whole school.

Hale played in four college football national championships with the University of Alabama Crimson Tide before graduating with honors last January and entering the sacrament of marriage with his wife, Shannon.

He made the final roster for the Indianapolis Colts before finishing this season with Washington, scoring his first NFL touchdown Dec. 22 against the New York Giants.

The real reason

Hale said I.C. and Helias Catholic were catalysts for him becoming the person he is today.

"They can help you get wherever you want to go," he said. "You just have to put in the hard work and let God take it from there."

Having been given several options for college, he chose Alabama after engaging with God in serious prayer.

"Having a good relationship with God and asking



Students at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City line up to greet NFL tight end Hale Hentges during his Jan. 30 visit to his grade school during Catholic Schools Week. — Photos by Jay Nies



Hale Hentges of the Washington Redskins speaks to students in the gymnasium of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City, from which he graduated in 2011.

Figuring out the best way to do that requires prayer — an ongoing, open dialogue with God.

"The No. 1 thing is, God

Him for help can really make those big decisions easier," said Hale.

He headed south to play football — and play football he certainly did.

"But I actually ended up meeting my wife down there, which was the real reason I was supposed to go down there," said Hale. "I mean, it was awesome to get to play, but the real reason I was there was to answer my calling to marriage."

He noted that God has a plan for each person — marriage, religious life, Priesthood or single life.

"It's not our job to know what God is doing in our life," he said. "It's our job to say 'yes' to whatever He asks us to do."

Ups and downs

Hale noted that he has gotten to play for some excellent coaches, which reinforced for him the importance of respecting authority.

"Even playing in the National Football League, I'm at the bottom of the totem pole," he said. "I answer to so many people, most importantly to God."

He talked about some of the difficulties and disappointments he came up against while pursuing the dream he

first had been having since he was 3.

He fought against his own doubts about his abilities in high school in college.

He dealt with a season-stopping injury while he was a junior.

He and his wife were just getting settled in Indianapolis when injuries to other players on the Colts resulted in him getting cut to make room for reinforcements.

"But the Redskins claimed me, so I was lucky enough to get to continue to play," he said. "That's what God had in store for me, and I hope to play some more next year."

Hale pointed out the importance of maintaining a childlike dependence on God.

"We can't control everything in life," he said. "But we can control our relationship with God and our disposition about that reality."

"Difficult things will happen in your life, and for a lot of you, that may have already happened," he noted. "But as long as you have that friendship with God, there is nothing you can't deal with."

Time to pray

Hale's cousin, Zach Rockers, who is a teacher and football coach at Helias Catholic, noted that Hale is much more than a professional football player.

"He is a man of God," said Mr. Rockers. "He has his life in order, in terms of putting God first, then his family and friends, and then everything else."

Mr. Hentges pointed out that it took him a while "to really learn how to pray."

While structured prayers and devotions are good and helpful, "it's more about actually having a relationship with God," he said.

It boils down to spending time and making an effort to grow in that relationship.

"God wants to hear from you and be part of your life,"



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Five Catholic schools in Osage County get together for Catholic Schools Week celebration in Linn

By Jay Nies

More than 500 children from five Catholic schools in Osage County kicked off Catholic Schools Week with a day of faith, fellowship and fun.

Students from St. Mary School in Frankenstein, Holy Family School in Freeburg, St. George School in Linn, Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain and St. Joseph School in Westphalia gathered at St. George School Jan. 27 to celebrate the gift of a Catholic education.

"It was a great way to kick off Catholic Schools Week," said St. George Principal Lisa Grellner. "It was amazing to see so many young people from Catholic schools interacting and having fun together. There was a lot of great energy among them."

Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson of Oddwalk Ministries kicked off the day with songs and stories about the light of Christ dispelling darkness.

"Beyond that, there was a lot of singing, a lot of just being up and moving and having fun," said Mr. Cerneka, who teaches at St. Peter School in Fulton.

They warmed up the crowd with a rousing sing-along of an Oddwalk praise anthem, "We Are His People."

They told the students about a boy named Sam, whose courage in the face of childhood cancer united people from different schools and churches throughout his community in prayer and solidarity.

They told a story about what happened recently when a young basketball player got injured at a tournament.

While the girl's condition was being evaluated, the adults and players in the gym held her up in prayer and concern.

"There was a big poster-board card that we made that everyone signed to give her," said Mr. Cerneka. "I had probably a dozen people ask how she was and say they were praying for her."

Mr. Cerneka and Mr. Johnson then asked the crowd to think about how they can be light for one another in times of darkness.

"These kids were tremen-



Children from five Catholic schools in Osage County clap to the music of Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson of Oddwalk Ministries during a Catholic Schools Week celebration Jan. 27 in Linn.

— Photo by Lisa Grellner

dous," Mr. Cerneka said of the audience. "They were with us from the word 'go.' They participated well and were certainly welcoming not only to us but to each other."

"That's what we want our Osage County Catholics to be — light in the darkness," said Mrs. Grellner.

Something for everyone

The pre-kindergarten students from Holy Family School joined those from St. George for some shared playtime.

Groups of kindergarteners, first- and second-graders from all the schools went from station to station in the gym, partaking of story time, games and crafts.

Third- through fifth-graders played Pictionary and word games.

Junior-high students were divided into integrated teams of 10 for an electronic scavenger hunt.

Led by a St. George student, each team made its way around the school complex in

search of items such as symbols of their faith.

They took a picture of each item and then moved on to the next clue.

Worth repeating

Students from all grades ate sack lunches together in the gym.

The junior-high students then gathered in a large circle and passed around pieces of candy based on their answers to questions.

Then they got back together with their teams for another game. The teams were given questions and five answers. The players worked together to de-

termine which two of the five answers were incorrect.

The celebration closed with a prayer service for students of all ages.

"It was a good day," said Mrs. Grellner. "The junior-high kids had an especially good time."

The principals of all five schools hope to make this an annual Catholic Schools Week tradition.

Doing their job

In an interview later in the day, Mr. Cerneka pointed to something all successful Catholic schools have in common: a deliberate, coordinated effort on the part of parents, students, teachers, staff and the entire parish to live and show the Gospel values they profess.

"They're focused not just on academic excellence but on helping the children know Christ and how to live as His disciples," he said.

He noted that a school reflects the values of its people.

"It's the parents' primary job to form their children in the faith and introduce them to Christ," he stated. "A Catholic school's job is to help them do that."

When Mr. Cerneka and his wife, Erin, enrolled their children in St. Peter School, they were welcomed into "a community of people living their faith and caring about one another and about our kids and wanting us to be part of it."

That's the kind of environment that helps the faith stick.

"That is certainly worth celebrating," he said.

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QUESTION CORNER

Why images of crucifixion? / Saints and self-flagellation

By Father Kenneth Doyle

Catholic News Service



Q. Most of my family is Protestant, but I became an adult convert four years ago and was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith. Members of my family often ask me questions about Catholic beliefs, and usually I can answer them, but recently my mother asked me one that I need your help with. She said, "Since Jesus is now resurrected and sits at the right hand of God the Father, why do Catholics

keep him crucified on the cross in your statues, religious jewelry, pictures, etc.?" (Chillicothe, Ohio)

A. The image of the tortured body of Jesus on the cross has been used by Christians as a devotional symbol since the early centuries of Christianity. The purpose, of course, is to illustrate the immense love that Christ had for us and the sacrifices he endured to redeem us. The crucifix serves, too, to remind us that we are called to make our own sacrifices on behalf of others.

In one of his sermons, St. Augustine (354-430) gave the underlying rationale for the use of the crucifix, writing, "The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves."

This depiction of Christ on the cross takes its inspiration from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, where St. Paul writes, "We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles" (1 Cor 1:23). What you might want to say to your mother is that the Catholic Church honors her perception that Jesus now shares in glory -- so much so that some Catholic churches today choose to portray the image of Christ on the cross dressed in the white robes of his resurrected glory.

Most crosses that adorn Catholic church steeples and bell towers display only the cross, not the body of Jesus; likewise, Catholics are not adverse to using such religious symbols as the Jerusalem cross or the Celtic cross. So Christians of all denominations, though their devotional symbols may sometimes differ, clearly reverence both the passion of Christ as well as his resurrection.

Q. When is violating one's body through self-flagellation permitted to get "more points" for going to heaven? In a book I'm reading about Padre Pio, there is a mention of friars whipping themselves to the point of bleeding. Is this what God expects of us, or are there fanatic people who go to the extreme to be like Christ? (Beaverton, Oregon)

A. No, I don't think that self-flagellation is what "God expects of us." Corporal mortification has been part of the Christian life for centuries, but in contemporary society it is more often exemplified by such practices as dietary discipline. The portrayal in "The Da Vinci Code" of monks undergoing bloody self-beatings is clearly an exaggeration.

The website of the Catholic group Opus Dei says that some of its members do self-flagellate for one or two minutes a week but use a woven cotton string that causes some discomfort but does not draw blood. The purpose of the practice is to imitate Christ by sharing in his suffering. (St. Dominic prayed with arms outstretched for lengthy periods as Jesus did on the cross.)

In a 2010 article, reacting to a report that St. John Paul II kept a disciplinary belt in his closet, Father (now Bishop) Robert E. Barron explained that the instrument was likely a rope with a few small knots in it and that the actual physical pain was probably minimal.



Papal Audience

February 5, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel, we consider the first of the eight proclamations: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (*Matthew 5:3*). Matthew's account, unlike Luke's, speaks of the "poor in spirit." Here "spirit," recalling the breath of life that God gave to Adam, refers to the most intimate part of our being. The poor in spirit sense their poverty and dependency on God at this innermost level, whereas the proud of heart regard themselves

as self-sufficient, hating whatever reminds them of the fragility of the human condition.

To be poor in spirit is to be aware of our frailty, to accept our mistakes and be able to ask forgiveness. This then becomes an occasion of grace leading us to God's kingdom. In contrast to worldly power, God's strength is seen in loving mercy. Christ himself shows this by preferring the good of others, even to the point of shedding his blood for us. We will be blessed if we both accept the poverty of our being, and strive to imitate the poverty of Jesus in loving service of our neighbor.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially the groups from England, Australia, Vietnam and the United States of America. Upon all of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!

J.C. Vitae Foundation Event to feature former U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy

DATE: March 9
TIME: noon, 6:30 pm

Trey Gowdy, a former South Carolina congressman, will be the keynote speaker at the Vitae Foundation's 28th annual Jefferson City Pro-Life Events on Monday, March 9.

There will be a luncheon program from Noon to 1:30 p.m. and a separate dinner program beginning at 6:30 p.m., both at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty St.

These events are hosted by Don and Ruth Ann Schnieders.

"I want to thank Vitae for using the art of persuasion in creating a culture of life," Mr. Gowdy, who is also a former prosecuting attorney, told a Vitae audience last year.

Mr. Gowdy tackled high-profile investigations representing South Carolina's 4th District during his eight-year tenure in Congress.

He was considered one of the majority's most versatile and skilled legal experts as a former federal prosecutor and 7th Circuit Solicitor.

During time as solicitor, he started a Violence Against Women Task Force and implemented a Drug Mother Protocol designed to help expectant mothers break the cycle of addiction.

"Trey Gowdy left the Wash-



Trey Gowdy

ington Beltway, and since then he is in great demand as a speaker," stated Vitae Senior Market Director Stacey Kromer. "We are so fortunate to bring this ardent social conservative who considers himself 'pro-life plus' to Jefferson City. He is also looking forward to helping spotlight Vitae's important work."

The event raises funds to

promote a culture of life and to help educate women facing unplanned pregnancies about local resources available that can assist them in making a life-affirming decision.

The Vitae Foundation is a national non-profit organization that uses research-based digital strategies to reach women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Vitae's "Right Brain" research and messaging fuels the digital strategies that help pregnancy centers reach abortion-determined women.

Dinner registration is \$100 per person (\$70 tax-deductible). Luncheon registration is \$50 per person (\$20 tax-deductible).

Registrations can be made by calling Vitae at (573) 634-4316.

Online reservations will also be accepted at www.vitae.foundation.org/events.

Shroud of Turin presentation in Sedalia

DATE: February 28
TIME: 6:30 pm

Jim Bertrand, M.Ed, of the American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud, will give a presentation on the Shroud of Turin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, in St. Vincent de Paul parish's Parish Center at Sacred Heart Chapel, 421 W. Third St. in Sedalia.

An actual-size replica of the shroud, believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus and miraculous evidence of His resurrection, will be available for viewing.

Black history is Catholic history

By Shannen Dee Williams
Catholic News Service



In 1949, famed Harlem Renaissance writer Langston Hughes celebrated Negro History Week (the precursor to Black History Month) with members of the Oblate Sisters of Providence and their students at the all black and Catholic St. Alphonsus School in Wilson, North Carolina.

