

“In her sandals”

About 300 women from throughout the diocese learn about growing in their relationship with Christ, embracing their gifts and using them to help bring healing to the world.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

March 20, 2020 • Vol. 63 No. 19

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

A shared milestone for those seeking to be Catholic



Many from near and far gathered for Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

See related articles on Pages 10-11

By Jay Nies

“It’s overwhelming sometimes — God’s love and compassion for us and how He fights for us to come back to Him.”

Amanda Cheely stood in the undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, trying to process everything she was experiencing.

“God told me I had to be here today,” she said. “I couldn’t tell you why, I just know I have to be here.”

Her grandfather, who died two years ago, was a Catholic immigrant from Ireland. He and his family settled in a community that had no Catholic church, so they became members of a local Protestant congregation.

“So I’ve always had Catholic roots, and now it’s time to go home,” said Ms. Cheely.

She is one of 117 catechumens, 94 candidates and 27 uncatechized Catholics who joined Bishop W. Shawn McKnight at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on March 1, the First Sunday of Lent, as part of their preparation for Easter sacraments of initiation.

At the Easter Vigil in their home parishes, the catechumens hope to be baptized, and they and the candidates hope to be confirmed and receive their First Holy Communion.

“I just feel so joyful,” said Ms. Cheely, a candidate from Holy Rosary parish in Monroe City. “This has been the most awesome experience, to come in here and feel His presence and to see

See INITIATION, page 19

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight places his signature on the Book of the Elect, containing the names of all the people in the diocese who are seeking baptism at Easter through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Known as catechumens, they and their godparents were gathered in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph the afternoon of the First Sunday of Lent.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Bishop McKnight: Responding, in mercy and charity, to the COVID-19 pandemic

“Our mission as Church continues, even as we alter our normal activities for the sake of the common good.”

Public Masses in diocese suspended until further notice; other gatherings on hold; students at home at least until April 6

Parishes urged to organize response teams to help people whose health, work and livelihoods are affected

See related articles on Pages 2-4 and 22

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City addressed the following message to the people of the diocese, regarding the response of the Church in this diocese to the current and potential effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19):

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic grows, I ask the people of the Diocese of Jefferson City to join me in praying for those who are ill, their loved ones, the healthcare professionals and all who are working tirelessly to mitigate the terrible suffering caused by the coronavirus.

Our mission as Church continues, even as we alter our normal activities for the sake of the common good.

Nonetheless, in keeping with the federal directives and other public entities in our area, all public Masses will be suspended in the Diocese of Jefferson City until at least April 3.

We offer this decision as part of our effort to help stem the spread of the coronavirus.

See CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE, page 16

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MOVING? If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or email changes to dbarnes@diojeffcity.org. Allow two weeks.

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03/20/20

Pray for deceased priests

Mar. 27 — **Fr. Patrick L. Pierceall**, St. Joseph, Palmyra (2016)

Mar. 31 — **Fr. Joseph G. Lawlor**, Missionary Service, Peru (2011)

PRINCIPAL POSITION

Immaculate Conception School in Montgomery City, Mo. is seeking applications for the 2020-2021 school year for a Principal. For information, contact Fr. Austin Okoli at 573-564-2375 or imm-con@sbcglobal.net.

Principal Opening — Tipton, Mo.

St. Andrew School, located in Tipton, Mo., is seeking a Principal for the 2020-2021 school year. Current K-8 enrollment is 87 students. The position will also include part-time teaching responsibilities. Applicants must be willing to work closely with the pastor. The qualified candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, have at least 3 years teaching experience, and a Master's Degree in Education with a Principal's Certificate or working toward it. Applicants should file an application with the Diocese of Jefferson City at www.diojeffcity.org and send a letter of interest to Fr. Alex Gabriel at algabri567@gmail.com.

PRINCIPAL POSITION - WESTPHALIA

St. Joseph parish in Westphalia, Mo., is looking for a faith-filled teaching Principal with proven leadership skills for the 2020-2021 school year. St. Joseph School is an accredited elementary school, K-8th grade, with 188 students. Qualified candidates must be a practicing Catholic with an Administrative certification, or the ability to become certified. Candidates must have a minimum of 5 years teaching experience; Catholic school experience preferred.

St. Joseph School has a vibrant tradition with strong parent involvement. It is located in historic Westphalia, which is approximately 20 minutes southeast of Jefferson City.

Applicants should file an application with the Diocese of Jefferson City at www.diojeffcity.org and send a letter of interest to Fr. Anthony Viviano at pastor@stjosephwestphalia.org.

Westphalia Senior Citizens Complex

A Not-For-Profit Corporation offering comfortable, affordable housing to independent seniors, disabled, and low- to moderate-income individuals. Located in the heart of Westphalia, the one-bedroom apartments are within walking distance of St. Joseph Church.

Contact **B.J. Rodeman** at 573-864-5193 for more information about renting a unit or being added to the waiting list.

**Stay up to date on the latest developments.
Access an array of helpful resources.
Follow "Diocese of Jefferson City" on Facebook and Twitter.
Visit diojeffcity.org and cathmo.com.**

Public Masses, gatherings in diocese suspended at least until April 3

Churches to remain open for private prayer, devotion

Masses to be livestreamed; priests to remain available

Bishop calls for increased service to God and one another

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight announced March 17 that all public Masses will be suspended in the Diocese of Jefferson City, beginning on Wednesday, March 18 and until at least April 3.

This means all Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass in person.

Online opportunities are listed on the diocesan website, diojeffcity.org, and some parishes will be able to provide online Masses. Catholics are encouraged to check with their local parish regarding online Masses.

"This is in keeping with the federal directives and other public entities in our area. We offer this decision as part of our effort to help stem the spread of the coronavirus," Bishop McKnight stated. "I know you join me in concern for all who are being affected by the rapid spread of the coronavirus."

In addition, parishes have been instructed to make the following changes, beginning

The Catholic Missourian

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

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
Publisher

Helen Osman, Dir. of Diocesan Communications
hosman@diojeffcity.org

Jay Nies, Editor
editor@diojeffcity.org

Kelly Martin, Advertising
advertize@diojeffcity.org

THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN (ISSN 1083-6977 or USPS 556940), March 20, 2020, volume 63, number 18. Published monthly at 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109. Subscription price \$14 a year through parish plan. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo. and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Catholic Missourian, 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City MO 65109-0914.

March 18:

•All public gatherings, including public weddings, are cancelled or postponed. Confirmation Masses will be rescheduled to be celebrated after Easter Sunday.

•During this time, churches will remain open as places of prayer and comfort. Priests will be available in the parishes to offer Anointing of the Sick and other sacraments. Anyone going to the hospital is encouraged to seek the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick before so, if possible.

•Diocesan schools, which are suspending in-school instruction from March 18 to April 3, are providing ongoing instruction either online or packet-based, on a case-by-case basis.

•While diocesan offices and parish offices will remain open, some employees may work remotely or need to take leave to care for themselves or their families. Some parishes

may reduce office hours. Regardless, all diocesan and parish employees will continue to receive compensation.

Bishop McKnight urged all people to remain mindful of their responsibility to serve the community in terms of time, talent and treasure in this extraordinary hour of need.

"You may register your volunteer capacity on our website," he stated. "Parishes are organizing Disaster Responder Teams to serve those immediately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Please continue your tithes to your parishes by postal mail or online, if the parish offers that option."

The bishop stated his profound gratitude to all who are working tirelessly to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

"I pray the efforts we are doing, as a people of faith, will provide tangible support, encouragement and spiritual hope to our communities," he stated.

SSM Health offering free 'virtual visits' for COVID-19

SSM Health — the Catholic health system of which the St. Mary's Hospitals in Jefferson City and Mexico are a part — is offering a free Virtual Visit for individuals who are concerned they may be experiencing symptoms of, or been exposed to, Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Anyone who lives in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma or Wisconsin is eligible for the free evaluation, which can be accessed at ssmhealth.com/covid19.

The virtual visit begins with an online assessment of each patient's symptoms and potential exposure.

Next, the patient will be virtually connected with an SSM Health Medical Group provider for evaluation and care, as appropriate.

If testing is recommended, patients will be directed to the nearest testing facility.

SSM Health stated that these proactive steps ensure the continued safety of our patients, visitors, physicians, staff and communities.

SSM Health continues to work with federal, state and regional health authorities, as well as the Centers for Disease Control to actively monitor the situation and update its emergency preparedness plans and protocols, as appropriate.

For information, visit ssmhealth.com.

Childhood trauma counselor offers advice on reassuring children during coronavirus crisis

By Jay Nies

Adults want to keep children safe and healthy during the coronavirus outbreak, but it's also important to look after their emotional health.

"In many cases, we pass our anxiety along to our children," observed Nancy Hoey, a Catholic mother, licensed professional counselor and certified clinical trauma professional, who is a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City.

"Although the coronavirus is something to be concerned about," she stated, "it's important to remember that our adult brains can reconcile things differently than a child's, so we mustn't cause them extra worry."

She noted that children often look to their parents when figuring out how concerned or worried they should be about what's happening in the news.

"Like the toddler who falls when running — if mom looks afraid, they will likely begin to cry," she said.

The key is for parents and

other influential adults to properly validate children's worries without making them worse.

"Let's say Johnny comes home and tells you that a classmate told him we were all going to die from the virus, and now he is worried," she said. "Validate the emotion by saying, 'Wow! I would be worried if someone told me that too.'"

Then, Mrs. Hoey recommended, talk to the child in a way that is age-appropriate but also calm his or her fears: "Yes, there is a virus. There are also a lot of people confused about what that really means. Just like every cold and flu season, we are extra careful to wash our hands, eat our healthy foods, take our vitamins and cover our mouths when we sneeze or cough. When we do that, we stay really healthy."

Saying such things as "that's silly" or "that isn't something to worry about" doesn't stop

"Although the coronavirus is something to be concerned about, it's important to remember that our adult brains can reconcile things differently than a child's, so we mustn't cause them extra worry."

— Nancy Hoey, licensed counselor, clinical trauma professional

a child from worrying; it instead convinces the child to keep their worries to themselves.

Catholic schools closed until April 3

The 37 elementary and three high schools in the Diocese of Jefferson City will close March 18-April 3, in service to the common good and in collaboration with both state and local health care officials.

Principals have been provided with the following resources:

- To meet the educational needs of each student, each school is working towards providing either e-learning or packet-based instruction at the local level.

- All employees will continue to be paid without interruption.

- All extracurricular activities at the schools should be postponed/canceled, including athletics.

- Families and staff should be discouraged from travelling or hosting in-person gatherings of more than 50 people during this time.

Mrs. Hoey also recommended limiting children's exposure to media coverage and being mindful of how that

coverage may be affecting them. She encouraged parents to remain patient if children need to "talk it out."

Finally, she

urged adults to pray with children every day and include in those prayers all the people affected by the coronavirus.

For more information on what Catholic parishes and schools are doing in response

to the coronavirus pandemic, please visit diojeffcity.org/public-health.



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

MARCH

Mar. 26 Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee Meeting Conference Call, 10 am, Jefferson City

Mar. 30 Center for Applied Research on the Apostolate Board of Directors Conference Call, 11 am, Jefferson City

APRIL

Apr. 2 Chrism Mass, 5:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City (*not open to the public; to be live-streamed and recorded*)

Apr. 6 Missouri Bishops Province Meeting Conference Call, 8:30 am, Jefferson City; Missouri Catholic Conference Board of Directors Spring Meeting Conference Call, 9:15 am, Jefferson City

The following Triduum services will be live-streamed/recorded for the public:

Apr. 9 Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

Apr. 10 Good Friday Passion Service, 7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

Apr. 11 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

Apr. 12 Easter Sunday Mass, 8 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City



BETTER TOGETHER

What does co-responsibility of laity and clergy mean for your parish?

Throughout our diocese this Lent, people are meeting in small groups to break open the Word of God and study Church teachings. In these small groups, we will discern action for our parishes and our diocese to live our faith. Over four weeks, we will explore themes related to Bishop Shawn McKnight's vision for our diocese. Contact your parish to join a small group!



Bishop McKnight's March prayer intention for our Local Church

For the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and understanding as our local church discerns a new pastoral plan.

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

Por los dones de sabiduría, conocimiento y entendimiento durante el discernimiento del nuevo plan pastoral de nuestra iglesia local.

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



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Disaster Responder Teams seeking volunteers in all parishes

Bishop McKnight calls on young people especially to help their neighbors in need during health crisis

By Jay Nies

Now is a very acceptable time for God's people to spread His love and compassion to their neighbors during this health crisis.

Parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese are organizing Disaster Responder Teams to assist people who are being immediately affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight is especially calling upon to young people, who have been shown to be less susceptible to the virus, to offer their services in any way possible.

"One of the facts we know but don't fully understand is that the coronavirus has little impact upon youth but is very detrimental to those who are 60 or over," the bishop told young people in a March 14 homily in the cathedral. "Because of this fact, your Church will need you to step up to the plate to help the Church respond with caring for those in need."

He urged young people to ask their pastors, their deacons and pastoral ministers how they may be of best assistance, especially when many normal parish functions have to be

temporarily suspended.

"You might be needed to help check up on those who are elderly and live alone," Bishop McKnight suggested. "Maybe they could use help getting some groceries, having a prescription filled, or to run errands for them without compromising their health."

All volunteers will be required to follow local, state and federal public health officials' guidelines.

He said he could think of no better way right now for young people to take their rightful role in the life and mission of the Church.

"Instead of fretting about the pandemic, how about trusting in the Lord, listening to His voice, and responding with faith, hope and charity?" he asked.

Methodical approach

Toward that end, parishes are organizing Disaster Responder Teams to anticipate and address an array of situations that local Catholics and non-Catholics within their parish boundaries will likely experience.

The parishes are doing so with guidance from the diocesan Parish and Charitable Services Office and from Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCN-MO).

Laypeople in each parish will serve on a leadership team that will be responsible for the coordination of services within their parish territory.

With careful concern for the health and safety of all, they will plan for how to help the most vulnerable people in the short term during the coronavirus pandemic, especially the community transmission phase of the virus in the area.

Chief among those to be

Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Protection from the Coronavirus

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you"

took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows

to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

V. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

R. Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

kept in mind are "the lonely, the poor and the forgotten," according to Bishop McKnight.

The parish leadership teams will work with parish or local Church organizations that could help with an immediate charitable response.

They will collect names and contact information for individual volunteers who are willing to help.

They will identify basic needs for people affected by the virus or by any limited mobility associated with efforts to contain it.

Such needs may include transportation needs or delivery of food and medicine.

Each parish leadership team will formulate a plan to contact and offer support to people who are quarantined, self-isolating, or in need.

This could include families of healthcare professionals and those who are being called to work extra shifts.

Each team will also coordinate with any local non-Catholic organizations in order to minimize duplication of services.

Alive and well!

Volunteers can go online to diojeffcity.org/parish-disaster-responders-team-volunteer-form to fill out a simple, interactive form stating their contact information and how they are willing and able to assist.

Each application will be

sent to the volunteer's pastor and to the head of that parish's crisis response team.

"This is about how we can put our hands and hearts to work in this time of need," stated LeAnn Korsmeyer, diocesan director of parish and charitable services.

It all ties into efforts throughout the diocese to reinforce the understanding of parishes as centers of mercy and charity for all people.

"The Holy Spirit is working through our pastoral planning process, and Bishop McKnight's vision is coming to fruition faster than any of us could have imagined," she said.

People need to know that they needn't be Catholic in order to turn to the local Catholic parish for thoughtful and practical assistance.

"Whoever you are, you can contact your local Catholic church and inform them of your need and they will provide appropriate assistance within their means," said Mrs. Korsmeyer.

She pointed out that people are stepping forward to ask, "What can we do to help?"

Lauren Hildreth, coordinator for the JP2 Young Adult group in Jefferson City, heard Bishop McKnight's homily on March 14.

"She immediately touched base with the leadership team to coordinate efforts in her area," said Mrs. Korsmeyer.

The group, sponsored by Cathedral of St. Joseph parish, encourages young adults ages 18-35 to grow in their faith and be a positive witness of Christ in their community.

Father Joshua Duncan — who ministers at Cathedral of St. Joseph parish, Helias Catholic High School and in the diocesan Vocations Office, oversees the Frassati Fraternity, which is also sponsored by the Cathedral parish but is supported through male students at Helias.

He said that group is eager, willing and able to assist the community, as well.

God's great compassion

"These are the times that bring all of us together," said Mrs. Korsmeyer.

"And with a calm resolve," she continued, paraphrasing Pope Francis, "this is our time to be the Church living in the midst of her people."

In a letter to the faithful of the diocese, Bishop McKnight pointed out that efforts such as these take on increased significance in this penitential season leading up to Easter.

"Many people's lives are being disrupted by the coronavirus and our attempts to stop its rapid spread," the bishop noted. "In this season of Lent, let us increase our prayers, fasting and almsgiving, so that God's great compassion and love may be a source of hope and consolation for all."

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Pastor's Pen: What gets revealed

By Father William Peckman

If this pandemic does anything, I hope it reminds us of our better selves, encourages us to look beyond all of the asinine divisions we've cultivated,

encourages us to look out for our at-risk and forgotten, and kills the narcissism that so defines our culture.

Maybe it will remind us that the God whose protecting

hand we have shoved away in favor of our legion of idols is the God we need after all.

I have heard another priest call this a mini-apocalypse,

with the understanding that "apocalypse" means "unveiling." Let's see what gets unveiled.

This pandemic will force us

to come together as one or die in our division.

Fr. Peckman is pastor of St. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville and St. Joseph parish in Fayette.

**Stay connected with the diocese:
diojeffcity.org**

<p>Please remember making a gift to your local parish or school in your will as a way of expressing your final act of stewardship for what God has given you throughout your lifetime.</p> <p>Have you already remembered your parish or school in your estate plans? Please let us know!</p>	 <p>Planned Giving LEAVING A LEGACY</p> <p>Jake Seifert Director of Development 573-635-9127 x-227 development@diojeffcity.org</p> <p>DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY 2207 W Main PO Box 104900 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900 diojeffcity.org</p>
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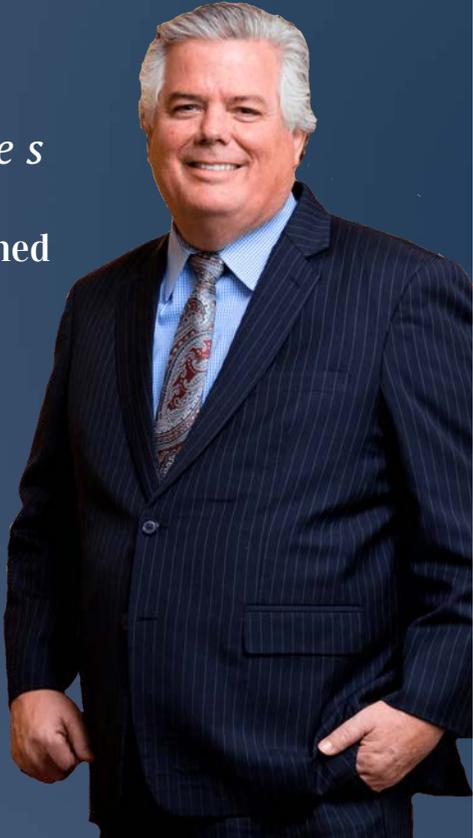
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Nicaragua Water Crisis: A Desperate Cry for Water

While visiting the village of Pedregal, outside of Chinandega, Nicaragua, we encountered a man named Jackson. Every day, Jackson would go to Chinandega to work as a tricycle taxi operator. As he made his way around town, he would see clean water gushing from hoses and open faucets. He would see full water glasses on café tables too. But in the evening, when Jackson returned home, he and his family faced an entirely different reality. Jackson could provide his household with only filthy water from a shallow well, and his children would often miss school because of the waterborne diseases they contracted from drinking it.

Obviously, Jackson was frustrated by the stark contrast between his situation and that of families in the city, and it pained him that his children did not have regular access to clean, safe water.

“We have no other choice,” was all Jackson could say — and, tragically, his situation is common in rural Nicaragua. There, in the poorer communities, thousands of households must rely on repugnant water sources just to survive.

In Nicaragua, nearly one-third of the rural population still lives without access to improved water sources. Poor families do not have plumbing in their homes, so they fill their buckets several times a day from murky streams and shallow, hand-dug wells. Visible insects and debris often float in the water, and even if it appears clean, it is densely polluted by pesticide-laden runoff from local farms, as well as animal waste, insects and parasites. A lack of proper sanitation only compounds this issue — rural households often have crude latrines, which leak into one another and further contaminate the water source.

Because of this pollution, the country is considered a high risk for waterborne diseases such as hepatitis A and typhoid fever. Collecting water at open sources also leaves villagers vulnerable to mosquitoes, which carry dengue fever, Zika virus and chikungunya. High fevers,

stomach pains and kidney problems persist as common issues for many poor families, and diarrheal diseases remain a leading cause of death for children under 5.

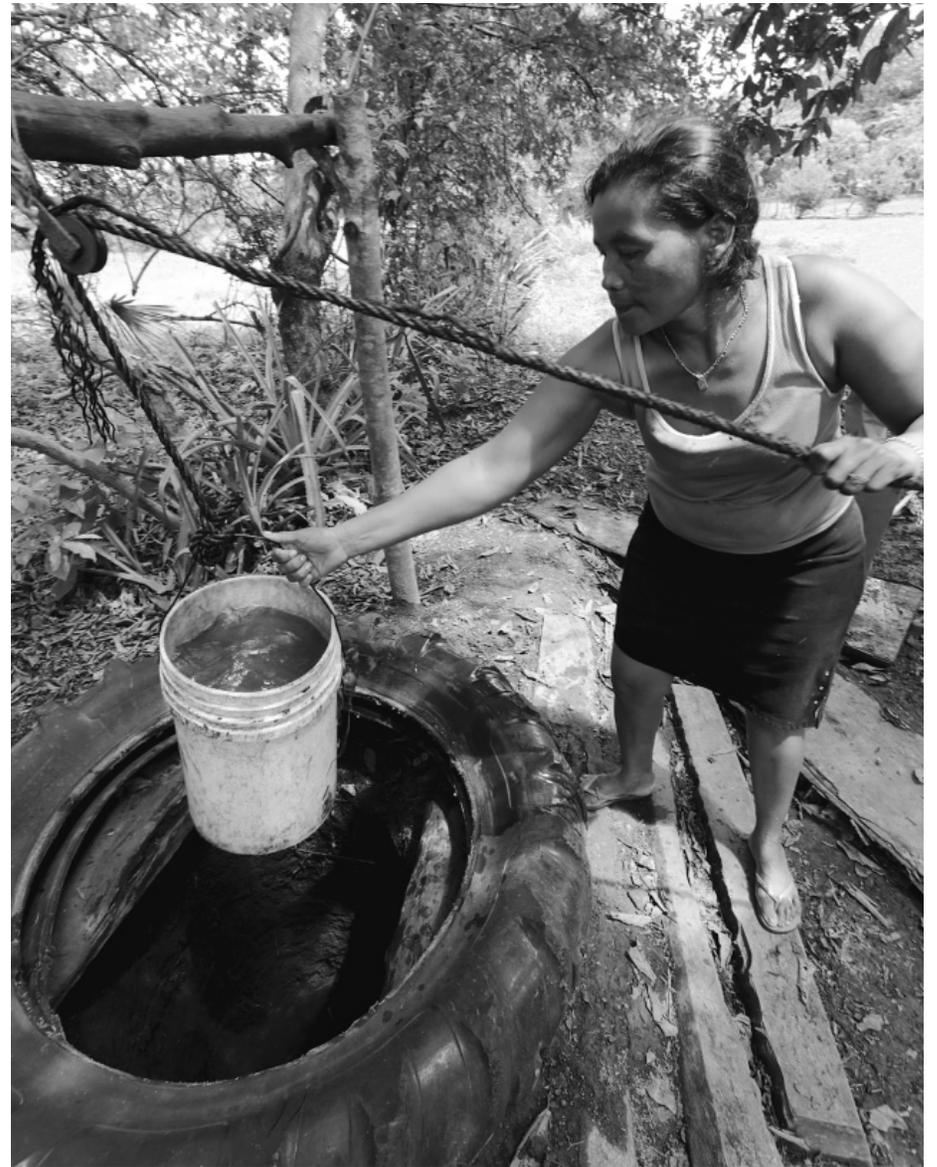
Making matters worse, few rural families have access to hospitals and medical clinics and may not be able to receive necessary care when they are sick. And even if they are able to reach a doctor, they may not be able to afford the prescribed medication. Some sick and hurting people will trudge several miles to the nearest medical outpost, only to turn around and come home empty-handed.

We could attempt to provide the poor with medications and quick-fix solutions, but that would only put a bandage on a much more serious issue. The best way that we can help suffering families is by preventing the life-threatening illnesses that so frequently plague them, addressing the root causes and ending the cycle of repeated disease. Our most surefire plan of action is to provide them with clean, safe water sources.

Cross Catholic Outreach partners with devoted ministries such as Amigos for Christ in order to deliver weary families from gastrointestinal problems and waterborne disease. Together, we are working to address Nicaragua’s water crisis by providing sustainable solutions for poor families.