"The Negro nuns had an assembly of tiny youngsters who did all by themselves a fine Negro History program," Hughes wrote in *The Chicago Defender* one week later. And of particular delight to the es-

teemed poet had been the students' apt recitation of his protest poem, "Freedom's Plow."

"Who is America?" the students chanted. "You, me! We are America!"

Originally published in 1943, "Freedom's Plow" charted the long African American struggle for freedom, justice and equality from slavery to the present. During World War II, the poem had also served as a call to action for African Americans struggling against fascism abroad and at home.

That students at the St. Alphonsus School had studied and memorized this poem as part of their curriculum for Negro History Week in 1949 is more than noteworthy. It stands as a powerful testament to the visionary leadership of the nation's black Catholic sisterhoods and

their pioneering commitment to black historical truth telling within Church boundaries.

During the Jim Crow era, schools administered by the African American sisterhoods became the first Catholic institutions to teach and celebrate black history and art in the United States. Perhaps of no great surprise, these black sister-led Catholic schools were also the first American educational institutions to teach and champion black Catholic history.

As a part of their annual Negro History Week celebrations, students at schools led by black nuns routinely performed skits documenting the pioneering history of black Catholics in the United States. On the high school level, students often wrote essays exploring the long and rich history of black Catholics in the Church,

especially in Africa, which became home to the world's earliest Catholic Churches and monasteries in the third and fourth centuries.

Like Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Negro History Week, black nuns understood the subversive power of black history in the face of rampant discrimination, misrepresentation and erasure. Because many black nuns were the descendants of the free and enslaved black people whose labor and sales built the early American Church, they also recognized how essential teaching black Catholic history was in the fight against racism in their Church.

Despite the herculean efforts of the black sisterhoods and those who followed

See WILLIAMS, page 23

Opening doors to love

By Maureen Pratt
Catholic News Service



As Valentine's Day approaches, so too does more awareness of love and how we express it to the diverse people in our lives. From an awesome agape-centered "I love you" lived out in actions toward a stranger to the "I love you" deep with years of togetherness shared by spouses, bringing God's kindness to the world is one of the most wonderful actions we engage in and central to our Christian faith.

But sometimes kindness can be mistaken for condescension or a clumsy power play or prejudice. Or, our own "baggage" can make for heavy lifting when it comes to giving or receiving kindness from someone else.

A remembered scene from high school illustrates what I mean:

The school's band director, male, and a female student were walking ahead of me toward a closed door. As we approached it, the band director grabbed the handle and swung the door open, then stepped aside to let the student and me pass through.

I saw this as a courteous gesture, but the other student saw it as something quite different. She stopped, turned to him and said, "Oh, you're just doing this because you're a man, aren't you? Well, I can open my own door."

She turned away and went through the open doorway, leaving the band director looking quite surprised (and still holding the door handle). As I walked through, I looked at him and said, "Thank you," but I suspect my gratitude didn't quite make up for my fellow student's reaction. I still wonder if the band director ever dared to

hold the door for someone else.

Since that episode, I've seen others where the presence of a closed (or closing) door poses potentials for love and kindness and/or the opposite.

An elevator bank, with multiple possibilities of going up and down floors, can be tempting to those of us who are in a hurry.

We've maybe (probably) been in the situation where the doors to a car are closing just as someone else rushes toward it, hoping to catch the same car rather than wait for another. In those fleeting moments, do we think, "Oh, well, he/she will catch another soon enough," or, "Where's the 'door open' button ... ah! There it is."

Someone carrying a heavy load might obviously signal to us that our help in holding doors or otherwise navigating with the bundle might be welcome.

But the physical presence of weight doesn't have to be visible for us to be kind, patient and lend a hand; so many of the burdens that weigh people down cannot be seen, but are profoundly felt.

A door doesn't have to be physical to be an impediment that we can help remove so someone else's life can be a little easier, a little more hope-filled.

Job seekers or those working through various maze-like situations in health care, education or troubled relationships can benefit from the access we might be able to provide through our giving of time, counsel or other assistance, thus opening doors to opportunities, growth and strength.

Pain from past hurts, trauma that festers can surely affect the ease with which the door to our heart opens, especially if our kind actions seem to be met with resistance or hostility. In those times we may wonder, "Is it worth it to try again?" Or, "Should I just save myself the extra trouble?"

A quick glimpse back to the miracle of Christmas we have just enjoyed, or forward to Lent and Easter upcoming can

steady us: Love matters beyond roses, lace hearts and store advertisements. Love brings Christ's light to all!

REFLECTION

For the birds

By Mark Saucier

"Hey Grandpa. Come quick. You got to see this," shouted my 3-year-old grandson. He was standing at the back door, staring out the glass panels.

I got there just before his second "Hurry up, grandpa!" He was jumping up and down. "It's a 'cawdnal' he said, pointing at a red-robed bird, all plump and proud, perched on a wire.

It wasn't there for long, but then we spotted a brown-headed cowbird, half-hidden in the branches of a small tree.

Looking up again, we saw a sparrow now on the wire, cheeping away, acting as if the cardinal was just the opening act.

"How many birds are there, Grandpa?" my grandson asked. I didn't know if he was referring to all birds dotting the global skies or just the subset of those in his backyard. I simply replied, "Not as many as there were."

A recent study reported that over the past 50 years, North America has lost more than a quarter of its bird population — over three billion birds. Hardest hit were just 12 families, familiar to many for their markings and their song. Sparrows, warblers, finches and meadowlarks all suffered serious decline.

"Look at the birds in the sky," Jesus admonished, making an example of their untroubled dependence on God. But that was before climate change, pesticides, urbanization and habitat degradation. Our feathered friends may be a little anxious now.

Birds have always been a part of our story. A dove brought Noah a branch, signaling the beginning of a new life. Quails, knee-deep in the desert, sustained the wandering Israelites. Ravens fed the prophet Elijah when he was in hiding.

Turtledoves — and pigeons for the poor — were sacrificed to expiate sin and implore God's mercy.

In the first chapter of Genesis, God said, "Let the birds multiply on the earth." Now subtracting instead of multiplying, we need to reconsider what God meant when He gave humans "dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth."

Maybe there's a hint in the second chapter where the words are "cultivate and care."

I worry that there will be a time when we can no longer take Job's advice and ask "the birds of the air to tell you" of the hand of God in the world.

I worry my grandson may never hear "Hey Grandpa. Come quick. You got to see this."

World Day for Consecrated Life: God's love is worth more than any earthly good, Pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

When one is totally in love with the Lord, then poverty, chastity and obedience are not sacrifices, but vehicles of freedom, Pope Francis told consecrated men and women.

Celebrating the World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis urged women and men religious to be people of hope, and he asked all Catholics to pray for the hundreds of thousands of women and men who continue to consecrate their lives totally to serving God and their brothers and sisters.

Led by candle-bearing men and women from a variety of religious orders, Pope Francis processed into a darkened St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 1 for a vigil celebration of Candlemas — the feast of the Presentation of the Lord — and the Vatican celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life.

"It was the first time I was so close to the Pope," stated Sister Cindy Weber of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a former pastoral minister at St. Joseph parish in Westphalia, who is now serving at the SSND Generalate in Rome.

On the feast day itself, Feb. 2, the Pope spoke about how every member of the Church

has a role to play in sharing the good news of salvation in Christ.

After reciting the Angelus prayer on the feast day, he asked people in St. Peter's Square to join him in praying a Hail Mary for "the consecrated men and women who do so much work, so often hidden."

In his homily at the Mass with religious the evening before, Pope Francis focused on the figures of Simeon and Anna, who were present in the Temple when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus. Simeon and Anna, who dedicated their lives to prayer, recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

Simeon says that he can die in peace because he had seen "the grace that was worth more than life," the Pope said.

Religious men and women and consecrated virgins also "caught sight of the treasure worth more than any world-

ly good," Pope Francis said. "And so, you left behind precious things such as possessions, such as making a family for yourselves."

"You fell in love with Jesus, you saw everything in him, and enraptured by his gaze, you left the rest behind. Religious life is this vision," he said.

A key to perseverance and joy in religious life is to be always aware of the presence of God's grace, the Pope told the religious. "The tempter, the devil, focuses on our 'poverty,'

our empty hands," the things one did not achieve, the lack of recognition and the struggles one has had.

A temptation that every Christian, including religious, experiences is that of seeing life in a "worldly way" rather than focusing on God's grace at work. When that happens, the Pope said, people go off "in search of something to substitute for it: a bit of fame, a consoling affection, finally getting to do what I want."

Focus on God's enduring love is the only antidote, the

Pope said. "If consecrated life remains steadfast in love for the Lord, it perceives beauty. It sees that poverty is not some colossal effort, but rather a higher freedom that God gives to us and others as real wealth. It sees that chastity is not austere sterility, but the way to love without possessing. It sees that obedience is not a discipline, but is victory over our own chaos, in the way of Jesus."

Simeon was able to recognize the Messiah because he had been looking for him, the Pope said. He never lost hope.

"Looking around, it is easy to lose hope: things that don't work, the decline in vocations," the Pope said, but a life devoid of hope is a worldly one, not one focused on Jesus and trust in God's love and fidelity.

"We become blind if we do not look to the Lord every day, if we do not adore him," the Pope told the religious. "Adore the Lord."



Religious hold candles as Pope Francis celebrates a Mass marking the World Day for Consecrated Life in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 1. The Mass was celebrated on the vigil of the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. — CNS photo/Stefano Dal

Rite of Welcome



Father Louis Dorn, a retired priest of the Jefferson City diocese, leads the Rite of Welcoming for people preparing for Sacraments of Initiation at Easter, during Sunday Mass on Jan. 12 in St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg. As part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), those seeking initiation at the parish placed their hands on a copy of the Book of the Gospels as a symbol of their receiving the Good News. As a sign of their new way of life, their sponsors traced a cross on their forehead, as well as all of the senses, and their hands and feet. Fr. Dorn was filling in for the pastor, Father Augustine Okoli, who was visiting his family in Nigeria. — Photos by Patty Fennewald



Public Rosary in Moberly

DATE: February 22
TIME: 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Members of St. Pius X parish in Moberly will participate in the national Praying a Public Square Rosary event from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, on the northeast corner of Rollins and Morley streets.

In one of her apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, the Blessed Mother said to the children: "You

Members of St. Pius X parish in Moberly will participate in the national Praying a Public Square Rosary event from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, on the northeast corner of Rollins and Morley streets.

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"Faith Without Fear" conference in Montgomery City

DATE: February 29
TIME: 7 pm

Christy Boulware, founder and president of Fearless Women (www.fearlesswomenstl.com), a St. Louis-based organization that helps people overcome anxiety with God's help, will leave a "Faith Without Fear" conference on

Saturday, Feb. 29, in Montgomery City.

It will begin at 7 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 318 N. Sturgeon St.

Ms. Boulware is the author of two video small-group studies, "Faith.Hope.Love" and "Fearless Fundamentals," and is leading the way in her community with The Awak-

ening Women's Conference and The Wave Fearless Teens Camp.

God is allowing the pain that was once a crippling fear to become her platform to help other women.

Her mission is to teach that God's perfect love casts out all fear.

"The Power of Lent" talk at St. Brendan in Mexico

DATE: February 23
TIME: After 9 am Mass

Chad Volmert, a 20-year-old Catholic speaker who is majoring in theology, will give a presentation on "The Power of Lent" after the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 23, in St. Brendan Church, 615 S. Washington St. in Mexico.

Born and raised in Jefferson City, Mr. Volmert was always drawn toward his faith but often kept God at a distance.

As a senior in high school, after "falling in a hole and making mistake after mistake," he finally realized how important his faith is and made his relationship with God a priority in his life.

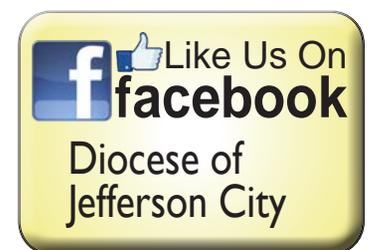
He is featured in a documentary titled "40 Days and 40 Nights," in which he gives

up some of the most important things in his life up for Lent.

He has traveled to parishes and schools to show the documentary and talk about the importance of Lent.

This spring, he will embark on a tour, giving presentations at the University of Missouri, the University of South Dakota, and The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He hopes to "make the world a better place in the name of Jesus Christ, and bring people closer to God."