For too long, families just like Jackson’s have had no choice but to knowingly consume contaminated water, cook with it, bathe with it and accept the consequences of survival. They have been forced to barter their health just to quench their thirst. But with our partners in the field and our compassionate Catholic donors, we can provide these families with long-awaited relief. By installing professionally drilled wells and thorough water filtration systems, we can pump safe water directly into poor households with the turn of a tap.

Your gift to end Nicaragua’s water crisis could mean the difference between life and



Many families must fetch contaminated water from distant rivers, stagnant ponds or antiquated, hand-dug wells.

death for those who are constantly battling one bout of illness after another, and it will vastly improve the quality of life for poor families. Students will be healthy enough to attend class and perform their very best. Parents will be free to focus on attending church, raising their children and engaging in income-generating activities.

As many beneficiaries have told us, “Water is life.” It changes everything and is a fundamental necessity for bringing about long-term community transformation. By giving water, you lay the foundation for building a bright future filled with strength

and blessing. Please join us in sharing this gift of life with families in need!

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach can use the brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01525, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write Monthly Mission Partner on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO). “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting

educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful response to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Haiti, El Salvador and areas of Belize impacted by natural disasters.”

Archbishop Thomas Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, supported this mission, writing: “It is a privilege for me to support Cross Catholic Outreach. This organization funds ministries to our neighbors in need in

Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Pacific. Through the generosity of so many, the love of God is made visible to many who are coping with the most difficult of daily living conditions.”

In addition to praising CCO’s accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that Pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel

Charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

“Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the Papal Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*.”

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

American Catholics Have Exciting Opportunities to Help Impoverished Areas With the Blessing of Safe Water

“Roughly 10 percent of the world’s population lives without ready access to clean water. As a result, about 500,000 children die every year from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation — that’s about 1,300 children a day. Worldwide, diarrheal diseases are the leading killers of children under the age of five.

“No one would deny the importance of water to sustain life, but few of us realize just how critical the need for this blessed resource has become in some parts of the developing world. It’s literally a matter of life and death.”

With his recent statement, Cross Catholic Outreach president Jim Cavnar put the stark statistics of UNICEF and the World Health Organization into terms every American Catholic can easily understand. A serious water crisis threatens the world’s poorest countries, and it should be a major concern to those of us who value the sanctity of life.

Thankfully, the Catholic Church is aware of this problem and has stepped forward to act on behalf of the poor, according to Cavnar.

“Priests and nuns serving in developing countries are identifying the areas of greatest need and are creating plans to help solve the problems,” he said. “All they lack is funding. If we can empower them with grants of aid and with other resources, amazing things can be accomplished.”

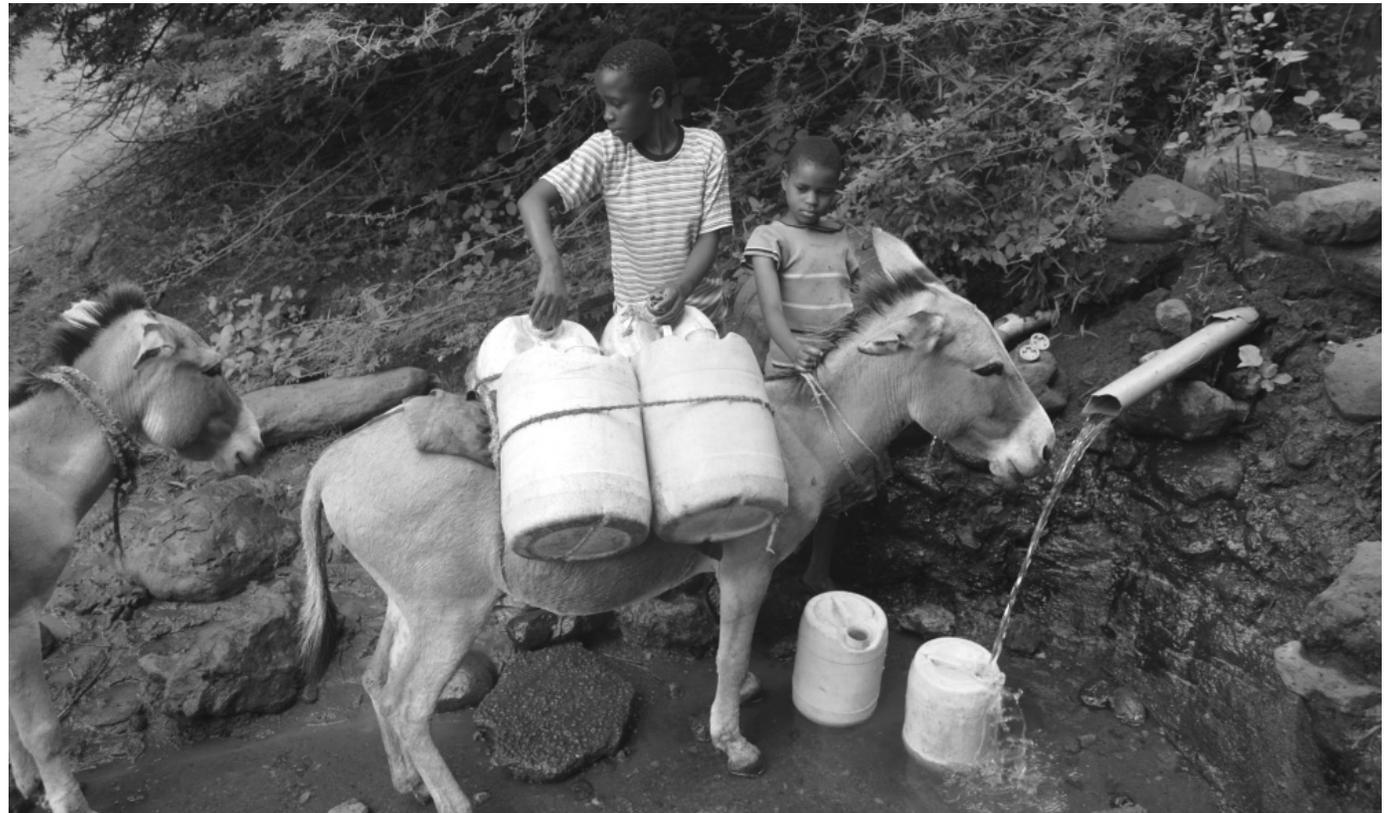
Cavnar’s own ministry, Cross Catholic Outreach, was launched in 2001 with this specific goal in mind. It rallies American Catholics to fund specific projects overseas, and many safe water initiatives have been successfully implemented as a result.

In one case, tapping a spring in Haiti allowed Cross Catholic Outreach to reduce infant mortality in a poor, remote part of the country.

“Catholic leaders in the village of Cerca reported children were dying at an alarming rate. If you visited, you could see the funeral processions carrying the tiny coffins. They discovered contaminated water was the problem, and they asked us to help find a solution. Working together, we were able to tap a spring and provide clean, safe water,” Cavnar explained.

Because every area’s water problem is different, Cross Catholic Outreach needs to be flexible. Over the years, its projects have included everything from digging wells to channeling water from springs to installing filtration systems to providing large holding tanks for purchased water. They also work worldwide and have done water projects in Africa, South and Central American countries, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

“This year, some of our biggest water projects are planned for Zambia, Kenya and



ABOVE: Children fill their water jugs from a contaminated spring in Kenya. In many areas of the developing world, the poor depend on contaminated water sources like this for their drinking water. BELOW: Children often miss school to collect water for their families. Catholic donors supporting Cross Catholic Outreach’s water projects can provide safe, abundant water to impoverished communities like these.

Guatemala,” Cavnar said. “Of course, our ability to take on that work will depend on getting contributions here in the U.S.”

Cavnar is clearly grateful to American Catholics who choose to support Cross Catholic Outreach’s work with their prayers and gifts, and he emphasizes their role often, describing them as the real heroes in every success story.

“Take the water project needed in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima, Guatemala, for example. Drilling for water wasn’t an option due to the terrain. So it’s an ambitious plan that will develop a complex water and distribution system to pump clean water to every home in a community currently relying on contaminated lakes and streams for survival. The Catholic priest in the area desperately needs it and its impact will be profound — but it takes outside funding to turn that dream into a reality. So, when our Catholic benefactors support a project like this, they are literally an answer to prayer.”

The same has been true in other important outreaches too. Over the years, Cross Catholic Outreach donors have built homes, schools and clinics — and have further blessed those outreaches with gifts to fund medicines, school supplies, teacher salaries and more.

“It is possible to bless people, save lives and transform communities,” Cavnar said. “It just takes concerned Catholics working together to achieve those goals.”



How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01525, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify a specific aid project with your gift, 100% of the proceeds will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



QUESTION CORNER

What is a good Catholic Bible? / Heaven happy with some missing?

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. My wife realized that my Bible is not Catholic when I could not locate the Book of Sirach in it. What is a good Catholic Bible, with a contemporary translation from Greek? (My ultimate preference would be a Catholic Bible with the Old Testament translated from Hebrew and the New Testament from the Greek — if such a thing exists.) (Albany, Oregon)

A. There are several translations of the sacred Scriptures that have been approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for devotional use and study by Catholics; any translation that bears an imprimatur may be used for those purposes.

But your best bet, I would think, is the 1986 edition of the *New American Bible*; that is the only translation approved for liturgical use at Masses in the United States, and so the wording would be familiar to you.

In his 1943 encyclical on Scripture study, *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, Pope Pius XII wrote: "Ought we to explain the original text which, having been written by the inspired author himself, has more authority and greater weight than any even the very best translation, whether ancient or modern."

The *New American Bible* follows that prescript: Composed over a period of 25 years by some 50 biblical scholars, it uses the original and oldest available texts of the sacred books — Hebrew for the Old Testament, Greek for the New Testament.

Q. I am a "cradle Catholic" of 75 years, now homebound. We are taught that if one follows the teachings of the Church, is a good person and dies in the state of grace, then that person will go to heaven. But suppose some close loved ones don't make it there? How can we be happy in heaven without them? I asked an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and the reply was, "Let's hope God in His mercy forgives them, too." But to me this seems to negate the existence of hell. Please help this confused Catholic. (Atlanta)

A. The question you pose has, I would suppose, challenged every reflective Christian for centuries. Various theories have been suggested. One is that hell exists only as a concept, not in reality, and that God will find a way to forgive everyone and bring them finally to heaven.

But to me that seems to conflict with Matthew 25, where Jesus pictures Himself at the final judgment separating the faithful from the unfaithful, casting some into "the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

Another suggestion is that our memories will fail us in eternity and that those who are lost will simply vanish from our minds. I'm not enthused about that theory either since it seems unlikely that, once our bodies are perfected in heaven, we will simply lose our minds. What I do feel certain about is that heaven will be better than we can ever imagine it.

In Revelation (21:4), we're told that God "will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." I also believe, along with St. Paul in 1 Corinthians (2:9), that "eye has not seen, and ear has not heard ... what God has prepared for those who love Him."

So I guess that my answer to your question is that I simply don't know — but that I'm not worried about it. It's one of those (many) things that I'll just have to let God figure out.

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



Papal Audience March 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on the Beatitudes, we now consider the fifth Beatitude: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). This is the only Beatitude where both its cause and effect coincide. This reciprocal nature of mercy can be seen not only here but wherever we encounter God's merciful love, for there is an inseparable link between mercy offered and mercy received.

In Matthew's Gospel we read: "Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us" (6:12). Both the Beatitude and the Lord's Prayer help us realize that we are essentially in debt to God and to others, constantly in need of forgiveness on account of our failures and sin. Recognizing our neediness, and seeking and receiving God's mercy, in turn strengthens us to forgive others, and points to the secret of mercy: it is in forgiving that we are forgiven.

Mercy is not one aspect among many, but is rather the very center of Christian life. As we thank God for His great gift of mercy, let us strive to share with our brothers and sisters this beautiful fruit of charity.

I greet the English-speaking faithful joining us through the media, as we continue on our Lenten journey towards Easter. Upon you and your families, I invoke the strength and peace that come from our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!



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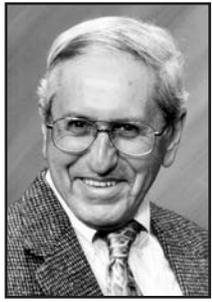


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Benefits of intermittent fasting, good counsel for the Lenten season

By Moises Sandoval
Catholic News Service



Just in time for Lent, *The New York Times* posts a persuasive article by personal health columnist Jane E. Brody on the benefits of intermittent fasting. She focused on research

by Mark P. Mattson, a neuroscientist at the National Institute on Aging, and his colleague, Rafael de Cabo. It seems like a win-win proposition, achieving a more svelte self while fulfilling Lent's counsel to fast during this holy season.

The researchers found benefits of intermittent fasting on "a wide range of chronic disorders, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and neurodegenerative brain diseases." Their review of both animal and human studies found

improvements in a variety of health indicators and a reversal or slowing of the aging and disease processes.

They said people trying to lose weight should strive for 16 calorie-free hours. My daughter Rose, an account executive in health insurance, told me she stops eating at 7 p.m., and does not eat again for 14 hours.

"It takes 10 to 12 hours to use the calories in the liver before a metabolic shift occurs to using stored fat," Mattson told Brody. "After meals, glucose is used for energy, but fat is stored in fat tissue, but during fasts, once glucose is depleted, fat is broken down and used for energy."

We Americans should need no persuasion about the health benefits; the National Center for Health Statistics estimates that in 2015-2016 in the U.S., 39.8% of adults 20 and over were obese. Another 31.8% were overweight. By 2030, projections show that one in two of us will be obese and one in four will

be severely obese. Overindulgence could well describe this age, not just in food but also alcohol, drugs and hallucinogens.

At the same time, 37 million Americans struggle with hunger, including 11 million children and 5.5 million people 60 and older, a number that has more than doubled since 2001.

Upon reflection, it seems that for our fasting to be of spiritual benefit, we must, to use an analogy from rocketry, burn out the stage of our self-concern before we can ignite the stage of our concern for others. Only then can those of us who eat too much help feed those who are hungry. Indeed, that transition must occur, for as Matthew's Gospel (Chapter 25) tells us, only the elect will hear on the last day: "I was hungry and you gave me to food."

We live at a time when we have a pill for everything. And to supplement all that, we have drugs, licit and illicit, to help us deal with our anxieties, depres-

sion and a host of other maladies. If we can't sleep, we take a pill. If we are depressed, there is a medication for us. One goes to the doctor and, more often than not, comes home with new prescriptions.

Yet, I marvel that the rituals and practices that have come down to us from the faith of our ancestors often have the remedies we need, without the side effects of drugs.

Because I often wake up at night and sometimes can't go back to sleep, I once asked my mother what she did when that happened to her. She said: "I pray the Rosary." I tried it, and it worked then and does now, many decades later. Similarly, the cure for many of our anxieties lie in meditation, solitude, prayer and stillness.

Henry David Thoreau wrote about his reveries: "For the most part, I minded not how the hours went. The day advanced as if to light some work of mine. ... I silently smiled at my incessant good fortune."

Lenten silence amid turmoil

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service



Here's how NASA's website reported a recent eruption: "The biggest explosion seen in the universe has been found."

The site went on to say: "This record-breaking, gargantuan eruption came from a black hole in a distant galaxy cluster hundreds of millions of light years away."

Fifteen Milky Way galaxies would fit into the crater, the scientists said.

I can't begin to explain what a black hole is. I was the kid in science class who had my head in a poetry book. But when you think about it, maybe poetry might explain this mystery as well as science can. The biggest explosion seen in the universe? That's God's poetry written on an unimaginable scale.

In the news on the same day was a very small thing. A dog nicknamed "Trooper" for the state police who found him is recovering after being discovered in western Nebraska covered with stab wounds. The picture of Trooper shows the most heart-melting, beseeching eyes you can imagine. People are lined up to adopt him. The poetry of God is there, too.

Lent is just a few days old as I write this. The news, if we let it, has been all-consuming. A threatening pandemic. Turmoil in the financial world. Students on foreign exchange trips being called home early. The climate crisis worsening. The news that Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, engaged in highly inappropriate sexual behavior with vulnerable women reminds us that heroes continue to fall.

And then, Lent. In a world where I hear about the biggest explosion in the universe coupled with Trooper's recovery all in one day says something profound to me about God. God is all-consuming. God is, as St. Ignatius insists, in all things. God loves on scales grand and small. God knows me and my simple soul intimately, yet God creates the biggest explosion seen in the universe.

It's not that we ignore the news of this world. But I contemplate how much more immense and yet more intimate God is than all the stuff that causes me anxiety in the middle of the night.

I entered Lent ill with a cold that kept me in the house, and often in bed, for a few days. In the midst of my misery, I felt oddly comforted. Just be quiet, God seemed to suggest. Lent is about finding silence and stillness. What's more important than accepting solitude, then giving in to doing nothing but making yourself available to grace?

Lent celebrates the immense poetry of Scripture. Isaiah never fails to confront us with what really matters for Lent. Forget the sackcloth and ashes, the fasting simply for the sake of self-righteousness, this prophet says.

"Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly ... setting free the oppressed ... sharing your bread with the hungry ... bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your home."

If we spent each day of Lent reading Isaiah 58:6-7 and probing how we are living it out in our lives, it would be enough.

"Your light shall break forth like the dawn," the prophet promises.

Lent is about seeking God in quiet, in Scripture, in the encounters with others each day. Lent asks us to be sacrificial, but our sacrifice should be used to help oth-

ers. Our "giving up" should always lead us to "giving."

And in the midst of trial and worry, we seek the intimacy of this powerful

and mysterious force we call God. Let Lent open us to grace, to see the big picture, even if it's impossible to imagine 15 Milky Ways.

REFLECTION

Finding joy in difference

By Mark Saucier

I was standing on a furrow of stripped leaves in a sugarcane field, waiting among the workers as they gathered for the five kilos of rice we were giving each of them.

Something tickled the side of my left leg. I assumed that it was a Filipino cousin to one our annoying pests that spontaneously appear when it is warm and wet.

Without looking, I used my right foot to scratch it. The irritation stopped momentarily, but then started again. I rubbed a second time, but again the itching resumed.

I looked down and saw a woman squatting next to me. She was one of the older workers, her graying hair framed by an old rag veil she wore to keep the cane from cutting her neck. Her face bore the marks of years of sun and suffering.

She didn't notice me watching as she touched the skin on my shorts-exposed leg. She nudged a worker sitting next to her and pointed as she held her hazel-colored hand next to the winter white of my leg.

She giggled, a low-key infectious laugh that quickly claimed her friend. Then she looked up and saw me watching her. She neither lost her sparsely-toothed smile nor pulled her hand away. She pointed once again to our contrasting pigmentation and gave another wave of laughter that soaked me, as well.

I was thinking, "Now I'm the one who is different — I'm the minority here." Then they called her name and she went up to get her rice. She returned, grabbed my hand, and said something I couldn't understand.

Then she picked up her machete and bent over her \$3-a-day job.

Still working on the hacienda where she was born, I wondered what she thought of these white people riding in a van, wearing shoes and dressed in nice clothes. People that borrowed their knives to awkwardly cut the cane and sit atop the water buffalo that hauled the stalks. People who took tons of pictures of the relentless, repetitive and repressive work of the field.

But those thoughts didn't appear to bother her. For her, it was enough to be amused by the difference, to be grateful for the gift, and to be joyful in the presence of the moment.

Psalm 133, begins, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live in unity." I don't know what that means today in our fractured world, but thanks to that woman, I know what it feels like.

RCIA: J.C. couple tying up shared links to Catholic Christianity

By Jay Nies

Someone standing next to Amy Earl looked out from the cathedral sanctuary at all the catechumens who were stepping forward with their godparents during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

"We're not the only ones!" stated the man, who like Mrs. Earl is seeking initiation into the Roman Catholic Church through Baptism.

Mrs. Earl always believed she had gotten baptized as a child, but she had only been dedicated.

"I didn't know there was a difference," said Mrs. Earl, a member of this year's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) class at Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City. "So I'm getting baptized, and so is my daughter! To share that moment with her is going to be really awesome."

Mrs. Earl and her husband Jeff grew up near St. Louis and met as students at Southeastern Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

They got married and moved to Jefferson City about eight years ago.

Their search for a pre-school for their daughter led them to Immaculate Conception School.

"We fell in love with Immaculate Conception," said Mr. Earl, who is a candidate for full communion in the Church. "It's been a great fit for our little girl. And I think that's pretty much where it

first started for me, looking into being Catholic."

Making time

Mr. and Mrs. Earl both grew up in actively devout families.

Mr. Earl's father, who died when Mr. Earl was 15, had been raised Catholic but joined another Christian community when he got married.

Mrs. Earl's mother had been Catholic but decided to raise her children in a nondenominational Christian faith tradition.

"The majority of my family is Catholic," she noted. "But Mom wanted us to choose the path we wanted to take."

She remembers attending a Catholic funeral as a child.

"That really stood out to me, all of the rituals and ancient traditions, even though I had no clue what any of it meant," she recalled. "I've always been fascinated with those kinds of things."

The couple visited several churches in their search for a spiritual home after moving to Jefferson City.

"Mom was always reminding me about how we should go to church more," Mr. Earl recalled. "With Mabry starting school, we started going to Catholic church more often."

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was different from the kind of Sunday worship they were both accustomed to.

"But it's the same in that



Amy and Jeff Earl

it's based on the teachings of the Bible," said Mr. Earl. "A lot of the same stories from the Bible that I learned while growing up are the same as the ones Mabry is learning at school now."

"Presence of God"

Mr. Earl began to appreciate the affection Catholics afford the Blessed Mother, the Apostles and the saints.

"Mary was much more than someone who was just there," he said. "I love that the Catholic faith gives her that importance and respect that I think she deserves. She was a leader and had a lot of importance and guidance to give them. She being a very godly person herself helped the rest of them. The same with the saints."

"We pray through Mary and the saints, to ask for their help," he noted. "It's great to know there are people out there who have done so much for Christianity and our faith and that they are still up there in heaven and are still around."

The Earls are enjoying their communal pilgrimage toward initiation.

"You don't just wake up one morning and say you're Cath-

olic," Mr. Earl noted. "Over time, you learn to appreciate the process."

This year's RCIA class and team at Immaculate Conception have several young parents. Mrs. Earl has enjoyed talking to them about their experience of being or becoming Catholic with their families.

They believe it's making their marriage and family stronger and solidifying their bonds with the community.

"What has really stuck with me is a realization that during the Eucharist, you are truly in the presence of God," said Mr. Earl. "That is remarkable."

"So much to learn"

Mrs. Earl has enjoyed hearing her mom reminisce about growing up Catholic.

"And being able to surround ourselves with people with same mindset — that has been really great," she said.

"We can have important discussions with people and know that we are all on the same page."

"God put a lot of people in our lives — friends, folks at church — who have helped us," Mr. Earl added. "It's good to have those people in our lives. If God would continue to put those people in our lives, it would be phenomenal."

Mabry is excited about getting baptized.

"She wants to get a big white dress for it," said Mrs. Earl. "She also wants her friends to be there."

Her grandparents enjoy hearing her share the prayers and Bible stories she's learning at school.

They see that "the work she does in school is centered around Jesus and His teachings, and that's going to continue throughout her education," said Mr. Earl.

The couple requested prayers for wisdom and endurance to continue diving more deeply into the Church's teachings and beliefs.

"There's still so much to learn, so much to appreciate," said Mr. Earl. "So pray for us to get more involved, not only with the Church but in our own relationships and seeking out the people who will help us be better Catholics, better people."

In that way, they hope to lead others to Christ.

"Who can we bring with us next?" said Mr. Earl. "We've enjoyed this journey so much, maybe there are people we know who might be interested in it, too."

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RCIA: Rite of Election was a mosaic of call stories from God



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight addresses this year's candidates and their sponsors (top) and catechumens and their godparents (bottom) during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, an important milestone for people seeking sacraments of initiation at Easter. — Photos by Jay Nies

By Liz Schleicher

The road to the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion can be as direct as Interstate 70 or as hilly and serpentine as some of the lettered highways in this diocese.

But for all catechumens and candidates who made that pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. Joseph on the First Sunday of Lent, it was the last great milestone toward receiving the sacraments of initiation in their home parishes at the Easter Vigil or during the Easter Season.

Drawn to community

For Taylor Meyer and Jon Meyer of St. Andrew parish in Holts Summit, becoming Catholic can be summed up in one word: family.

Taylor, a 21-year-old catechumen, has felt the pull toward the Church since she was a little girl.

"Whenever I was little, I never really went to church," she said. "I always wanted to go, but I never really had anyone to go with me."

She began going to Mass as a way to get to know her boyfriend's family better, but found herself gaining a deeper connection to others, as well.

"Once I started going to the Catholic Church, I saw how it kind of brings everyone together into a community," she said. "That's something I really like about the Catholic faith. And then my dad was baptized a Catholic, so that's why he decided to do this with me, as well."

Taylor's father, Jon Meyer, said his daughter inspired him to get confirmed. He, too, is pleased with the closeness of the Holts Summit parish.

"St. Andrew's, they all treat you like family," he said.

Though Jon and Taylor's father-daughter faith formation is already one-of-a-kind, there's yet another generation involved in their conversion story.