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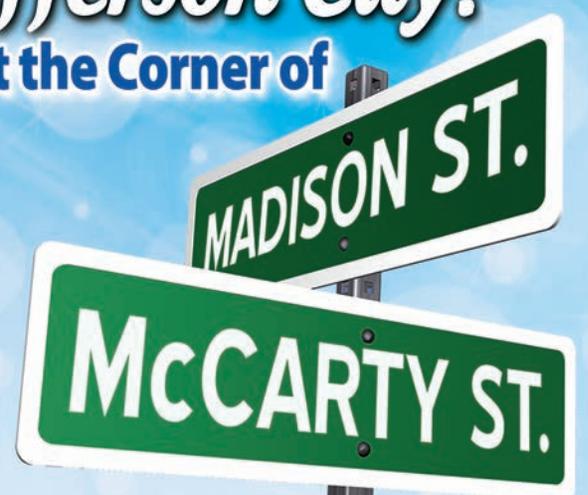
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Dominican sister speaks candidly about systemic racism, during adult-education session at Columbia Newman Center

By Eddie O'Neill

Sister Marcelline Koch OP is a nun on a mission.

For more than 15 years, this Dominican sister of Springfield, Illinois, has taken up the fight against racism.

As the justice promoter of her congregation, she is determined to educate people in particular on the scourge of institutional racism.

Visiting the diocese in November 2019, she gave a talk on this timely topic to around 40 people at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

The talk was part of the parish's adult-faith-formation program.

Sr. Marcelline began by explaining that racial inequality dates back to this nation's founding.

"Laws were established (early on) to advantage the white person and disadvantage the non-white," she said. "That is what we call white privilege."

She added that it was not her purpose to make someone feel bad or feel guilty because



Dominican Sister Marcelline Koch leads a discussion on social justice for members of her religious community in 2017.

— Photo from the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

of the color of his or her skin.

"Instead," she said, "I want you to see that racism is still systemically embedded in our country. I want to help change our policies, practices and procedures."

In expanding on institutional racism, Sr. Marcelline noted the still common practice of "redlining" in the banking and real-estate industries.

Redlining is defined as refusing a loan or insurance to someone because they live in an area deemed to be a poor financial risk.

"Owning a home is an asset," she explained. "It is something of value you have to pass on to the next generation, but not if you cannot get a home because you are redlined."

Sr. Marcelline said she has heard stories of the effects of discriminatory lending policies firsthand, as she is part of the Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism.

She is called upon to give talks and training sessions to local institutions, government and civic groups several times a year.

She noted that a local medical school has heeded the call to end discrimination by promoting a diverse population throughout the institution.

"That's encouraging," she said.

Education on this topic is the key to change, she stated.

"Racism can't be undone by one person but rather by like-minded groups," she said.

She talked about the sisters of her own congregation's efforts to practice what they preach.

"We want to be account-

able to people of color," she stated. "With that in mind, our leadership positions are not all white."

She added that the fight against racism is often an uncomfortable one — one that most people would rather leave untouched.

"We need to be ready to be uncomfortable," she said.

"This goes far beyond just being nice to people who are different from us. We need to realize we are all learners and be willing to stay in the conversation and listen and validate other experiences.

"It is slow and prodding work," she said. "It is hard work, but most importantly, it is good work."



Students' prayer bouquets are displayed in vases before the altar of Holy Family Church in Hannibal during the school's celebration of prayer during Catholic Schools Week.

— Photo by Sister Betty Uchytill SSND

Vatican donates masks to China to combat coronavirus outbreak

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Vatican donated thousands of protective masks to several Chinese provinces affected by the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus.

In an email to Catholic News Service Feb. 3, the Vatican press office confirmed a report that appeared in the Chinese newspaper The Global Times, which said that since Jan. 27, the Vatican has sent 600,000-700,000 protective masks to China.

"The masks are destined to the provinces of Hubei, Zhejiang and Fujian," the press office told CNS. "It is a joint initiative of the Office of Papal Charities and the Chinese Church in Italy, in collaboration with the Vatican pharmacy."

According to the Global Times report, Chinese Father Vincenzo Han Duo, vice rector of Rome's Pontifical Urbanian College, said the donation was made possible with the help of Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner.

The masks were paid for by the Vatican and Chinese Christian communities in Italy, while airline companies, including China Southern Airlines, provided free shipment, the report said.

"I hope the supplies could reach where they are needed as soon as possible, so that people who are suffering the disease could feel the concern from the Holy See. The whole world is standing together to fight the virus," Father Han told The Global Times.

During his Sunday Angelus address Jan. 26, Pope Francis expressed condolences to the victims of the virus and his support for efforts to fight its spread.

"I wish to be close to and pray for the people who are sick because of the virus that has spread through China," the pope said. "May the Lord welcome the dead into his peace, comfort families and sustain the great commitment by the Chinese community that has already been put in place to combat the epidemic."

PILLARS

From page 5

She cited as an example how service, prayer and hospitality converge each time the fifth- through eighth-graders help out at Douglass Community Services.

They spend one morning per month packaging food for distribution at the organization's food pantry.

"It's close enough to our school that they can walk there and back, so it's an awesome gift that they're able to give," said Mrs. Hooley.

Last year, the school also raised \$5,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

She noted that Holy Family parish has had an active stewardship commission for over a decade, and that adults are setting the stage with their involvement at church and in the school.

"It's so much a team effort — the parents, the school board, the staff, the kids," she said. "I see us actually becoming a stewardship parish and continuing to work on that."

Giving back

Mrs. Hooley, a lifelong Holy Family parishioner and graduate of Holy Family School, is in her 18th year of teaching there. She's grateful to be a part of a community that lets her share what she believes and put her faith into practice every day.

"I love what I do," she said. "Whether I'm teaching social studies or math, I get to tie faith into my lessons and teach about Jesus."

She's been around long enough to see former students want to give back after graduating and moving on.

"They're grateful for what they received here and want to do something to help the parish and the school," she said.

"That's our goal," she stated. "When they're old enough, we want them to make the decision to still be part of us, or take whatever seed we've given them to a new parish and continue growing it there."

Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference



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“The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin.”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 2241

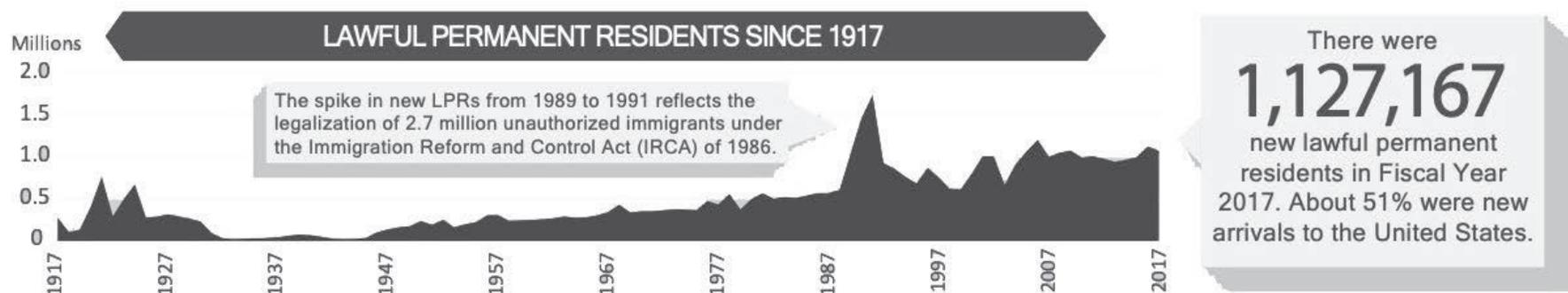


U.S. Immigration Law 101: Shining Light on a Complex Process

In this edition of *Messenger*, we offer this primer on U.S. immigration law to help shed some light on a complicated process that takes years to navigate for those seeking to make the U.S. their home. We hope this will take away some of the mystery of the U.S. immigration process for those unfamiliar with how the system works.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), which governs current U.S. immigration law, was passed by Congress in 1965. It sets a limit of 675,000 permanent immigrant visas (often referred to as “green cards” because of their distinctive color) that may be granted on an annual basis. To ensure the diversity of the immigrant population, no more than seven percent of the total number of green cards awarded can go to immigrants from any one foreign nation.

Foreign nationals seeking to immigrate to the U.S. can legally apply for a “green card” if they fall into one of the following categories. Once granted a “green card”, they obtain lawful permanent resident status, but not citizenship. (continued on pg. 2)



*all data sourced from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Family Reunification

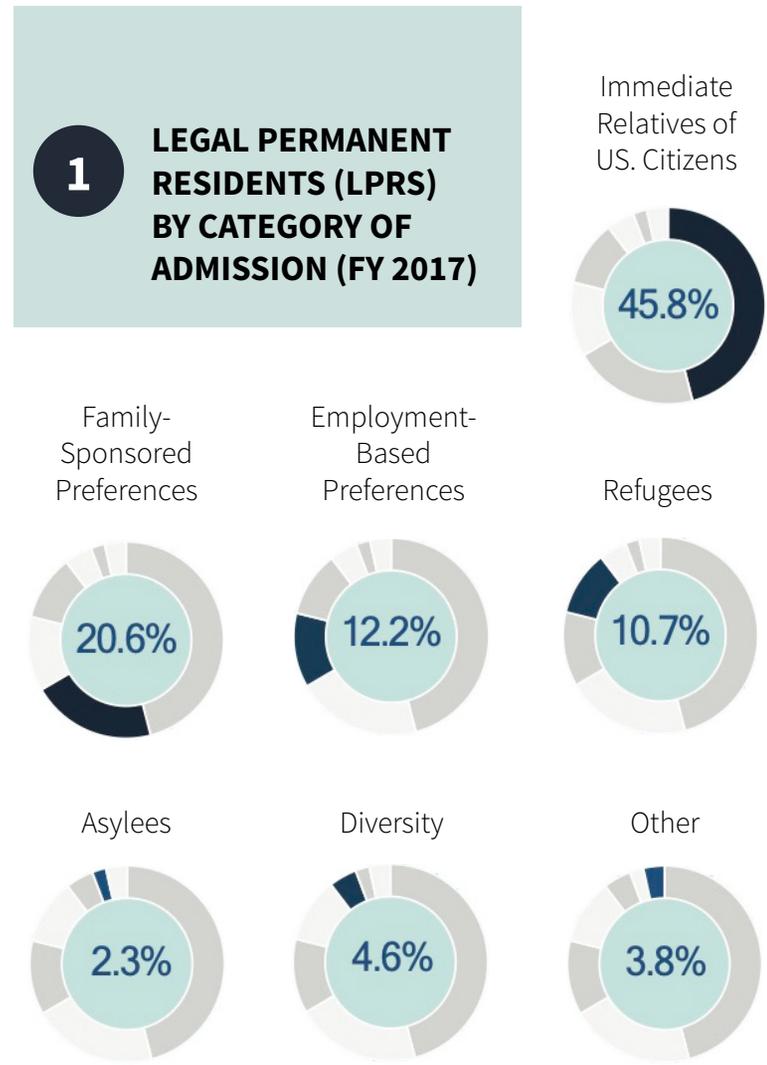
480,000 family-based visas are available each year. Immediate family members of U.S. citizens can be admitted if they are the spouse, unmarried child under 21, or parent of the sponsoring citizen, so long as they meet certain criteria and the petitioning citizen meets age and financial requirements. Adult children and brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens can also be admitted under the “family preference” category.

In Fiscal Year 2017, immigrants granted visas through family reunification accounted for 66% of all new immigrant admissions. To be admitted through the family-based immigration system, the sponsoring citizen must establish the legitimacy of the relationship, meet income requirements and sign an affidavit attesting that he/she will financially support the relative upon his/her arrival. Those seeking admission must submit to a medical exam, obtain any necessary vaccinations, pass a criminal background check, and establish that he/she will not become dependent on government assistance for their subsistence.

Reunification for legal immigrants can be a lengthy process. A sibling of a naturalized U.S. citizen from the Philippines, for example, can currently expect to wait at least 20 years before being able to immigrate legally to the U.S.