"The name that I'm choosing to be baptized under is Mary," said Taylor. "That's my grandma's name. I was really close to her."

She was Catholic, as well.

Truth to all generations

Samantha Brooks knows it's somewhat unusual for a college student like her to embark on such a journey of faith, but she's ready to stand out from the crowd.

"I feel like I'm going against the grain," said Ms. Brooks, a catechumen at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Pettis County. "It feels good to be a part of something like this."

She grew up without any faith affiliation and was never baptized.

She has felt drawn toward being Catholic through the example of her grandmother, Virginia Mary.

"I started getting closer with my Grandma and realized something was missing in my life," she said.

This empty feeling was compounded by Ms. Brooks' realization that her outlook on life was different from that of many of her student peers.

"Living for yourself never really felt right with me," stated Ms. Brooks, who is studying conservation biology at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

But as she strengthened her relationship with her grandmother and learned more about the Catholic faith, Ms. Brooks felt a deepening conviction.

"This is the truth," she said, "This is definitely something I need to pursue."

In the process, she has found a place to call home and a Church that shares her passions.

"I really like the community aspect of it," she said. "I really like the fact that I already feel when I walk into Mass, I know a bunch of people there, and they say 'hi' to me."

"I love how into charity work the Catholic faith is, especially," she added. "That's something that's always hit home with me, something that's very important."

Mountaintop experience

Joshua McNeely is a graduate student in chemistry at the University of Missouri and a catechumen from Sacred Heart parish in Columbia.

While many catechumens take small, slow steps

toward the Church over several years, Mr. McNeely started with a crash course on a mountaintop in a far-away country.

"The first time he went to Church was with me, in Indonesia," stated Mr. McNeely's wife, Catherine, who is a cradle Catholic and native of Jakarta, Indonesia.

"Stand up, sit down and kneel, sit down and bow — He didn't know anything!" she recalled of that first Mass with him. "We brought him to go to some religious retreat in the mountains that he didn't understand any of the language."

"I just took the cues," said Mr. McNeely.

Since that Indonesian Catholic immersion experience, he's learned more through the RCIA, which put to rest his nervousness about religious education.

"Actually learning the practices, that came with RCIA at Sacred Heart," said Mr. McNeely. "I was a little worried at first because I thought they only had the classes for the kids, and it was going to be like 'Billy Madison.'"

He was referring to a 1990s comedy film about a man who must repeat all levels of grade school and high school.

"But I found out that the 'A' (in RCIA) meant 'adult,'" said Mr. McNeely.

The couple's relationship has grown over the past five years, from online friendship to international courtship to civil marriage.

Mr. McNeely looks forward to taking the next step toward growing closer to his wife in faith — getting their marriage convalidated in the Church and receiving the sacraments together.

"I wanted to join and be able to get the sacramental marriage," he said.

His family is very happy for him.

"It's an adjustment because they're not as familiar with all the modern Catholic practices, but they are supportive of it."

Ms. Schleicher is a free-lance writer and a member of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Sedalia.

March 21-22 Catholic Relief Services Collection to help people in need throughout the world

A second collection was to be taken up in parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese the weekend of March 21-22 for Catholic Relief Services Collection.

Catholics throughout the diocese are urged to contact their parishes on how best to contribute to this worthy cause.

This annual collection supports the work of:

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and several other Catholic agencies that help people overseas who are sick, hungry or otherwise in need;

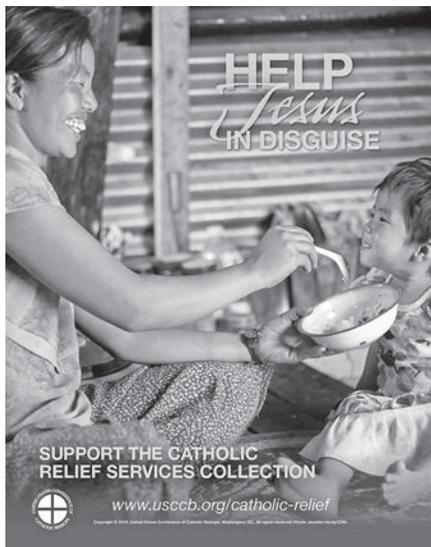
- Peter's Pence, which supports the administration and works of the Holy Father; and

- the Franciscan Commissariat for the Holy Land, which supports sacred shrines and the Church's work in the Holy Land.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps people who live in poverty, as well as vic-

tims of persecution, war and natural disasters.

It does so through develop-



ment projects, pastoral outreach, legal support services, advocacy, and educational opportunities. "Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe," stated Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in a letter to

the people of this diocese.

Funds donated to the annual collection are provided to six Catholic groups that share in the Catholic mission of promoting the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the human person: the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, and Department of Migration and Refugee Services, as well as CRS, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), and the Holy Father's Relief Fund.

The USCCB's Administrative Committee is responsible for grant-making from this national collection.

CRS is the official international agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

The agency provides emer-

gency relief in time of famine, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

It also supports agriculture, education and economic development to help people who are poor.

For example, young people such as Zeineba, a seventh-grader in a rural village in Ethiopia, receives tutoring and school tuition assistance through CRS.

Through the support from the collection, Zeineba's academic scores have improved, she has gained confidence, and she has lead a group of students that provide support for other girls.

She not only has a bright future, but she also sets an example for her neighbors and her two younger sisters.

"Through almsgiving, we extend a hand of fraternal char-

ity and give witness to the Risen Christ while offering hope to people who live on the margins," said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle, chairman of the Committee on National Collections for the USCCB.

He said he's extremely grateful and encouraged by the support these agencies receive from the collection each year.

"Faithful across the United States, through their donations, make a tremendous impact in the lives of our brothers and sisters here at home and across the globe who are denied their basic needs including education, food, shelter and safety," he stated.

More information about the collection, who it supports and how the funds are distributed, can be found at: usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Almsgiving: An overshadowed Lenten pillar has something to say

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

When it comes to the three pillars of Lent, almsgiving is a little bit like the middle child, not always getting the attention that prayer and fasting do.

The word hardly rolls off the tongue and people don't talk

about it as they might discuss what they are giving up for Lent or how they might be praying more or reading spiritual books during the 40 days before Easter.

A February editorial in *America* magazine described almsgiving as the "under-practiced, under-encouraged Lenten discipline" and pointed out

that in the magazine's 110-year-old archives, a search for prayer and fasting in article titles had thousands of examples but a similar search for almsgiving yielded just two results.

Almsgiving is defined as donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes it as "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." The practice of giving to help those in need runs through all the major faith traditions.

Christians might have good reason not to talk about their almsgiving practices since biblical warnings are pretty clear on guidelines of keeping this practice quiet.

For example, in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus has this to say: "When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others."

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

See ALMSGIVING, page 23

Catholic Relief Services Collection, March 21-22

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

— Revelation 3:20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Your support of the Catholic Relief Services Collection serves Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world.

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the U.S. Working in over 100 countries, Catholic Relief Services provides emergency relief in times of famine, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. It also supports agriculture, education, and economic development to help the poor work their way out of poverty.

One of Catholic Relief Services projects include drilling wells in Africa. In droughts, the only water available in many areas of East Africa runs deep underground, up to 1,000 feet. Catholic Relief Services helped bring in rigs that can drill to this depth. They made wells along migratory paths so that nomadic people can continue to provide water for their families and livestock.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year.

Support the collection, and answer the knock of Jesus in disguise. I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Shawn McKnight

Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.
Bishop of Jefferson City

Women told to use their “feminine genius” to lead others to Christ, help heal the world

By Jay Nies

As a reflection of His own communal nature, God created all people in and for relationship.

“But in particular as women, we are created as radically relational beings,” inspirational Catholic author and speaker Kelly Wahlquist told about 300 women from throughout the Jefferson City diocese.

“We are called by God and endowed with amazing gifts,” she said. “We are all spiritual mothers, whether we have given birth or not.”

Mrs. Wahlquist led a March 7 women’s Lenten retreat sponsored by the Jefferson City diocese’s Women’s Ministry Office (diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry).

The theme was “Walk in Her Sandals: Experiencing Christ’s Passion through the Eyes of Women” — based on a book of the same title.

Mrs. Wahlquist talked about several traits that all people possess to some degree but “tend to really stand out in women” — including receptivity, sensitivity, generosity and what she referred to as “maternal gifts.”

Pope St. John Paul II referred to these gifts as part of “the feminine genius.”

“As women, we need to be helping each other recognize these gifts and courageously claim them and put them into practice,” said Mrs. Wahlquist.

“It is when we live in our giftedness that we are more able to do the will of the Father,” she noted. “We truly find our peace and our joy when we are making God’s will our own and doing it.”

“Complete and whole”

Mrs. Wahlquist is the founder of WINE: Women In the New Evangelization (catholicvineyard.com) and is director of the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A wife, mother of three, she is the author of *Created to Relate* and the author and editor of *Walk in Her Sandals* and *Gaze Upon Jesus*.

The focus of the Jefferson City event was how women



LEFT: About 300 women from throughout the Jefferson City diocese take part in a diocesan Lenten women’s retreat with inspirational Catholic author and speaker Kelly Wahlquist in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. **RIGHT:** Kelly Wahlquist speaks to the women about appreciating their unique gifts from God and using them to build up His kingdom and help heal the Body of Christ.



—Photos by LeAnn Korsmeyer

can walk more closely with Jesus during this Lenten season.

“We talked about turning away from all those forces outside of us, especially in this day and time, that are keeping us away from our relationship with Jesus,” said Mrs. Wahlquist.

She said it is essential for women “to relate to Jesus in the way we are created as women to do so.”

“This soul we are given is a feminine soul, and the way I relate to my Lord and Savior will hopefully reflect that,” she said.

She talked about walking in the footsteps of women of the Bible who had cast out fear through courage and perfect love.

She pointed to the sisters Martha and Mary, who are well known for having approached their friendship with Jesus very differently from one another (Luke 10:38-42).

“We find peace in our lives when we learn to balance our contemplative life, which is time spent with the Lord, and our active life, which is the things we do for God,” said Mrs. Wahlquist.

“When we have that balance, we feel complete and whole,” she added. “And when we are complete and whole, we are making the best use of our gifts and doing the will of God.”

Fruit of the vine

Mrs. Wahlquist noted that the “WINE” acronym — Women In the New Evangelization — refers to what happened when Jesus and His mother attended a wedding feast in Cana (John 2).

When the family of the newly wedded couple ran out of wine to serve their guests, Mary asked Jesus to help them.

Mary then confidently instructed the waiters to “do whatever He tells you to do.”

“WINE is therefore about doing the will of God,” said Mrs. Wahlquist.

Because women tend to be radically relational, “it’s easier to do that work when we are surrounded by our sisters in Christ, who are encouraging us and giving us support,” she said.

“Perfect symphony”

Throughout the day, Mrs. Wahlquist witnessed Catholic women affirming one another and helping each other identify the gifts they have received from God in order to help build up the Body of Christ.

“The Body of Christ is battered, it’s bruised, it’s broken,” she said. “Jesus is telling us, ‘I need women working in your beautiful womanhood to help restore the Body of Christ.’”

“And when we embrace the true feminine genius, that’s where we really can not only help ourselves but also help re-

store the world from its brokenness, too,” she said.

She emphasized the importance of women inviting one another into a deeper relationship with the Lord.

“That invitation is so important,” she said. “Invite, invite, and invite women into that relationship, and accompany them on the journey.”

Mrs. Wahlquist was impressed at how openly and enthusiastically the women of the Jefferson City diocese participated in the “Walk in Her Sandals” event.

“There was so much energy,” she said. “They were very excited to be there, and that made me excited to be there.”

She said the event’s organizers worked amazingly well together.

“From the music to the organization to the decorations to the prayers — it was like a perfect symphony,” she said.

She lauded Kyle, Jim and Natalie Clark of St. Joseph par-

ish in Edina, who provided the music and led the singing for the event.

Passing it on

Participants responded enthusiastically to the day’s activities.

“Thank you so much for blessing our day and our lives!” event participant Candace Malson stated on the diocese’s Facebook page.

“What a blessed day!” stated Stephanie Koch.

“It was such a beautiful day!” said Millie Aulbur.

“I am so glad I took the time to attend the retreat!” stated Theresa Davidson.

“Most amazing day!” stated Tonia Englert. “My soul is on fire for the future!”

“My soul was fed and the embers flamed!” stated Mary Beth Strassner.

“Thanks is not enough,” she added. “Let’s go out and refuel the hearts of others!”

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USCCB launches 'Walking With Moms in Need' yearlong project

Catholic News Service
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Catholic bishops are being asked to invite the parishes in their dioceses to join a nationwide effort called "Walking With Moms in Need: A Year of Service" from March 25 of this year through March 25, 2021.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, announced the new initiative on the National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion through all nine months of pregnancy across the country.