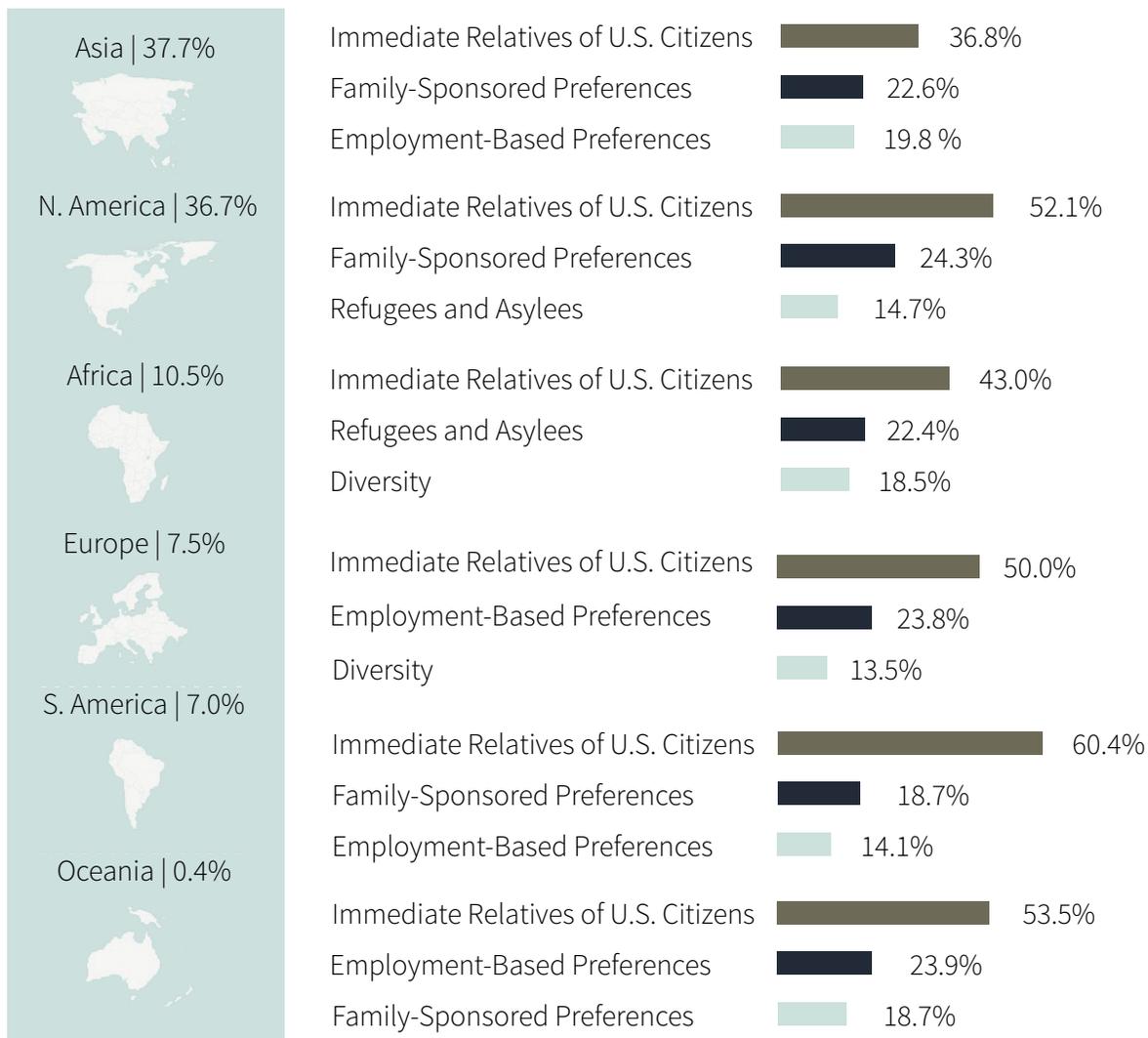
Special Skills of Value to the U.S.

140,000 permanent work visas are available for those with special skills. Immigrants admitted under this category must meet certain skill criteria, such as in the arts, sciences, education, or research and have a job offer from an employer willing to sponsor them. Visas for unskilled or low-skilled workers are limited to 5,000 annually. Religious workers, or those working for the U.S. foreign service may also qualify under this category for admission, along with those willing to invest between \$900,000 and \$1.8M (as of 11/21/19) in a job creating enterprise that employs at least 10 full-time U.S. workers. In fiscal year 2017, immigrants admitted through this category accounted for 12% of all new immigrant admissions.



2

LPRS BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION OF BIRTH AND TOP CATEGORIES OF ADMISSION PER REGION (FY 2017)



“Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying out civic burdens.” – Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 2241

Defensive Asylum Cases Received by Country of Nationality: FY 2016 to 2018

Country	2016		2017		2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	81,730	100.0	142,971	100.0	159,473	100.0
El Salvador	19,521	23.9	37,489	26.2	31,371	19.7
Guatemala	13,024	15.9	23,511	16.4	26,055	16.3
Mexico	15,673	19.2	22,340	15.6	24,412	15.3
Honduras	11,883	14.5	20,974	14.7	21,336	13.4
China, People's Republic	3,912	4.8	6,272	4.4	8,028	5.0

Individuals Granted Asylum Affirmatively or Defensively by Country of Nationality: FY 2016 to 2018

Country	2016		2017		2018	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	20,362	100.0	26,509	100.0	38,687	100.0
China, People's Republic	4,495	22.1	5,615	21.2	6,905	17.8
Venezuela	343	1.7	549	2.1	6,087	15.7
El Salvador	2,144	10.5	3,476	13.1	2,963	7.7
Guatemala	1,921	9.4	2,949	11.1	2,358	6.1
Honduras	1,474	7.2	2,045	7.7	2,029	5.2

**all data sourced from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security*

Refugees

Refugees are foreign nationals that flee their country because of political strife, war or personal conflict with their government. They seek “refuge” in the U.S. due to a “well-founded fear of persecution” if they return to their homeland because of their race, religion, national origin, political opinion, or being a member of a particular social group in their country of origin. Refugees apply for admission from outside the United States, typically from a “transition country” (designated by the U.N.) that is not their home country.

Each year, the president and Congress set a limit on the number of refugees that will be admitted during that calendar year. Since Donald Trump was elected, that number – called the “Presidential determination” (PD) - has been decreasing. In 2019, the PD was 30,000, down from 85,000 in 2016, 50,000 in 2017, and 45,000 in 2018. For 2020, President Trump has proposed 18,000 refugees be admitted, the lowest number since the current system was enacted in 1980.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), through its Migration Committee, has spoken out in recent years in opposition to reductions in the number of refugees admitted under the Presidential determination, stating in late 2019 that “[g]iven the unprecedented humanitarian need and the crucial global leadership role that our country plays, we strongly urge the Administration and Congress -- as they engage in the consultation phase mandated by statute -- to work together to restore U.S. refugee resettlement to normal, historical levels.”

The USCCB, through state charitable agencies like Catholic Charities, has been involved in helping settle refugees in the U.S. for years. In 2017, the U.S. admitted 53,691 refugees. The top five countries of origin of individuals admitted were the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, and Burma.

Asylees

Asylees are foreign nationals that cross into the U.S. and make a claim for asylum after they arrive here, unlike refugees who make a claim before they arrive. Like refugees, they must prove that they are unable to return to their native land because of a “well-founded fear of persecution.” Asylum seekers who arrive at the border and request asylum typically present their case to a government agency (affirmative cases), while those who enter the U.S. and are later apprehended by ICE present their case before an immigration judge during deportation hearings (defensive cases). The U.S. granted asylum (both affirmatively and defensively) to 26,509 individuals in 2017. Asylees accounted for just 2.3% of all new immigrant admissions in 2017.

Diversity Visa Program

In addition to the categories above, the Immigration Act of 1990 established a visa lottery whereby 55,000 visas are made available to foreign nationals from countries that have sent fewer than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the previous five years. Because of historical immigration patterns, the diversity program benefits primarily immigrants from Africa and Eastern Europe. 51,592 individuals were admitted as citizens in 2017 through the diversity visa program, accounting for 4.6% of admissions.

U.S. Citizenship

Obtaining a green card doesn't confer citizenship status. Those holding green cards must wait at least five years before applying for citizenship through the naturalization process, which can take as long as 14 months after the application is submitted. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, demonstrate continuous residency in the U.S., possess “good moral

character,” pass English, U.S. history and civics exams, and pay any applicable application fees, among other requirements. Those holding green cards can lose their lawful permanent resident status if they fail to establish a permanent U.S. residence, vote in an election as if they were already a citizen, commit a crime, or defraud the immigration system.

The Immigration Crisis at the Southern U.S. Border

Over the last five years, the U.S. has seen a rise in asylum cases brought by foreign nationals crossing the southern U.S. border, overwhelming the U.S. immigration infrastructure. Migrants from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Venezuela, some traveling as families, have sought refuge in the U.S. due to rising political and social problems in those countries, grabbing headlines and increasing political and social tension in the process.

The unprecedented migration to the U.S. has led to a backlog in the immigration courts. In 2015, immigration courts in the U.S. faced a backlog of just over 500,000 cases. In September of 2019, the backlog reached an historic milestone of over 1 million cases. These cases are expected take as long as four years to be resolved, and the humanitarian crisis caused by the migration is far from over.

For those who arrive here on the Southern border, the reality is that most will not be able to stay. In the last ten years, roughly only one in five migrants seeking asylum have been granted relief, the other four seeing their requests for asylum denied. Despite an increase in the number of cases filed, the number of migrants granted asylum has stayed fairly consistent, at least for the last three years for which data are available. 20,362 individuals were granted asylum in 2016, 26,509 in 2017, and 38,687 in 2018. Of those granted asylum in 2018, 34.7% came from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Venezuela. (see graphic on pg. 3)

The USCCB, again through its Migration Committee, has been advocating for the humane treatment of migrants at the border, some of whom come from historically Catholic countries and in the majority of cases are fleeing violence, crime, and political instability in their home countries. The bishops have opposed policies that result in detention and separation of children from their parents at the border, and ones that put migrants at further risk of exploitation or abuse. Various Catholic and other charity agencies are serving migrants at the border as part of their call to ministry, offering services to help arrivals maintain some sense of humanity and normalcy as they wait for their individual situations to be addressed.

DACA/Dreamers

Another hot topic in immigration law the last few years is a program that has allowed children brought to the U.S. by their foreign-born parents to remain here, despite the technical designation of no legal status in the U.S. Known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, “DACA” has received much publicity since its announcement in June 2012 by President Barack Obama. Foreign-

born children who file for recognition under the DACA program are insulated from deportation proceedings. DACA recipients do not receive citizenship status but are temporarily protected from deportation.

To obtain relief under DACA, recipients must have been at least 15 years old and no more than 31 as of August 15, 2012, have entered the U.S. before age 16, have lived continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007, have been in school or have graduated high school or obtained a GED, or be in the military, and have no serious criminal history. DACA recipients are granted relief for periods of two years at a time. Only previously registered DACA recipients are currently eligible for this program, as no new DACA applications are being accepted.

For DACA recipients to obtain lawful permanent status, Congress would have to pass legislation like the “Dream Act.” The Dream Act would offer a path to citizenship to registered DACA recipients as a humanitarian gesture because they have lived here most of their life, have little — if any — legal status in their parents’ home country, and are effectively citizens without a country.

After his election, President Trump announced in September 2017 that he was going to phase out the DACA program, thereby putting in jeopardy the deferred deportation status of an estimated 600,000 – 800,000 “Dreamers.” Numerous lawsuits have been filed challenging President Trump’s decision, and the DACA program remains active pending the outcome of the cases, which have now reached the U.S. Supreme Court. At issue in the case is whether the court has the authority to review the decision to discontinue DACA, whether the DACA program was legal in the first place and whether it was lawful for President Trump to cancel it in the manner that he did. A decision on the cases is expected by the end of June 2020.

The USCCB has been supportive of DACA and the Dream Act, stating the Dream Act in particular “provides critical protection to Dreamers, immigrant youths who entered the United States as children and know America as their only home. The bill offers qualifying young people ‘permanent resident status on a conditional basis’ and a path to full lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship.”

To learn more about the U. S. bishops’ positions on immigration issues, please visit the Justice for Immigrants website at justiceforimmigrants.org.

For statistical data on U.S. immigrants, visit the Department of Homeland Security’s immigration page at dhs.gov/topic/citizenship-and-immigration-services.



Join the Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network! (MOCAN)

Join the 10,000 + Catholic Missourians who make up the team of advocates who help the Catholic voice ring through the halls of the Missouri State Capitol. If you want to stay updated on pro-life legislation — or any of the many other legislative priorities the MCC advocates for — you will not want to miss the opportunity to join MOCAN.

If you're already a member, encourage your family, friends, and fellow parishioners to join! As MOCAN grows, so does the Catholic voice in Missouri's Capitol. Visit mocatolic.org, send us an email at mocatolic@mocatolic.org, or text MOCAN to 50457 to join.

Four to be inducted into Helias Hall of Fame Feb. 29

Four people with strong ties to the Capital City will be inducted into the Helias Hall of Fame during the Foundation for the Benefit of Helias Catholic High School's "Celebrate the Legacy" event.

It will be held on Saturday, Feb. 29, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City.

The honorees will include: Joyce E. (Schell) Amick, John D. Bryan, Louis H. Vetter and Jeremiah D. Winegar.

Photos and the full biographies of

each of the honorees can be found in the online edition of *The Catholic Missourian* at www.cathmo.com.

The celebration will start with a 6 p.m. reception in the Capitol Plaza atrium, followed by dinner in the ballroom at 7 p.m.

The program, including the 2020 Hall of Fame induction ceremony, will begin at 7:45 p.m.

Dancing with a live band will commence at 8:30 p.m.

This Celebrate the Legacy event is geared toward honoring members of the Helias Catholic community while raising money to support the endowment and thus help keep tuition low.

This celebration will highlight various aspects of the Helias educational experience in order to make the community aware of the benefits of a Helias Catholic education.

New members are inducted into the

Helias Hall of Fame each year. Individuals must have graduated at least 20 years prior to induction; demonstrated loyalty and service to Helias; distinguished him or herself in a chosen field; and have exhibited moral standards to the credit of the school.

Tickets are \$50 per person.

Contact the Foundation at (573) 635-3808 on or before Feb. 21 for information.

MIDWEST

From page 3

she said. "And we pray that babies in their mother's womb will be safe again and that women know we are here to help them."

Illinois state Rep. Avery Bourne, the youngest lawmaker ever sworn into the Illinois General Assembly, was eighth months pregnant last year when she argued against passage of an Illinois law that expanded access to abortion.

"It's a lot different when you've got a baby kicking in your belly while you're talking about it," she said.

She thanked the people at the rally for their advocacy in bringing about laws, policies and a culture that have undermined abortion in Missouri.

"You are an inspiration for those of us who are fighting that battle in Illinois," she said.

But it's not enough to be successful here, she added: "This has got to be something we take nationwide."

Jacinta Florence, regional coordinator for Students for Life of America, invited young people to get active in the pro-life movement.

"We're making history today," she said. "Let's make history together."

Stacy Washington, host of Lifezette TV's "Stacy on the Right," said God respects life because He is the creator of life.

He also forgives and wants to heal women and families that have been harmed by abortion.

"This is the work we're called to do," she said. "Share your testimony and shame the devil."

Marching orders

Bishop McKnight blessed a rugged cross that was to be



Mike and Kathy Forck, leaders of the Columbia 40 Days for Life Campaign and the Midwest March for Life, accept special recognition from 40 Days for Life during a rally at the end of this year's march.
— Photo by Jay Nies

carried by clergy at the front of the march.

He then helped carry it.

Led by the cross and an honor guard of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and several groups carrying banners, the people marched past symbols of the three branches of state government — the Capitol, the Governor's Mansion and the Supreme Court.

There were chants, cheers, prayers, hymns and lively banter throughout the assembly.

The marchers then gathered inside the Rotunda of the State Capitol for a rally.

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general for the Jefferson City diocese and chaplain of the Missouri House of Representatives, offered the opening prayer.

"We lift up our hearts to You as we renew ourselves to be grateful for the gift of every human life," he prayed. "Bless all who take part in this rally, God bless the March for Life and God bless the Show Me State."

"Finish the dream"

Katrina Gallic, director of development for the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., predicted that the last abortion facility in Missouri would soon close.

She credited the precipitous drop in abortions in the state to legislative action, the prayers and witness of 40 Days for Life, and the work of local pregnancy resource centers and other organizations.

"As important as the work we do day-in and day-out on Capitol Hill, it's here in the halls of state capitols that the change happens," she said. "By your presence, you are sending a clear message to your state leaders that life is winning."

She encouraged everyone to think about "how you are being asked to say yes to God's call to do more for the unborn, to do more for their mothers."

Bridget VanMeans, president of ThriVe St. Louis, a life-affirming full-service women's healthcare organization, said she's proud to be a one-issue voter because no issue is more important than life.

She urged everyone who's pro-life to pray for those who disagree with them.

"Can we pray for the abortion industry with the same love, zeal and passion as we pray for the babies?" she asked.

She said ThriVe St. Louis had saved 22,000 babies by offering abortion-minded pregnant women a free ultrasound using the ultrasound machine in the ThriVe vehicle parked outside Planned Parenthood.

The Knights of Columbus paid for the machine.

"Each of us has been 'fearfully and wonderfully made' in God's image, and each of us has a very important purpose," she said. "No matter how we are conceived, our circumstances, our race, our abilities, each of us has a purpose."

She believes Missouri has

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

captured God's heart.

"He keeps blessing what happens here," she said. "He is answering your prayers and doing what you ask. God has your back, so step out and finish the dream."

"Injustice anywhere"

Defender of Life awards were presented to state Reps. Mary Elizabeth Coleman, Elijah Haahr, Nick Schroer and Adam Schnelting, cosponsors of sweeping pro-life legislation passed during the Missouri

General Assembly's 2019 Legislative Session.

Bonnie Lee of Columbia 40 Days for Life was given the Champion for Life Award.

David Bereit, founder of the international 40 Days for Life campaign of praying, fasting, public engagement and prayerful witness outside abortion clinics, gave the keynote address.

He presented special recognition Mike and Kathy Forck, members of St. Andrew parish in Holts Summit, who started and continue to lead Columbia 40 Days for Life and the Midwest March for Life.

Mr. Bereit acknowledged the great progress Missouri had made on the pro-life front.

"But injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere," he said. "Until the number of abortions is zero, you and I have work to do. We must pray, we must hear and answer the call, and we must persevere."

"Things are going to get tough," he said. "The whole nation is now watching Missouri. This is going to get harder before it gets easier. Know that it's worth it."

Living history

That afternoon, Mr. Bereit led a workshop on convincing people to be pro-life by offering a living witness of faith, hope and love.

"That will speak so much more loudly than words," he said.

He predicted that when the history books are written, Missouri will be in the chapter on how abortion ended in the United States.

"You'll be able to tell your children and grandchildren that you were on the front lines, and thanks be to God, abortion ended," he said.

EDUCATORS

From page 4

Members of all three councils and ladies' auxiliaries prepared the food and staffed the event.

The grand knights presented donations to the schools and PSR programs, as well as the Vogelweid Learning Center

at St. Peter Interparish School, the Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund, and the diocesan Catholic School Office.

The money came from several fundraisers the Knights councils held throughout the previous year.

"Thank you all for that you do for our kids and for our Church," Michael Flanagan, grand knight of the Fr. Helias council, told the guests.

The bishop closed the evening by giving his blessing.



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573-694-3530



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573-424-6172



Dustin Dolce
573-230-6902



Jeff Fennewald
573-473-7590

PRO-LIFE

From page 1

attending her second March for Life.

She said the March was a microcosm of the kind of society the marchers hope to help create.

"It's such a positive, loving atmosphere here," she said. "We're all about love and making sure everyone feels that love."

She said a truly pro-life society would be filled with "extremely positive people who are pro-woman, pro-children, pro-family, pro-everyone."

Tolton Catholic senior Ashley Kippes was attending her fifth March for Life.

"The Pro-Life Generation is winning the fight against abortion," said Miss Kippes, president of her school's pro-life club.

It's less of a victory of party or public policy than an emerging triumph of compassion and awareness.

"It's the little things you do in your daily life," she said. "Being kind to someone — you don't know what they might be going through. Being open to helping women who are in crisis who need us — that's an example of putting your pro-life views into practice."

She believes the truth itself is a powerful witness.

"I believe every person has a chance," she stated. "Science tells us that from the moment of conception, you have a separate, unique, new life. By Day 6, you have a heartbeat."

"It starts here"

Tolton Catholic senior Silas Glaude was on his fourth March for Life.

It concerns him when people say that since he can't get pregnant, he has no say in the abortion debate.

"If I were not to exercise my right to speak out in defense of the right to life that's integral to anyone and everyone, I would be doing a disservice to millions of pre-born babies who are being aborted," he said.

He's also disturbed what he sees as a growing anti-disability bias among people who assert the right to abortion.

"If you find out your child has Down syndrome, a lot of people want to push you to have an abortion," he said.

His youngest brother has autism.

"He has special needs," said Mr. Glaude. "The idea that a child like him is somehow not worth as much because he has a disability does not make any sense to me. It doesn't line up with my Catholic faith or the system of government we have that promotes the voices of every single person."

Mr. Glaude said his mother is a model of women's empowerment.

"She's one of the most inspiring people I know, one of the hardest workers, someone I look up to, someone who will fight for me, for herself, for so many things she believes," he said. "It's inspiring to have her for a role model."

Mr. Glaude said some of the most important pro-life work between this year's and next year's March for Life will take place in respectful conversations.

"It starts here with being a proper steward of what you believe," he said. "It starts with compassion."

"Broken road"

At Mass before the group departed for Washington, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight reminded the travelers that they were being sent as ambassadors of the diocese and as pilgrims seeking to encounter Christ on their journey.

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

They arrived in Washington the next day and visited the Washington Monument and Arlington National Cemetery.

That evening, they joined about 10,000 other pilgrims in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the annual Mass and Prayer Vigil for Life.

Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Catholic bishop's pro-life committee, noted in his homily that Jesus never said discipleship would be easy.

"He told His first disciples



Pilgrims from St. Mary parish in Shelbina provided this photo from the 47th annual March for Life on Jan. 24 in Washington, D.C.

that in order to follow Him they must be willing to take up their cross," the archbishop stated.

In standing "for the lives of unborn children, you may face ridicule and social exclusion," the archbishop added. "You may be penalized in the academy and workplace."

He shared that during his recent "ad limina" visit with Pope Francis, the Pope "encouraged me — I dare say, ordered me — 'Please tell the pilgrims at the March for Life and the entire pro-life community: The Pope is with you! He is praying for you!'"

Pilgrims from this diocese gathered early the next morning for Mass and inspiration.

Father Paul Clark, diocesan moderator for pro-life ministries, said in his homily that love means actively pursuing the good of another person above one's own.

"True love has the power of gentleness that draws other people in and transforms them," he said. "This pilgrimage is about our hearts being transformed by God's love so that we may go and share that transformation with every person we encounter."

Amanda Durbin, a lifelong member of St. Patrick parish in Clarence, told the pilgrims about how her friend's mother had been traumatized, stigmatized and marginalized by abusive relationships and a series of abortions.

"The Christian community let her down," Mrs. Durbin

stated.

"I ask that you remember those women who have gone down that broken road," she said. "Pray for them and be there for them, too."

She talked about the experience of praying on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood in Columbia and ministering to

women seeking abortions.

"I came to understand the need for Christian love and open hearts for those women and to lead them, not label them — to love them, not judge them — and to just hold their hand through whatever trial brought them there that day," she said.

Sometimes, women would accept help and turn away from abortion.

Other times, they would go through with the abortion.

"And we were still there when they came back out, waiting to love them and ready to keep walking with them," she said.

With the help of several like-minded women, Mrs. Durbin opened Ray of Hope Pregnancy Ministries of Macon County.

A year later, they opened a second location for pregnant women in all kinds of crisis situations in neighboring Shelby County.

She spoke passionately of love overcoming fear.

"I'm begging you all to have a heart for everybody — the born and the unborn," she said.

See WASHINGTON, page 27

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By

Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. A tour of Mo. reveals many towns with interesting facts, stories and sights. Near Drexel, Mo. sits the Frontier Military Museum. In addition to frontier dry goods and ____-Am. (Osage, Sac & Fox) relics, it houses over 50 different military saddles, perhaps the greatest collection in America.
6. Our solar system ____ around the black hole at the center of our galaxy at a velocity of 828,000 mph, but still takes 230 million years to make one complete circuit.
11. "Slip out the back, Jack. Make a new plan, _____. No need to be coy, Roy," —Paul Simon, lyrics from his 1975 album "Still Crazy After All These Years."
12. J. Edgar Hoover led this fed. agency for over 48 years.