The new program has its own website, walkingwithmoms.com, with "resources, outreach tools and models to assist parishes in this effort. Resources will be continue to be added to the site, according to the USCCB's Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

"As the Church and growing numbers of pro-life Americans continue to advocate for women and children in courthouses and legislatures," Archbishop Naumann said, "the Church's pastoral response is focused on the needs of women facing pregnancies in challenging circumstances."

This pastoral response to pregnant women and mothers in need "has long been the case" for the Church, he said, but added the Year of Service will "intensify" this response.

The launch date of the program marks the 25th anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical "*Evangelium Vitae*" ("The Gospel of Life"). The encyclical, the 11th of his pontificate, forthrightly condemns abortion and euthanasia, the major attacks on human life at its beginning and end. It also contained what several observers at the time called the strongest expression ever of Church teaching against capital punishment: It says the cases of justifiable use of it today are "very rare, if not practically

nonexistent."

Through the Year of Service, parishes are asked to complete a simple inventory of the resources currently available in their local area, assess the results and identify gaps, and plan and implement a parish response based on their findings.

In "recognizing that women in need can be most effectively reached at the local level," Archbishop Naumann explained, the year of service "invites parishes to assess, communicate, and expand resources to expectant mothers within their own communities."

The Year of Service is divided into five phases of parish action:

Phase 1—Announce the Year of Service and begin building a core team (March 2020)

Phase 2—Launch parish inventory process (May 2020)

Phase 3—Share inventory results and begin assessment and planning (September 2020)

Phase 4—Announcement and

Commitment to Parish Response (January 2021)

Phase 5—Celebration and Implementation of Parish Plans (March 2021)

There are suggested steps for implementing each phase along with sample announcements, sample intercessions, homily helps and a prayer activity.

For example in Phase 1, the steps include appoint a parish leader; begin assembling a parish core team; establish a parish support network; and announce the "*Evangelium Vitae*" anniversary and Year of Service; pray for pregnant mothers in need as a parish community; and begin planning the parish's first core team meeting.

"We pray that 'Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service' will help us reach every pregnant mother in need, that she may know she can turn to her local Catholic community for help and authentic friendship," Archbishop Naumann added when he announced the nationwide effort in January.

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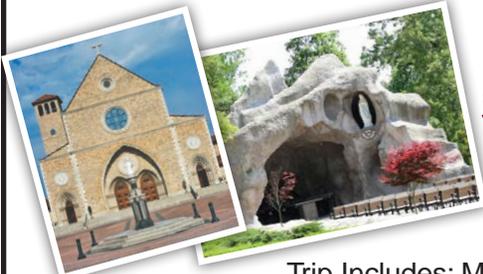
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From cross to glory

Father Michael Coleman, a chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, on March 17 leads students in the following prayer at the end of their last day of in-person school for a few weeks: *“Lord our God! You always brighten our path as a sign of hope and salvation. We entrust ourselves to You, O Healer of the Sick. O Loving Father, You know our needs before we even ask. We are confident You will provide for us as You did for the married couple at the Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee. Through Your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, we ask You to care for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable and for those who have died. We pray also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and those seeking a cure. Help us Lord, conform to Your will and to follow Your Son Jesus, Who took upon Himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross to the glory of the Resurrection. May this time of anxiety, confusion, and illness draw us into an even deeper relationship of trust with You and may all that we do during this time be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.”*

— Photo from Tolton Catholic High School’s Facebook page



A volunteer’s life for Samaritan Center’s warehouse manager

Shane Boessen has been serving as warehouse manager for the interfaith agency since 2006

By Rebecca Martin

Shane Boessen’s job more than doubled in size last year.

The Samaritan Center’s warehouse manager since 2006, Mr. Boessen went from making the best of a cramped 1,500-square-foot space to serving clients from a spacious 4,700-square-foot addition to the center, which opened its current 1310 E. McCarty St. location in Jefferson City in 1999.

“It has made life so much easier,” said Mr. Boessen, a member of St. Andrew parish in Holts Summit. “We were renting space — we had things all over Jeff City — and we were renting trucks from U.S. Rents-It. The travel that we were doing was unreal.”

Mr. Boessen still travels almost daily for work, picking up food donations like day-old bread from local grocery stores — only now the center is able to store it all on-site.

“Now we can get more stuff in, more variety for people,” Mr. Boessen said.

The Samaritan Center is an interfaith agency whose services include food, a medical clinic, a free secondhand clothing closet, energy bill assistance and tax preparation aid.

The center is closed for a



Shane Boessen poses in the new warehouse space at Samaritan Center where he serves as warehouse manager for the pantry.

— Photo by Julie Smith, courtesy of the *Jefferson City News Tribune*

week of already scheduled maintenance and is scheduled to reopen on March 30.

When the center is not closed, the food pantry is open to clients 9:30-11 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 4-5:30 p.m. Thursdays.

However, the work begins long before that.

Mr. Boessen typically spends his mornings accepting donations and preparing the center for staff and volunteers, who help sort food, stock the pantry and organize the warehouse.

“At 9:15 we all gather around in the pantry to pray,” he said.

After the pantry closes, “at 11:30, usually, we’ll straighten things up, clean things up as far as preparing the next shift of volunteers — most of the time it’s guys restocking the pantry

or myself restocking the pantry.”

There’s plenty to do after an average of 65-70 clients come through over a two-hour period, Mr. Boessen said. He might also pick up more food donations or purchase needed items — like toilet paper, for example — in the afternoon.

“It’s always something,” he said. “There’s always something to pick up, always something to bring in — because, of course, whatever goes out the front we have to restock in the back.”

While much of Mr. Boessen’s day job is facilitating volunteer work, he’s also a habitual volunteer himself.

He and his wife, Angie, have three children: seventh-grader Wyatt, fifth-grader Quinton and second-grader Hailey, all

students at St. Peter Interparish School — and all involved in sports.

Mr. Boessen volunteers to coach their archery, soccer and baseball teams. He also donates his time and talent in the form of woodworking pieces for school fundraisers and the Samaritan Center’s annual auction.

“I make things out of pallets — benches, chairs, little household things like that,” he said, adding he has also made raised and window flower boxes as well as Adirondack chairs.

“It’s a hobby that I just really, really enjoy doing, and it puts

my mind in a different place,” he said.

Mr. Boessen said his favorite part of his role at the Samaritan Center is working with the volunteers.

“And there is knowing that you are helping the clients that are out front,” he added. “(And) because you’re interacting with so many different people on a daily basis, just the unknown of what’s coming up next.”

Mrs. Martin is city editor for the Jefferson City News Tribune, which published a version of this article on Feb. 23. It is republished here with permission.

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Abby Martin to be principal of Sedalia Sacred Heart School

Will serve as part of reconfigured administration team for only K-12 Catholic school in the diocese

The St. Vincent de Paul parish leadership, the Sacred Heart School Advisory Council and the Diocese of Jefferson City announce the appointment of Abby Martin as principal at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia for the 2020-2021 school year.

In this role, Mrs. Martin will work as a full-time member of the administrative team in the direction, supervision and evaluation of the school's K-12 instructional program.

Sacred Heart School is the only Catholic school in the diocese to teach pre-kindergarten through high school.

Current principal Dr. Mark Register, who will serve as part-time president next year under a reconfigured administrative structure for the school, said the Sacred Heart community is delighted to welcome Mrs. Martin as a member of the new administrative team.

"She brings a strong curriculum and instruction experience at the elementary level," Dr. Register stated. "We are especially excited to have her working with our stellar faculty to promote and ensure continued academic excellence at all levels of Sacred Heart School."

Father Joseph S. Corel, pastor *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul parish, said Mrs. Martin "has the qualities and skills we are looking for in our three-person administrative team to make a strong impact on our Catholic school now and moving us into the future following the good work of our Strategic Growth Plan."

Mrs. Martin has been an educator for over 10 years, eight of which have been at Catholic schools. She received her early childhood certificate from the University of Central Missouri and State Fair Community College (2011) and her master's in administration from William Woods University (2014). She holds certifications in Initial Missouri Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 3) and in Administration (K-8).

Mrs. Martin currently serves as principal at St. Andrew Catholic School in Tip-ton (2016-20).

She previously served as a preschool teacher at St. Helen Catholic School in Pearland, Texas (2015-2016); as an elementary teacher and art and music instructor for the Harrisburg School District (2012-14); and in early childhood at School of the Osage in Lake Ozark (2009-12).

"I am excited to start my new role as principal of Sacred Heart School," she stated. "Challenges motivate me and I look forward to the opportunity to learn and grow with each (member of the community) spiritually and academically."

"It is my desire to see the students expand their faith as they grow into servant leaders



Abby Martin

of the community, seeking the best possible opportunities

to glorify God and working together to uphold the traditions and culture of Sacred Heart, while also expanding on that in ways to improve the experience of the students and staff," she said.

In addition to Mrs. Martin, Sacred Heart's three-person leadership team includes the appointment of Dr. Mark Register from school administrator to president, with Sam Jones continuing in his role as dean of students.

Under this new leadership structure, Dr. Register's key priorities as president will include spiritual leadership, operations, development, and building and grounds.

Mrs. Martin and Mr. Jones

will focus on developing and implementing an effective educational agenda for continued faculty and student developmental success.

"We are excited to reach another major milestone in our strategic growth plan with the implementation of our new leadership model," said Dr. Register. "The move better positions us to maximize operational sustainability and enhance our academic offerings."

Dr. Register said another unique advantage will be that Mrs. Martin, Mr. Jones and he will all serve as teaching administrators, "which, we believe, enhances credibility as school leaders."

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

From page 1

In lieu of being present for Mass, I ask everyone to participate virtually in the Mass at your local parish through social media and the Internet, if possible.

Spending a similar amount of time reading the Sunday Scriptures (found at www.usccb.org) and praying the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet would be laudable.

While our diocese has not seen the number of confirmed cases as have been reported elsewhere, we should be planning how we can be a witness of God's love during this terrible crisis.

I ask our pastors and parish leadership to consider practical ways their parish can support those who are most impacted by any crisis: the lonely, the poor and the forgotten.

Parishes may wish to begin collecting information from people who are isolated and would appreciate someone checking in on them, or perhaps offering them support if they become ill.

Healthcare professionals may appreciate knowing there is a community supporting them if they are called to extensive shifts or become ill themselves, and therefore are not able to take care of their families.

Many hourly-wage earners are losing their incomes as major sporting events and entertainment venues close. Catholics may want to increase their support of Catholic Charities and other agencies which will be called upon to provide basic necessities for these workers and their families.

Our diocesan staff is offering a process for parishes to establish these teams of charity and mercy.

All public gatherings are to be canceled, postponed or modified. If the canceled, postponed or modified event was intended to raise money for a ministry or service, please consider offering people an alternative means to contribute to the ministry or service.

The most reliable source of information for all of us is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Their website is cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.

You may also find more information on how our diocese is working together at diojeffcity.org/public-health.

Many people's lives are being disrupted by the coronavirus and our attempts to stop its rapid spread. In this season of Lent, let us increase our prayers, fasting and almsgiving, so that God's great compassion and love may be a source of hope and consolation for all.

With prayers for the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight
Bishop of Jefferson City



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Clifton City native Fr. Aggeler spent 46 years on mission in Brazil

Redemptorist Father Vincent H. Aggeler, 87, a Clifton City native who had served for 46 years as a missionary in the Amazon River Valley in Brazil, died peacefully on March 13.

The Mass of Christian Burial was to be celebrated

on March 18 in St. Joseph Church in Clifton City.

He was born on Oct. 31, 1932, in Pilot Grove, the first of 10 children of Hubert “Buddy” and Bernice Anna (Schuster) Aggeler.

Young Vincent wanted to

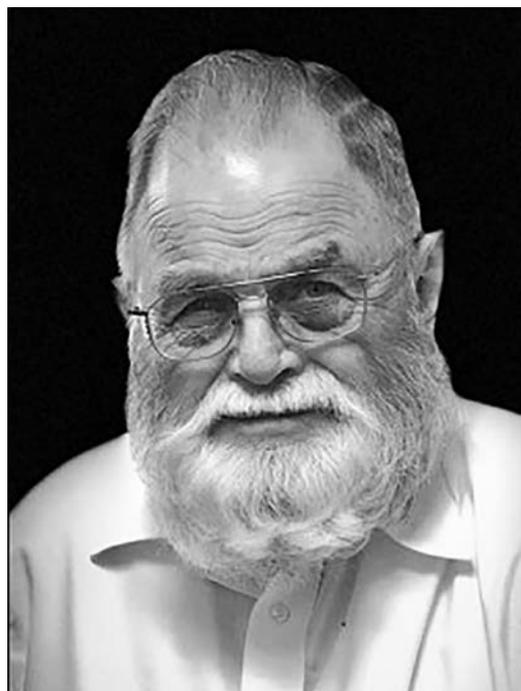
follow his uncle, Father Philip Aggeler, into the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, also known as the Redemptorist Fathers.