13. Short for extraterrestrial.
14. Original 12-step program.
15. Near Grandview, Mo. is the Truman ____ Home & State Historic Site where our 33rd President grew up.
18. At Fidelity, Mo. sits the World's Largest Small Electric Appliance Museum, a labyrinth of ceiling high display cases of waffle ____, mixers, coffee pots and toasters.
20. In Belton Cemetery in Belton, Mo. lies Carrie Nation, a temperance leader and hatchet-wielding smasher of ____ in the early 1900's (arrested 32 times), leading the way to a constitutional amendment banning alcohol (i.e., Prohibition).
22. Near Nevada, Mo., the W.F. Norman Co. has been, since 1897, a big producer of a uniquely Am. art form — turning sheet metal into architectural ornaments, stamping ____ into original designs for ceilings, moldings, marquees, crests and preservation items.
23. Yes in old Cancun.
24. 7-up used to be called the ____ Cola.
25. Honolulu's island.
26. "We typically focus on anything that ____ with

- the outcome we want," —Noreena Hertz.
28. Youngest child in the comic strip "Family Circus."
29. ____ second thought...
30. A contrasting companion to even.
31. Lamar, Mo. hired Wyatt Earp in 1870 as the town's first constable. It was his first job as a ____ man. He laid to rest his wife and unborn child there before going into the pages of history.
33. Before Common Era (____) is the term archeologists often use instead of Before Christ (B.C.).
35. "Then I saw her face, now ____ believer..." —Neil Diamond, from his 1979 album "September Morn" (2 wds.).
37. ____-__; scoreless game on a football scoreboard.
39. On a farmstead near Nashville, Mo., Harlow Shapley was born in 1885. Later in life, he became an honored astronomer and head of the Harvard College Observatory for 30 years. His study of the ____ of light proved that our solar system is only a peripheral member of our galaxy (i.e., a galaxy much much bigger than was thought).
41. "No disciple is above his ____..." (Matthew 10:24).
43. To ____ is human, so they say.
44. Near Kearney, Mo. is the homestead where Jesse James was born, grew up and is ____.
45. Pope St. John Paul II is credited with playing a major role in the fall of ____ in Russia and its Eastern Bloc.
46. "That is why many of you are ____ and infirm..." (1 Corinthians 11:30).

DOWN

1. Code breaking Federal agency.
2. ____ from the third base coach, get prepared to lay down a bunt (3 wds.).
3. ____-da!
4. Maryville, Mo. is the hometown of Dale Carnegie, a phenomenal motivational speaker & promoter of self-help courses. His 1936 book *How to Win Friends and ____ People* is still a popular book for

1	2	3	4		5		6	7	8		9	10	
11							12				13		
14			15	16		17		18		19			
	20						21		22				
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26					27				28				
29					30				31		32		
			33		34			35	36			37	38
39	40						41				42		
43						44							
45											46		

- business and communication skills. He is interred at Belton, Mo.
5. Money in France, Germany or Italy.
6. ____ all the nerve!
7. Baseball hitter's stat.
8. Lamar, Mo. has the Harry S Truman ____ State Historic Site, preserving his 1½ story childhood home.
9. The Volunteer State (abbr.).
10. Holy ones (abbr.).
16. Steak sauce brand.
17. This State contains Lake Itasca, the primary source of the Mississippi River (abbr.).
19. ____ boards came out of the Spiritualism movement of the late 1800's and early 1900's as a means for people to try to communicate with the dead through "mediums." Later, it was/is sold as a harmless popular board game. Exorcists and Catholic authorities regard it as dangerous to our spiritual health. Basically, fascination with "spirits" in a non-prayerful way is playing with fire.
21. Near Butler, Mo. is the Battle of Island Mound Historic Site, the first Civil War battle in the country involving African-Am. _____. They engaged against Confederate guerillas. A *NY Times* correspondent noted the "desperate bravery" of the African-Americans in achieving Union victory.
23. ____ Paulo, at more than 20 million pop., is Brazil's, and South America's, largest metro area.
27. That excuse is ____ lame!
32. "Then I said, '____ is me, I am doomed!'" (Isaiah 6:5).
33. Raised bank or ridge; water break on a gravel road.
34. The Dome in St. Louis was officially the Edward Jones Dome from 2002-2016. It was nicknamed by some as "The ____."
36. To inflict a disabling wound or loss of limb on another.
38. Each gospel came from an ____ tradition before being compiled and written down.
39. Mizzou Tiger football Conference.
40. Nevada, Mo. in the Civil War was called the Bushwhacker (____-Southern guerillas) Capital. The town was sacked and burned to the ground by the Union. A museum and jail there recounts the history.
41. "*Benedictus fructus ventris* ____"; (i.e., "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb").
42. The Human Dev. Index (____) ranks countries by lifespan, education level, and gross nat. income. It doesn't consider net wealth per capita or quality of goods which tends to lower the ranking of some advanced countries. In 2017, the U.S. was lower than Iceland and Singapore and Ireland but ahead of Britain, France, Japan, Spain, & Italy.
44. Letters for Barnes & Noble, booksellers with the largest # of retail outlets in the U.S.

ANSWERS on page 23


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CHARITIES

From page 1

“I wish to acknowledge and thank St. Mary’s Foundation for their leadership in providing us with a ‘down payment,’ if you will, on this important venture for our community,” said Bishop McKnight. “We are all better off when we pull together our resources to meet the needs of those who are less fortunate.”

He noted that there will be numerous opportunities to help and contribute before the building can serve its intended purpose.

“We are estimating the need for about \$4 million to fund fully our dream for this facility,” he said. “I invite everyone in our community to consider how they might share in this work of love through a financial gift and by volunteering their time and talent.”

What it will be

Preliminary renderings by Architect Nick Borgmeyer of Simon Oswald Architects point to the transformation of a solid structure.

“It’s got good bones,” retired local contractor Jim Wisch, a member of the CCCNMO board of directors and the Shikles redevelopment planning committee.

Plans call for a 38-foot addition to the front of the building and upgrades to the utilities.

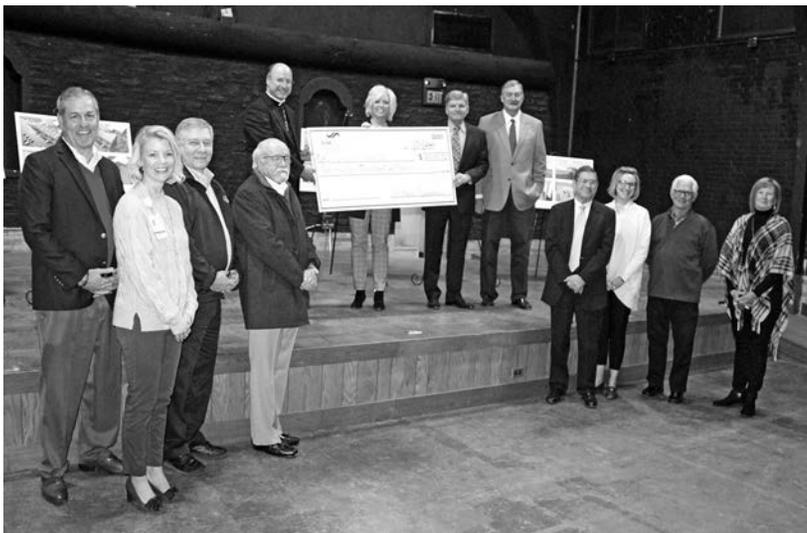
The former auditorium will be reconfigured for use as an after-school care program, a health clinic and other community services.

The area that was once the sanctuary of the La Salette Seminary chapel will become a quiet room for prayer and reflection.

The former gymnasium downstairs will become a food pantry, including a waiting room, shopping area, demonstration kitchen, warehouse, loading dock and packaging area.

New administrative offices for CCCNMO will be built in a mezzanine area overlooking the food pantry.

A large parking lot will be added, providing full access for people with disabilities.



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight joins St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation Director Bev Stafford, President Greg Meeker and other members of the foundation’s board of trustees in the former Shikles Auditorium in Jefferson City Jan. 31. Ms. Stafford and Mr. Meeker presented the bishop a \$200,000 gift from the foundation toward an estimated \$4 million renovation of the building, which will serve as the new headquarters for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri and a center providing help to people in need in the area.

— Photos by Jay Nies

Unified vision

CCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester said he was thrilled to welcome the group “to our new home.”

“It definitely needs a little bit of work, a little elbow grease here and there,” he said. “But I think we can make it shine it like new.”

St. Mary’s Foundation Board President Greg Meeker said the foundation is “very thrilled to plant a seed and make an investment in the community with this endeavor.”

“We look forward to what’s going to happen inside these walls as it extends outward of these walls,” he said.

The St. Mary’s Foundation raises money to sustain and enhance the life- and health-giving work of SSM St. Mary’s Hospital in Jefferson City.

Foundation Director Bev Stafford said the Catholic Charities project was an easy vision for the Foundation board to embrace “because it does, in essence, further our ministry of healthcare outside the walls of the hospital.”

“This certainly is something

we will hold and cherish — helping establish this resource center for our community,” she said.



Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Executive Director Dan Lester speaks to representatives of the St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation Board of trustees, the Catholic Charities staff and board of directors, the Jefferson City diocese and the Jefferson City Housing Authority in the former Shikles Auditorium. This part of the building was originally the chapel for the former Missionaries of La Salette Seminary.

Different but the same

Originally built in the late 1950s, the walls of this building carry the weight of local history.

The bishop spoke from what was once the sanctuary of the chapel for a former high school seminary for the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette.

Many in Jefferson City member attending retreats

and devotions on the then-sprawling seminary grounds.

“What we’re doing now is reclaiming part of our Catholic heritage,” said Mr. Lester.

He recalled how the building had been the spiritual hub of a Catholic institution that prepared missionaries to minister to and advocate for people in great need all over the world.

One of them was the late La Salette Father Arthur Lueckenotto, a Meta native who served for 45 years in Madagascar.

“What this building was is an essential part of the story of what it will become,” said Mr. Lester. “The area around it has grown up and changed, and here we are, coming right back around again to express that love in a way that is different but still the same.”

“That’s pretty amazing!” he

nie Shikles, who made a contribution toward installing an elevator in her memory.

When the building became available, Sister Kathleen Wegman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame worked on behalf of the diocese with the Housing Authority, the St. Mary’s Foundation and Catholic Charities on a unified vision for the property.

Catholic Charities offers a variety of services to residents in need throughout the 38-counties of the Jefferson City diocese, providing care and creating hope through compassionate social services that respect the dignity of each person and engage the local community.

Bishop McKnight led the people at the gathering in prayer: “In His great love for all of us, Christ said that whatever we do for the least among us, we do for Him. He called those who show mercy ‘blessed of the Father’ and promised them eternal life.

“Let us then pray for the Lord to enrich His blessings on all the benefactors who are devoted to helping their brothers and sisters who are weak, who are sick or who are unfortunate and to make possible this new center of mercy and charity in our own community,” he prayed.

Mr. Lester believes the new center will unite people from various walks in life in helping others while growing in their relationship with God.

“Bishop McKnight has really instilled within our whole diocese a sense

that we are better when we’re working together,” said Mr. Lester stated. “It is my prayer and my hope that this space will become a truly shining example of that ideal.”

To learn more about the ongoing renovations or to volunteer or donate, visit the new Catholic Charities website at cccnmo.diojeffcity.org.

Fundraisers & Social Events

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. 15

Fulton, St. Peter School "Blacklight Bingo" fundraiser, 5:30-10 pm

Feb. 16

St. Anthony, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11:30 am

Feb. 21

Loose Creek, K of C fish fry, 5:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception School basement

Eldon, Sacred Heart parish fish fry for Special Olympics, 5-7 pm

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

Hermann, St. George parish shrimp boil, 5-9 pm, school gym

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception parish Mardi Gras, 6 pm-midnight, K of C hall

Rolla, St. Patrick home & school trivia night, 6 pm

Feb. 28

Camdenton, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm

Cuba, Holy Cross parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

Eldon, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm

Holts Summit, St. Andrew K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-7 pm

Jefferson City, Fr. Helias K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall
Jefferson City, K of C #12992 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral

of St. Joseph Undercroft
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 of C Council #1267 boiled shrimp dinner, 4-8 pm

Russellville, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael parish hall

St. James, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

Vienna, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Koerber Hall

Mar. 1

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians parish CYO breakfast, 7-10:30 am

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception parish Holy Name Society pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon

Vienna, K of C breakfast, 7:30-10 am

Mar. 6

Camdenton, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm

Cuba, Holy Cross parish fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

Eldon, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm

Holts Summit, St. Andrew K of C Lenten fish fry, 4-7 pm

Jefferson City, Fr. Helias K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall

Jefferson City, K of C #12992 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft

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

St. James, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm

St. Martins, St. Martin parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

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

Mar. 8

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

Linn, "The Way of the Cross," by Donna Cori Gibson, 3 pm, St. George Church, for info visit church.saint-george-parish.org/St-George-Church

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle parish ham & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30 am

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

Meetings & Conferences

Feb. 7

Boonville, Columbia/Boonville/Glasgow Area Ultreya for



ATTENTION

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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 npmjeffcity-dio@gmail.com

Feb. 23

Mexico, "40 Days & 40 Nights: The Power of Lent," with Chad Volmert, after 9 am Mass, St. Brendan Church

Feb. 27

Columbia, Cursillo School of Leaders, 7 pm, Sacred Heart parish library

St. Thomas, "Let's Talk Faith," women's ministry program, 6:30-8 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle parish center, for info visit diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry

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

Mar. 12

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

Mar. 16

Taos, Jefferson City area Ultreya for Cursillo, 7 pm, St. Francis Xavier school cafeteria

Liturgical

Mar. 1

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

Mar. 3

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

Mar. 8

Linn, "The Way of the Cross," by Donna Cori Gibson, 3 pm, St. George Church, for info visit church.saint-george-parish.org/St-George-Church

Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

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. 16-19

Ladonia, "The Beauty and Grace of the Mass," parish mission with Deacon Mark Döbelmann, 7-8 pm each evening, St. John Church

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, to register visit cemo.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

Mar. 1

Columbia, "Living Waters — Let Mercy Flow" Lenten evening of reflection, 7-8 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Mar. 6-8

Moberly, Engaged Encounter Weekend, St. Pius X Church, for info or to register, visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/ or call (573) 635-9127

Youth & Young Adults

Feb 12

Lake Ozark, NET (New Evangelization for Teens) Retreat for grades 7-12, 3:30-8:30 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Church, for info or to register by Feb. 9, call Vicki at (573) 365-2241

New Knights of Columbus initiation ceremony will be public

By Andy Telli

Catholic News Service

Nashville, Tennessee

After 142 years, the Knights of Columbus is pulling down a veil of secrecy that has surrounded its initiation ceremonies in an effort to better showcase the order's core principles and its drive to help Catholic men become disciples.

Since its founding in 1882, the initiation ceremonies for the first three degrees of Knights membership — focused on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity — have been separate and open to members only. The fourth degree, dedicated to the principal of patriotism, was added later and this initiation also is secret and for members only.

But starting this year, the Knights have adopted a new ceremony. Called the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, it combines the initiation for the first three degrees into a single ceremony that will be open to family, friends and fellow parishioners.

"There is nothing we do that is secret or needs to be secret," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson told the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville. "We decided this is a way to let other parishioners know, family members know, what the Knights of Columbus is all about. We think that's a good thing."

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization

of Catholic men that was founded by Father Michael McGivney, a young priest serving at St. Mary Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Father McGivney is a candidate for sainthood and has the title "Venerable."

Today, the order has more than 2 million members worldwide who are involved in charitable and service works.

Although membership as a whole is growing, not all areas are showing increases, Anderson said.

"I think the Catholic Church is growing more quickly in some areas than in other areas. Those trends affect us as well," he said.

"When you see dioceses with parishes closing, that has to affect all the Catholic organizations in those dioceses."

At the Knights' Supreme Convention last summer, a resolution from the Illinois delegation calling for combining the first-, second- and third-degree ceremonies into one and removing the condition of secrecy was approved. Anderson directed a review of the ceremonies "with an eye toward staying true to our roots while at the same time presenting our principles of charity, unity and fraternity in a more clear and convincing way."

Anderson unveiled the new ceremony in November at the midyear meeting for the order's state deputies, who are the high-



Members of the Knights of Columbus receive rosaries Jan. 1, 2020, as part of the organization's new ceremony that is designed to condense the Knights of Columbus' three degrees into one. In addition, the ceremony is now conducted in public instead of in a secret, members-only occasion.

— CNS photo/courtesy Joe Cullen

est official in each jurisdiction. He said the ceremony "stays true to our traditions while addressing the needs of our times."

The fourth-degree ceremony will remain unchanged and will continue to be open to members only.

"Secrecy has to be understood in the context of the 19th century," Anderson said. "There was incredible bigotry against Catholics," with the anti-Catholic Know-Nothings in control politically in New England at the time, and the Ku Klux Klan later became a powerful political force across the country, he said. "There was some appeal to secrecy."

Also at the time, the idea of progressing through the

degrees as a journey toward Knighthood was popular.

But today, those features have proved to be an impediment to men joining, particularly young men, Anderson said.

The new single ceremony takes about 30 minutes, Anderson said.

By opening the ceremony to the public, "families and friends can see what we're all about and hopefully decide I or my brother or my husband should join," Anderson said.

The new degree ceremony pulls from the three previous ceremonies to pass along the organization's history and the importance of the principles rooted in the organization.

"We need to impress on the members the importance of charity, unity, fraternity, how they are linked, and how in Father McGivney's vision of Christian discipleship ... charity, unity and fraternity become a path of discipleship for the Catholic man," Anderson said.

A ceremony that focuses on the three principles enhances the Knights involvement in the Church's work of evangelization, Anderson explained.

"I think its central," he said. The order's principles "are really at the core of Catholic life, and (the new ceremony) makes it clear we have a responsibility and the responsibility extends into the whole person, the

spiritual dimension, the fraternal dimension, and the financial dimension."

The script for the new degree calls for the ceremony to be conducted in a Church or similarly appropriate location, with a priest or deacon participating. The expectation is that the new ceremony can be held after a Mass when the congregation can be invited to stay and watch.

"It's an exciting development for the Knights of Columbus," said Michael McCusker, the state deputy of Tennessee. "How many times do we go home from degrees with our hearts on fire and we had a desperate need to share it with our

families, but we couldn't? To me that's akin to putting your light under a bushel."

"What I also like is it removes the struggle of getting a man to go through all three separate degrees," said McCusker, a member of Council 9317 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cordova, in suburban Memphis, Tennessee. "I like that they go, they and their families see what they're involved in, and the minute they leave, they're full members of the Knights of Columbus."

The script for the new ceremony was made available to all councils Jan. 15. It was left to each state deputy to decide how and when the new ceremony will be rolled out in their jurisdiction. The Connecticut State Council used the new ceremony for the first time Jan. 1 at St. Mary Church in New Haven, Connecticut, the birthplace of the order.

Fifty-two candidates from Connecticut councils participated in the new ceremony. About 200 people attended, including Anderson.

"They had a very large turnout and it was very well received," Anderson said. "That's been our experience across the country."

Telli is managing editor of the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.

USCCB: Israelis, Palestinians must talk to get Mideast peace

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

President Donald Trump's proposed Mideast peace plan deserves "serious consideration," but "the Israelis and the Palestinians are the only ones who can resolve the differences and agree on a common resolution to the chronic impasse," said a representative of the U.S. bishops.

"While acknowledging the significant role the United States plays, these principals must negotiate directly with each other with the support of the international community, that they may find a fair compromise, which takes into account the legitimate aspirations of the two peoples," said a letter from Bishop David J. Malloy, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on International Justice and Peace.

The letter, dated Feb. 3, reiterated the U.S. bishops' and Vatican support for a two-state solution to the issues in the Holy Land.

"Intrinsic to a fruitful discussion is the necessity that each state recognizes and supports the legitimacy of each other," it said. "The future peace and flourishing of life in the Holy Land depend on such a mutual recognition that calls for concrete steps in mutual counsel and collaboration, before the fundamental agreements can be achieved."

The United States and others who want to help "must do so as contributors to strengthen bilateral agreement between the two principal entities. As such, we are concerned 'Peace to Prosperity' makes propositions without these requisite conditions being met," it said, referring to the plan.

When it was released in late January, Catholic leaders in the Middle East said the plan endorsed "almost all" the demands and the political agenda of the Israelis while ignoring the demands of the Palestinian side. They called it a "unilateral initiative" that did not give "dignity and rights" to the Palestinians.

The Local Youth page will return next issue.

Solomon builds a temple for the ark

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

When King David moved to Jerusalem, he had the ark of God brought to the city.

The ark was housed in a tent, as it had been when Moses and the Israelites were wandering in the desert.

But David thought the ark should be housed in a much better dwelling and wanted to build a temple for it.

God had other plans, however, so He told the prophet Nathan to give David a message about the ark.

“When your days have been completed and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you ... and I will establish his kingdom,” God said in his message to David. “He it is who shall build a house for My name, and I will establish his royal throne



forever.”

God was referring to David’s son, Solomon. After becoming king, Solomon began preparing the materials that would be needed to build a temple for the ark.

The actual construction of

the Temple began in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign, which also was the 480th year since God had freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

As the Temple’s construction was nearing completion, the word of God came to Solomon.

“As to this house you are building — if you walk in My statutes, carry out My ordinances, and observe all My commands, walking in them, I will fulfill toward you My word which I spoke to David your father. I will dwell in the midst of the Israelites and will not forsake My people Israel,” God told the king.

When the Temple was finished, the priests took up the ark and began moving it to its new dwelling. As the ark was being moved, King Solomon and the entire community of Israel gathered before it and made many sacrifices.

The ark was carried to the

inner sanctuary of the Temple. Then the glory of God, in the form of a cloud, filled the Temple.

“The Lord intends to dwell in the dark cloud; I have truly built You a princely house, a dwelling where You may abide forever,” King Solomon said.

The king then turned and blessed the whole assembly of Israel.

Read more about it... 2 Samuel & 1 Kings

1. Whom did God want to build a temple for the ark?

2. Where was the ark housed when it was first brought to Jerusalem?

Bible Accent

What was the ark of God, and what was in it?

In Exodus 25, we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to talk to God. God told Moses that He wanted a sanctuary made for Him so He could dwell in the people’s midst.

For 40 days and nights, God gave Moses detailed instructions about building the sanctuary and creating everything that was to be in it.

One of the items that was to be in the sanctuary was an

ark made of acacia wood and plated inside and out with pure gold. God told Moses to make the ark 2 1/2 cubits long, 1 1/2 cubits wide and 1 1/2 cubits high. In modern-day units of measure, that was about 3 3/4 feet long, 2 1/4 feet wide and 2 1/4 feet high.

The ark was to be carried using gold-plated acacia poles that would go through gold rings attached to the ark’s sides. The poles were to remain in the rings and never be removed.

A cover of pure gold also was to be made for the ark, and two cherubim of beaten gold were to be placed on each end of the cover. The wings of the cherubim were to spread out and shelter the cover.

God also told Moses to place something special in the ark: the stone tablets on which God wrote down the Ten Commandments, His covenant with the Israelites.

That is why the ark of God is oftentimes referred to as the ark of the covenant.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, put a T next to the sentences about Solomon’s life that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.



___ 1. Solomon asked God for riches and a long life. (1 Kings 3:7-9)

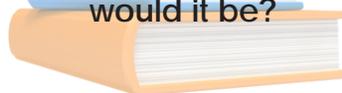
___ 2. Solomon decided which woman was the mother of a baby. (1 Kings 3:27)

___ 3. The Queen of Nineveh came to test Solomon. (1 Kings 10:1)

___ 4. All of his life, Solomon followed only God. (1 Kings 11:4)

Essay

God said that he would grant Solomon anything he wanted. If you could ask God for anything, what would it be?



Saint Spotlight

St. Francis-Regis Clet was born in France in 1748. When he was 21, he joined the Lazarists and taught theology and served as a novice master. In 1791, he realized his dream of becoming a missionary in the Far East, serving in China for 30 years. In 1818, all foreign missionaries in China were persecuted. Francis-Regis evaded arrest for a time but was eventually caught. He was imprisoned and tortured, and he was killed in 1820. We remember him on Feb. 17.




Answers: 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. F



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Author explores literature from Homer to Tolkien

Literature: What Every Catholic Should Know, by Joseph Pearce. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2019). 210 pp., \$16.95.

Reviewed by Patrick Brown
Catholic News Service

Every day, television headlines are more tiring, the social media scrolling more soulless and popular culture continues its pursuit of “relevance” over actual meaning.

It might be time to sink your teeth into written works that actually sought to plumb the depths of humanity and have withstood the test of time.

But like walking into a supermarket on an empty stomach, resolving to read more classic literature can end up in the parlous of a paradox of choice —

with so many classic works to choose from, what to prioritize?

What kinds of works might be right for a given state in life? Where to even begin? Flipping on the latest streaming sitcom starts to sound like the path of least resistance.

But like Virgil leading Dante, Joseph Pearce, in *Literature: What Every Catholic Should Know*, offers a concise guide to thousands of years of stories that have enriched countless lives.

Starting with the ancients and leaving off in the mid-20th century, Pearce, editor of the *St. Austin Review*, aims to whet your appetite with short introductions to the tales his book's subtitle claims that “every Catholic should know.”

The book offers a Cook's tour

through pre-Christian epics, a full-throated defense of Dante's *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*, a helpful take on dystopian fiction and St. Thomas More, and rightfully effusive praise for the insights of Jane Austen.

Literature becomes especially rich when Pearce gets to 19th- and 20th-century figures. Each short chapter in Pearce's 200-page volume tackles an author or an era, situating the work in a historical context and offering some lenses for interpretation (with no alerts for the spoiler-averse).

After the text, an appendix will spur dozens of friendly arguments. One hundred works of literature, from Homer to J.R.R. Tolkien, begging to be hashed over and pinned on fridges, suggested to bored teenagers and set as goals by ambitious retirees.