After attending St. Martin School in Martinsville, he went to St. Joseph College Prep High School Seminary in Kirkwood, followed by novitiate in DeSoto, where he professed first vows in 1953.

He studied philosophy and theology at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

There, on June 24, 1958, Archbishop Albert G. Meyer of Milwaukee ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

Fr. Aggeler offered his First Solemn Mass in St. Joseph Church in Clifton City — “most likely the greatest event this little town ever had!” ac-



Fr. Vincent H. Aggeler C.Ss.R. (1932-2020)

Aggeler back to the United States in 2006. He remained confident that his experiences in the rainforests and river valleys of Brazil had helped make him a better priest.

Known at home and abroad for his succinct preaching style, he continued his missionary work with his many Facebook friends throughout the world.

He was stationed for a while at Redemptorist parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Kansas City and filled-in for priests in several dioceses.

He moved in 2008 to the Redemptorist Health and Retirement Facility in Liguori, where he enjoyed great community life.

He was an adept photographer and often shared his pictures online. He liked woodworking, and many a child has a jewelry or treasure box that he painted especially for them.

He always had a little joke to lighten the day of all he met.

He had a great love for the Blessed Mother and made and gave away many rosaries.

He died peacefully, surrounded by his Redemptorist Community at St. Clement Health Care/Retirement Center in Liguori.

With the sign of faith

Preceding him in death were his parents; a sister, Maureen Ruth Aggeler; and a brother, Ted Ray Aggeler, who died at birth; and three nieces/nephews.

Surviving are four brothers: Donald Aggeler, Harold (Charleen) Aggeler, Lyle (Carolyn) Aggeler and Ted (Vicky) Aggeler; three sisters: Juanita (Don) Klein, Phyllis White and Marilyn (David) Felten.

Also surviving are 32 nieces and nephews, and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Burial was to be in St. Joseph Cemetery near Clifton City.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Clement Health Center, 300 Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057.



Redemptorist Father Vincent H. Aggeler stands at an altar made in the form of a canoe, in the parish church in Manacapuri, Brazil, in this undated photo. Pope St. John Paul II would offer Mass at this altar during one of his pastoral visits to Brazil.

“Calm, faithful and charitable”



Father William Peckman, pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville and St. Joseph parish in Fayette, leads the students of Ss. Peter & Paul School in an outdoor procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the end of the parish’s last public Mass (at least until April 3) and the students’ last regular day of school (at least until April 6). The parish plans to livestream Masses during the hiatus at 9 a.m. Wednesday through Friday and on Sundays. “We are going to be calm, we are going to be faithful, and we are going to be charitable!” stated Fr. Peckman.

— Photo by Theresa Krebs

ording to relatives.

Gospel values

He ministered at St. Alphonsus “Rock” Church in St. Louis for two years, studied Portuguese at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and was missioned to Brazil in 1960.

The overwhelming majority of his parishioners there were poor and barely surviving on the money they took home.

In his preaching, he challenged the people and social structures that allowed such poverty and disparities to exist.

“I ask them, ‘How can you call yourselves Catholic when there is so much poverty, misery and injustice?’” he stated in a 1983 interview with *The Catholic Missourian*.

Over time, as the Brazilian government stepped-up its support of education and healthcare for the people, the Redemptorist missionaries’ focus turned more toward helping people, rich and poor, form small Christian communities.

“Through the small communities and motivated by Gospel values, we hope that the people will better their own lives,” Fr. Aggeler stated in 1983. “I always underscore the importance of being motivated by Gospel values; otherwise, we just have a co-op.”

On mission at home

Health issues brought Fr.

New center at border called 'model' for how migrants should be treated

By Michael Brown
Catholic News Service

Nogales, Mexico

Through many "ups and downs," God "has led us to this day," said Jesuit Father Sean Carroll, head of Kino Border Initiative, at the official blessing of a new 18,000-square-foot facility at the international border in Nogales.

The center, in the state of Sonora, is just across the border from Nogales, Arizona, which is in the Tucson diocese.

More than 400 volunteers, supporters and migrants crowded into the facility Feb. 12 to hear from religious and civic leaders, before Bishop Jose Leopoldo Gonzalez Gonzalez of Nogales, Mexico, blessed and cut a ribbon on the new Migrant Outreach Center.

Tucson's Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger and retired Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas at the Vatican for their "ad limina" visit and were unable to

attend.

The \$1.5 million facility replaces the humble "comedor," or dining hall, across the street that was established in 2009.

Since then, the hall has distributed two meals a day for the poor blocked from entering the U.S. or who have been returned from the U.S. while their asylum cases are pending.

Give them something to eat

The need for the meals has only grown. For example, according to the Kino Border Initiative's website, in 2016, the comedor served an estimated 46,000 meals; in 2018, the number was 55,633.

For those same years, the number of women and children seeking refuge at the initiative's Nazareth House, more than doubled from 380 to 839.

Katie Sharar, spokesperson for the Kino initiative, said



Mexican Bishop Jose Leopoldo Gonzalez Gonzalez of Nogales, Sonora, offers a Scripture reflection before blessing the Kino Border Initiative's new Migrant Outreach Center in Nogales Feb. 12, 2020. Looking on at right is Jesuit Father Sean Carroll, executive director of the Kino Border Initiative.

— CNS photo/Michael Brown, Catholic Outlook

the new center will have 170 beds for "several thousand" immigrants in Nogales.

Since the Trump administration imposed the "Remain in Mexico" policy last fall, the flow of asylum-seekers into the U.S. has been largely reduced.

Under the policy asylum-seekers must return or be returned to Mexico while their cases goes through the courts.

Those crossing into the U.S. at Nogales are detained by Border Patrol, relocated to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, through El Paso, Texas. They eventually work their way back to Nogales for their court dates.

Last spring the seemingly endless flow of asylum-seekers led agencies such as Catholic Community Services' Casa Alitas in Tucson to open a new and expanded shelter in a former juvenile detention center to accommodate detainees in the U.S.

Sharar said that previous flow of immigrants has virtually stopped.

Meanwhile, Mexican border cities, such as Nogales, deal with the crises of growing numbers of refugees.

"Face and the heart"

At the opening celebration for the Migrant Outreach Center, Bishop Gonzalez noted that when he was named as the first bishop of Nogales, he stopped at the comedor on the day he was appointed.

He thanked the media who were present and who have reported on the Kino Border Initiative over the years. "It is because of the media that this work can be known in all of Mexico and all of the United States."

Monsignor Raul Trevizo, vicar for Hispanics in the Tucson Diocese, who also is pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Tucson, started his comments by pointing out the flowers around the face and the heart of a nearby image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"The face and the heart together combine to reveal who the person is," he said. "Policies on both sides of the border want to hide the faces and the hearts (of migrants). People are afraid that if we see them, it will change our hearts."

He recounted the story of a good friend who was a supporter of U.S. border policy. Msgr. Trevizo challenged his friend to visit Casa Alitas with him and to see the faces of the people affected by that policy.

"We were there for five minutes and he saw the children's faces and the women there nursing their children," the monsignor recalled.

"My friend is a very big man, and he started to scream. He said, 'Why doesn't someone bring President Trump here so he can see the faces of the people so he can change his mind?'"

"Be similar to Jesus"

Msgr. Trevizo thanked the supporters in the room: "You make us see their faces and their hearts." He added, "The heart of Jesus is at the center of the work of KBI."

"I see the tragedies that are unfolding all over the world," said another speaker, Joan Rosenhauer, executive director of Jesuit Refugee Service USA. "What keeps me up at night is the children."

She said she was buoyed to be in "a room full of people who have not ignored the crisis at the border."

The Kino Border Initiative and the new facility "are a model on how migrants should be treated as a people," Rosenhauer said. "It's really important that all of you bring this message to others."

Father Prisciliano Peraza, from Altar in Sonora, Mexico, and a supporter of the Kino initiative from the beginning, recalled the meeting he had with Fr. Carroll and Bishop Kicanas, to float the idea of the cross-border effort.

"People thought it was crazy," Fr. Peraza said. "Bishop Kicanas listened and he accepted it and that's how we were able to begin this work 15 years ago."

"This is such a large building," he started, adding quickly, "yet, today this space is inadequate for the need."

He also reached out to thank those who are being served there. "Thank you to our brother and sister migrants. You have helped us to become better people."

Sister Diana Lorena Rubio, a member of the Missionaries of the Eucharist, said the Kino Border Initiative mission was to "be similar to Jesus, who doesn't judge us, who doesn't have prejudice, but who welcomes people in need."

The Missionaries of the Eucharist have staffed the comedor and other Kino relief efforts for years.

Brown is managing editor of Catholic Outlook, the newspaper of the Diocese of Tucson.

Chaplain's prayer in the Missouri House of Representatives

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, chaplain of the Missouri House of Representatives, led the assembly in praying the following prayer on March 18:

*"Do not be afraid, little flock."
— Luke 12:32*

In danger, in difficulty or in doubt, we call upon You, Almighty God, and we trust and pray to You this morning, asking that the COVID-19 pandemic may do no more harm.

We lift up our hearts to You and call upon Your miraculous powers that this coronavirus will be swiftly gotten under control and that You will restore the health of those affected and bring peace to the places where the virus has arrived, including our great Missouri and our beloved Capitol City.

Welcome into Your heavenly kingdom the people who have died from this virus, and comfort their families and friends.

Sustain and protect the healthcare personnel who are fighting it, the government officials who are working on our behalf, the clergy who are praying with us, the newly unemployed who are fearful and the young people who are being inspired to protect and assist their elders.

Lord God, Doctor of our bodies and souls, we feel weak, helpless, afraid and in danger in the face of this international emergency. But we will not fall into despair, because we hope and trust in You.

Give us the gifts of peace and health. Despise not our pleas, but deliver us from every danger.

And the House says, "Amen!"

INITIATION

From page 1

how many of us are doing this together.”

She is preparing to make her Profession of Faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

She grew up in a Christian household and accepted Him as her savior when she was about 8.

“But I diverged,” she said. “I turned My back on Him and chose to make selfish choices in my life. Even so, I know He never left me.”

A serious car crash when she was 19 wound up sending her to prison.

Her minister visited her every week and sent her numerous Bible studies.

“I couldn’t get through them fast enough,” she said.

She started working with the prison chaplain and getting closer to God.

Several years after she finished her sentence, God placed a calling on her heart to start looking into the Catholic Church.

She resisted. Only after enrolling her 5-year-old son in Holy Rosary Pre-School did the call begin to reassert itself, often overwhelmingly.

“He’s my biggest blessing,” she said. “He comes home from school and says our prayers at dinner and he reminds me if we miss any, and he keeps me honest.”

As she watched seemingly insurmountable obstacles fall aside, she realized that now is the time for her and her son to become Catholic.

She now hopes the positive changes God has been helping her make will convince the people she loves that she’s making the right decision.

“I want Jesus to help me witness to others and bring my friends and family into the faith and to the fount of salvation,” she said. “I want to be with all of them in heaven!”

Her son loves being Catholic. “When you can see in your own flesh and blood that you’re doing the right thing, that this is going to bring him into a fuller future, that he is going to be separated from Him — it makes all of this so easy.”

Ms. Cheely asks for prayers for God to continue having

mercy on her soul and leading her to Him.

“I just want to be closer,” she said. “I want Him to remove any resistance in my heart. Whenever I ask Him to show me the real things, things that are eternal, He does. And then He lets me choose.”

“Always faithful”

Held in cathedrals throughout the world on the First Sunday of Lent, the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion is a significant milestone in the process of preparing to receive the Easter sacraments and become committed, active members of the Catholic Church.

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

The RCIA is a restoration of the catechumenate, the communal process through which people were prepared to become

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.

Christian in the early Church.

At part of the ceremony in Jefferson City, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight accepted the catechumens’ names into the Book of the Elect and urged the catechumens and candidates to spend the rest of Lent pursuing repentance and deeper conversion with the support of the Church.

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

He likened these final weeks of preparation to the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight speaks to people from throughout the Jefferson City diocese who are preparing to receive sacraments of initiation at Easter, during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, March 1 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph
— Photo by Jay Nies

in the desert before embarking on His public ministry.

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

He said that the entire local Church welcomes the candidates and catechumens and rejoices that they have encountered God in the world in spite of the evils that are present in it.

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

“That ‘something’ is faith”

Gordon and Nikki Beier were impressed to see so many people from different parts of the diocese take part in the Rite of Election.