Pearce's list displays a distinct Anglophilia. Devoting 13 slots to Shakespeare may be forgiven because, well, the Bard is the Bard. But he also selects seven works of C.S. Lewis, four by G.K. Chesterton, four by Charles Dickens, three by Robert Hugh Benson, and another three by the lesser-known Maurice Baring — that's one-fifth of his list of 100 devoted to just five English writers who span just about a century.

Despite a considerate treatment of Mark Twain's *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* and calling *Moby Dick* a “*de profundis*” work in the book itself, they somehow do not merit in-

Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Dolittle (PG)
Playmobil: The Movie (PG)



Adults

1917 (R)
Dark Waters (PG-13)
Jojo Rabbit (PG-13)
Jumanji: the Next Level (PG-13)
Marriage Story (R)
The Two Popes (PG-13)
The Turning (PG-13)
Underwater (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Parasite (R)



Morally Offensive

The Gentlemen (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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clusion in the final roll call.

These are, of course, the kind of debates any such list is meant to inspire, just as bargainers debate the furthest home run they ever witnessed. But a flaw in his treatment of fiction's moral ambiguities is the biggest weakness of the book.

Take Graham Greene, the writer whose complex antiheroes and willingness to paint in shades of “black and gray” contrast with Pearce's evident affinity for more black-and-white tales of moral heroism, like Benson's *Come Rack! Come Rope!*

Readers who prefer tales of straightforward, Christ-like simplicity will, perhaps, appreciate Pearce's disproportionate focus on those stories. But the appeal in novels like Greene's lies in their understanding of the complexity of human action, the inability to turn off the small, still voice of conscience, and the insight that, as Fyodor Dostoevsky put it, “the line between good and evil runs through every human heart.”

There are many non-Catholic books by non-Catholic writers that uncover deep truths about man's relationship to God, the divine, and his fel-

low man, but Pearce's approach tends to discount them.

Despite occasional forays into a kind of paternalism, *Literature* shines when it allows Pearce to show off his erudition as well as his obvious affection for the writers he knows best.

His favorites aren't hard to spot, and tend to be figures he's profiled in other books: Shakespeare, Chesterton, Tolkien (with six references in the first 11 pages), Oscar Wilde, Hilaire Belloc and Dante.

When, in contrast to the usual brief sketches, he spends a generous five pages on Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, you sense Pearce come alive with excitement about the book he calls “arguably the finest novel of the 20th century.” His treatment of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy is similarly passionate.

Those moments in the book conjure up a warm hearth, a stiff beverage, and a friendly argument about which stories worth most telling — the kind of conversations this book is meant to inspire, and that are improved by having a friendly, well-read guide like Pearce.

Brown writes from Columbia, South Carolina.

WASHINGTON

From page 19

“Walk with them”

This Washington pilgrimage was a turning point for Tolton Catholic senior Mason Serio.

She had been put off by the toxic rhetoric she had seen on social media from both sides of the abortion debate.

“It’s hard for young people to make a decision when there’s so much harshness and finger-pointing,” she said.

On the pilgrimage, she found the emphasis on changing hearts, rather than laws and policies, to be refreshing. She was drawn to the idea of helping women who have had an abortion and are looking for healing.

“They need to know that there are people who do really want to care for them, who want to walk with them to Christ,” she said.

Miss Serio asked for prayers for better understanding among people on both sides of the abortion divide.

“I think people really need to focus on understanding each other,” she said.

“Maybe I can help”

Tolton Catholic senior Haley Kartheiser was amazed to see people from many backgrounds and faith traditions marching in unity for a noble cause.

“I’ve prayed two Rosaries while walking through the March, for all the people who don’t feel the way we do about this,” she said. “Even if

I can’t change their heart, I pray that God will do that, and maybe I can help Him.”

She talked about how listening with an open heart to people with different points of view helped her decide to become Catholic in 2017.

She hopes that same spirit of openness and dialogue, with God’s help, will help more people become pro-life.

“We need to be praying for all mothers,” she said. “To be a mother is an amazing thing, and I don’t think mothers always get credit for everything they do.”

Hearing Mrs. Durbin’s story about helping pregnant women in crisis brought her to tears.

“It just touched my heart, what they’ve been able to do to help people,” said Miss Kartheiser. “I know I can help others, and that’s what I want to do.”

Miss Cross said the March is an occasion to thank women who overcome the difficulties of a seemingly ill-timed pregnancy.

She believes individuals and society need to do better at helping and encouraging women who are pregnant, regardless of their circumstances.

“We need to open our arms more,” she said.

“I hope that one day, we can stop abortion by standing together with these women and holding them up in their time of need,” she stated.

Contributing to this report was Mark Pattison of Catholic News Service.

HENTGES

From page 6

he said. “He loves you. He is your Heavenly Father and your best friend.”

Hale realized a long time ago that because his life revolves so much about football, he had to be intentional about setting aside time for God every day.

“My day starts with God and ends with God, and throughout the day, He wants to hear from me,” said Hale.

It begins the minute he wakes up in the morning.

“The first thing I do is get on my knees for a few minutes and just thank God for letting me wake up and for this new day and for giving me another breath of life,” he said.

He encouraged the young people to spend some time greeting the Lord in the morning before even checking their phone.

“If you start your day like that, your day is gonna’ be great,” he said. “You’re gonna’ be happier and have more energy. You’re gonna’ realize that this day is a gift and that God is in control every aspect of it. He won’t let you down.”

Hale spends his 15- to 20-minute commute to work in silent prayer and reflection or listening to a Catholic podcast.

He sets the alarm on his cell phone to remind him several times a day to stop and commune with God.

Quick prayers — “Jesus, I trust in You,” “God, I love You,” “Jesus, please help me” — turn ordinary tasks into acts of prayer.

When he’s on the field, he offers a silent prayer before the beginning of each play.

“That alone is powerful,” he said. “That’s probably 40 to 50 times in a three-hour period. I would encourage you to stop and offer a quick prayer like that throughout your day.”

He suggested that the young people stop and pray every time they log onto Instagram, Ticktock or other social media.

Before bed, he and his wife talk about their day and then offer a prayer of thanks together.

“Instead of it being just us two, it’s us three,” he said.

Be men of God

Hale pointed out that God might be calling one, two, three or more young men in the I.C. School’s eighth-grade class to be priests.

Most of the rest will be called to marriage.

Hale said the interactions they have with women today will set the tone for the kind of husbands and fathers they may become.

He urged them to be thoughtful and respectful and to start praying for their future wives if marriage is what God has in mind for them.

“If you’re being called to marriage, that means your wife is out there somewhere,” he said. “When you date someone, know that she is probably someone else’s future wife, so treat her the way you hope guys are treating the woman you will marry some day.”

He stated flatly that online pornography is a tremendous temptation for young men, especially since it is so readily available.

“It is the No. 1 way the devil tries to take young men from

Daily Readings

Sunday, Feb 9

FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
Is. 58:7-10
Ps. 112:4-9
1 Cor. 2:1-5
Mt. 5:13-16

Monday, Feb 10

St. Scholastica, virgin
1 Kgs. 8:1-7, 9-13
Ps. 132:6-10
Mk. 6:53-56

Tuesday, Feb 11

1 Kgs. 8:22-23, 27-30
Ps. 84:3-5, 10-11
Mk. 7:1-13

Wednesday, Feb 12

1 Kgs. 10:1-10
Ps. 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40
Mk. 7:14-23

Thursday, Feb 13

1 Kgs. 11:4-13
Ps. 106:3-4, 35-37, 40
Mk. 7:24-30

Friday, Feb 14

Ss. Cyril, monk, and Methodius,
bishop
1 Kgs. 11:29-32; 12:19
Ps. 81:10-15
Mk. 7:31-37

Saturday, Feb 15

1 Kgs. 12:23-32; 13:33-34
Ps. 106:6-7ab, 19-22
Mk. 8:1-10

Sunday, Feb 16

SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
Sir. 15:15-20
Ps. 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
1 Cor. 2:6-10
Mt. 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28,
33-34a, 37

Monday, Feb 17

Jas. 1:1-11
Ps. 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76
Mk. 8:11-13

Tuesday, Feb 18

Jas. 1:12-18
Ps. 94:12-15, 18-19
Mk. 8:14-21

Wednesday, Feb 19

Jas. 1:19-27
Ps. 15:2-5
Mk. 8:22-26

Thursday, Feb 20

Jas. 2:1-9
Ps. 34:2-7
Mk. 8:27-33

Friday, Feb 21

Jas. 2:14-24, 26
Ps. 112:1-6
Mk. 8:34-9:1

Saturday, Feb 22

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER
THE APOSTLE
1 Pt. 5:1-4
Ps. 23:1-6
Mt. 16:13-19

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.

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God,” said Hale. “It’s something you’re all going to be tempted with.

“If you are caught up in watching pornography, it’s not too late,” he said. “You can stop. God wants to call you back to respecting women.”

“You can do it”

Hale said he’s already been on a heck of a journey, “and God has been with us through the whole process.”

He’s hopefully just getting started, and so are the young people he was speaking to.

“Whatever you guys want

to accomplish, with God and hard work, you can do it,” he said.

He urged them to keep going to Mass and receiving the Body and Blood of Christ often and making the best use of the sacraments that are readily available to them in a Catholic school.

He reminded them that how they treat the other people in their lives makes a big difference.

“We’re all members of God’s Divine Body. How you treat the least is how you treat the greatest,” he said.

Cursillo Grand Reunion in Columbia: Making a Leap of Faith

DATE: February 29
TIME: 10 am - 4 pm

A Grand Reunion of all Cursillistas will be held on Sat-

urday, Feb. 29, in Columbia.

It will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, 3351 E. Gans Road.

It will be a day of enrichment inspired by Bishop Rob-

ert Barron's book, *Letter to a Suffering Church*.

The theme will be "Making a Leap of Faith." All Cursillistas throughout the diocese are encouraged to attend.

Video presentations will in-

clude Bishop Barron and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, who will speak on the theme, "Now is the Time for Cursillo to Stand Up."

Father Matthew Flatley, diocesan moderator for adult faith formation, will give the keynote.

Ray Hentges, Father Gregory Oligschlaeger and a Hispanic representative will discuss "celebrating Cursillos past, present and future."

There will also be 30-minute break-out sessions on various topics.

Fr. Flatley will offer the closing Mass, which will fulfill the weekend obligation, at 3 p.m.

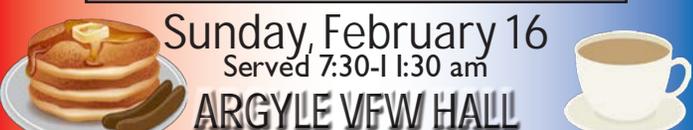
A \$10-per-person donation is recommended.

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share at the potluck lunch.

Copies of Bishop Barron's book will be available for sale.

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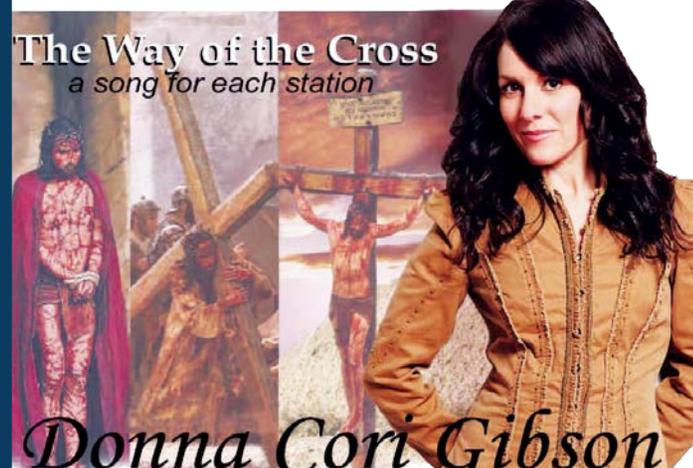
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Marshall Mission

Dominican Father Michail Ford, associate pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia, will lead a Feb. 22-25 parish mission for St. Peter parish in Marshall.

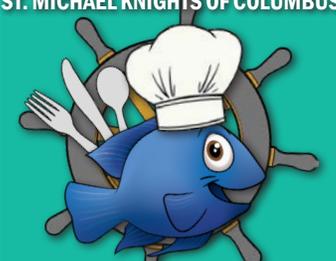
Fr. Ford will preach the homily at all Sunday Masses the weekend of Feb. 22-23 in St. Peter Church, 1801 S. Miami Ave.

He will lead a period of reflection at 7 p.m. on Sunday through Tuesday of that week.

He will focus on a fruitful observance of Lent.

RUSSELLVILLE

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