“One of coolest things about Catholicism, no matter where you are or what you’re doing, is that someone else is doing it, too,” said Mrs. Beier.

“It’s something that’s being shared all over the world,” she said. “And there in the cathedral, you see people going through the same steps you’re going through and they’re at the same point in their journey.”

The couple got married last August, bringing together five

children under age 6.

Mrs. Beier was living in Springfield when it was time to send her oldest to school. On a friend’s advice, she visited a Catholic school and decided to send him to kindergarten and his little sister to pre-kindergarten there.

“They would come home from school and I could see that they were growing into good people and were talking about everything they were doing in school,” Mrs. Beier recalled.

She started going to Mass with them on Sunday.

The couple moved to St. Robert when they got married. Mr. Beier is a U.S. Marine who teaches a heavy equipment operators’ course at Fort Leonard Wood.

The Beiers became members of the Sacred Heart Catholic community at Fort Leonard Wood and enrolled their children in Sunday school.

They entered the RCIA last fall.

“I wanted to raise our children to have strong faith in God,”

said Mrs. Beier, who previously served in the Marines.

“When you enter the military, you are surrounded by all different types of people from all backgrounds and parts of the world,” she said. “You meet some good people, some not so good people, some who have had religion all their lives and some who have none at all.”

“Not having that comfort zone like you had at home

See CONVERSION, page 27

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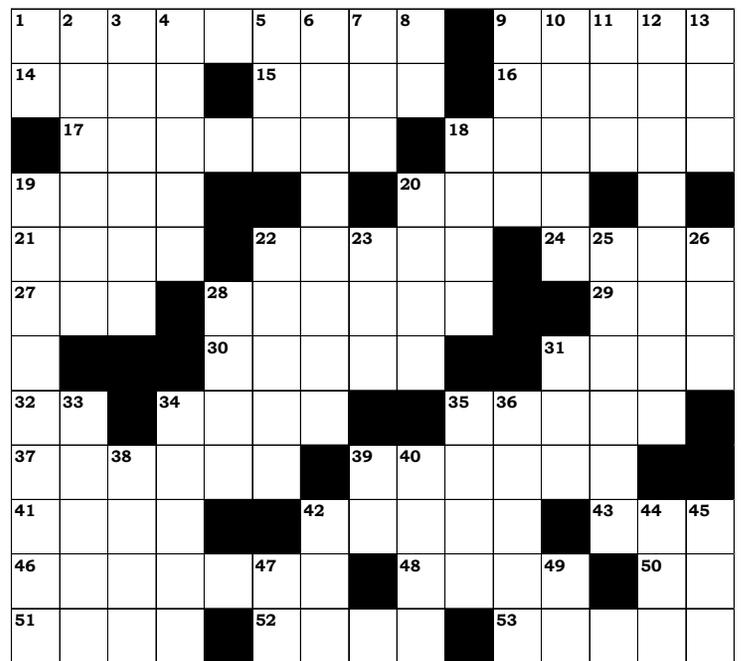
By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Following his grandfather and father in the family business, Sam B. Cook became ____ of Central Bank in Jefferson City in 1961.
9. The ____ architect of the Motor Bank was legendary Bruce Graham whose designs included the Chase Manhattan Bank, the Hancock Center and the Sears Tower.
14. Pup, pop-up, or A-frame.
15. The Missouria Indian tribe from which the river and our State gets its name were greatly diminished by disease and warfare and so merged with their cousins the ____ tribe. Descendants live in Oklahoma.
16. Eagle's nest.
17. Sam B. Cook's first major ____ was the 1961 Central Motor Bank, a modernist architecture esp. distinct in its time.
18. Reportedly, architect Graham was so fond of the Motor Bank building that the one photo of one of his designs he had in his ____ was the Central Motor Bank.
19. "...and the ____ have the good news proclaimed to them," (Matthew 11:5).
20. The ____nam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. was designed by Maya Lin, an unknown 21-yr.-old undergraduate student at Yale with no professional experience. She won out over 1,400 other entries.
21. One of the two major airports for Paris, France.
22. The ____, glass and aluminum building won international awards in landscaping, architecture, lighting and interior design. This design is characteristic of Central Bank's regional banks as well.
24. Sweet potatoes.
27. Short for Saint Louis.
28. On Twitter, you can communicate with ____.
29. ____ Paulo is the largest city in Brazil, at over 12 million.
30. In the early 1960's Sam B. Cook began purchasing ____ of art to complement the interiors of his banks. They were mostly abstract expressionism, reflecting his interest in both modern art and architecture.
31. Letters after the name of a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. This order of women has served our diocese for many years in many locations and in various roles, including Chancellor of the diocese.
32. Prefix for crow or team.
34. The English word Pope comes from this Roman/Italian word for father.
35. In the 4th century, St. Jerome translated the Bible into ____ instead of the original Greek because it had become the more common language of the people. The Church then adopted the Roman tongue for the Mass everywhere.
37. The name for a combination storage/workshop area connected to a house or living quarters, often used for a vacation or weekend get-away.
39. The Central Bank art collection is comprised of more than 500 ____ of art by artists like Andy Warhol, Hans Hoffman and Friedel Dzubas and includes a large mural on the 2nd floor of the Motor Bank by Japanese-Am. artist Keiko Nemeth.
41. Acronym for search and rescue transponder, a navigation device for ships in distress.
42. ____ Grigio, a sweet or dry white wine.
43. ____ *missa est*; dismissal words in the pre-Vatican Mass.
46. Cook said he appreciated the ____ and sensation he felt from the colors, compositions and designs of abstract art, much as when listening to a Beethoven piano concerto.
48. "...seeking a way to...put Him to death. They said, 'Not during the festival, for fear that there may be a ____ among the people,'" (Mark 14:1-2).
50. ____ it true what they say?
51. "Whoever wishes to come after Me must ____ himself, take up his cross and follow Me," (Matthew 16:24).
52. Garment worn by St. Teresa of Kolkata.
53. "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of ____," —St. Therese of the Child Jesus, the Little Flower, 1873-1897.

DOWN

1. Letters for physical therapy.
2. The National ____ Card is the biennial result of the gov't.'s National Assessment of Ed. Progress so parents and educators can better assess and develop educational improvements.
3. "...we ____ them among the saints," —Pope Francis at the Oct. 2019 canonization of four new saints, including England's Cardinal John Henry Newman.
4. The Cook family's planning and beautification in Jefferson City's downtown included in 1916 Jefferson City's first "skyscraper," the seven ____ Carthage stone main bank, trees along downtown's High Street and other initiatives.
5. Female deer.
6. Roman tongue phrase used in English at the end of a list, meaning "and other similar things;" usually abbreviated "etc."
7. "To be or ____ to be, that is the question," —from Hamlet's soliloquy in Shakespeare's play "Hamlet."
8. "*Adoro ____ Devote*"; Catholic hymn by St. Thomas Aquinas.
9. At a Starbucks, a ____ latte is an espresso with a lot of milk.
10. A brand of trash bag.
11. Letters for the Islamic Republic of Iran, 82 million inhabitants, 636,000 sq. miles, 2nd largest country in the Middle East.
12. Adolf ____; high-up Nazi SS officer, one of the major organizers of the Holocaust.
13. A stole ____ in the Catholic Church is a donation for sacramental functions.
18. The Holy ____ of the Church are annually blessed by the Bishop specifically for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and the Sacrament of the Sick.
19. "When it was evening they brought him many who were ____ by demons..." (Matthew 8:16).
20. Dog docs.
22. ____ Park is Kansas City's 1,805-acre city park. Though heavily wooded, it contains the 8,000-seat Starlight Theatre, the KC Zoo, a professional golf course and the Lakeside Nature Center, one of Mo.'s largest native species rehab facilities.
23. A squeaky shriek of alarm.
25. Pope Francis took his papal name from the famous saint from this Italian town.
26. There are more than 3,000 acres in ____ farms in Mo. with annual sales of \$12 million.
28. '____ the Night Before Christmas...
31. Abbr. before the name of a female French saint.
33. "Ain't that a ____," —Fats Domino's million seller hit, 1955.
34. Silly ____, a malleable playtoy, by Crayola, since the 1950's.
35. Pope ____, 440-461; first Pope to be called "the Great." Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said his papacy "was undoubtedly one of the most important in the Church's history."
36. ____ Gary Cooper became a Hollywood icon starring in numerous movies (e.g., "High Noon," "Sgt. York") from the late 1920's to the late 1950's. Quietly he was on a spiritual pilgrimage (he visited Pope Pius XII in 1953) and finally joined the Catholic Church in 1959.
38. Either do it my way ____ your own (2 wds.).
39. Two clues: 1) a mathematical constant used in all areas of math and physics, approx. equal to 3.14159; it even has its own "day"—Mar. 14th; or 2) letters for private investigator.
40. Cross letters.
42. An abbr. for pneumonia.
44. A man's neckware.
45. 19th letter.
47. Bone.
49. Heavens ____ Betsy! A variant of For Heaven's sake!



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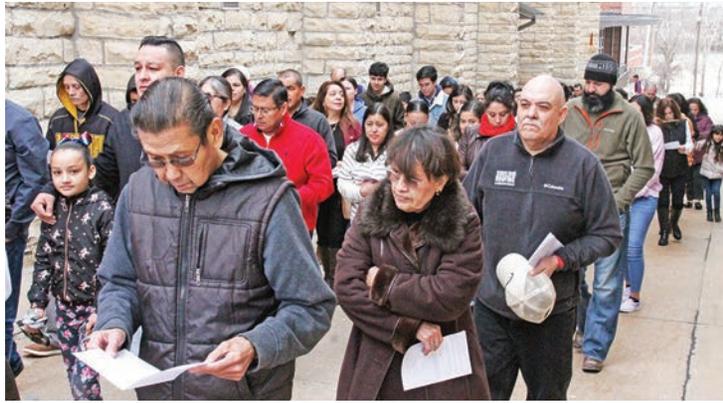


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“Graciously hear us, O Lord”

Members of St. Peter parish in Jefferson City join Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor, in a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament around St. Peter Church after Mass on Sunday, March 15. Deacons led the praying of a litany in time of a public health emergency. Fr. Secrist led processions after every Mass at the parish that day. Deacon Enrique Castro led this group, who attended the 1 p.m. Mass in Spanish, in praying the litany in Spanish. More photos from this event have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, *cathmo.com*. Select “Photo Galleries” from the “Multimedia” tab on the menu bar.



— Photos by Jay Nies

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'Things To Do' temporarily suspended

By Kelly Martin

Due the public health concerns regarding the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic, parishes and other Catholic organizations and groups are cancelling, postponing or modifying events.

Groups may find other ways to accommodate the ban on public gatherings. Events, such as meetings or spiritual renewal opportunities, may be provided online through social media platforms, such as Zoom or Facebook.

Some fundraising or social events are being done on a "drive-through" basis. If the canceled or postponed event was intended to raise money for a ministry or service, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight recommends offering people an alternative means to contribute to the ministry or service.

To that end, diocesan communications staff, including *The Catholic Missourian* are doing our best to inform the public of event changes.

Because of the enormity of keeping-up with events collected for the "Things To Do" page in this newspaper, we have decided to suspend listing events until further notice.

However, when we are notified of an event cancellation or change, we will update the diocesan website calendar at diojeffcity.org/events.

It is suggested that you check websites, Facebook and other social media of the organizing group for the most re-

cent information, or contact them via phone or email.

For more information on the Diocese of Jefferson City's pastoral response to this public health concern, please visit diojeffcity.org/public-health.

Mrs. Martin is Advertising Coordinator for The Catholic Missourian. She may be reached at 573-635-9127 or advertize@diojeffcity.org.

If you can't receive Communion, make a spiritual Communion

"Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart."

By Patti Armstrong

National Catholic Register

As the coronavirus spreads, the list of canceled public events has come to include even Catholic Masses.

As people adjust their habits to include more vigorous handwashing, for Catholics, aspects of their church worship are also being altered such as some holy water fonts have been emptied, handshaking and Communion from the chalice suspended, and one diocese has banned hymnals.

But altering the ways of worship is nothing compared to canceling the worship itself. No Mass means no Eucharist. Jesus gave us His Body and Blood on the cross and instituted the memorial of this great sacrifice at the Last Supper. "Do this in memory of Me," He told us.

And so we do at every Mass. It is only during the Mass

at the consecration, that the bread and wine become the

so that it may always forgive my sins. Because I always sin, I

you do not receive Communion and you do not attend

Mass, you can make a spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed

"... It is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of 'spiritual Communion,' which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. St. Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When you do not receive Communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.'"

— St. Pope John Paul II, *"Ecclesia de Eucharistia,"* no. 34

Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Thus, canceling Masses is monumental. As explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life. The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound-up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself, our (Passover)," (CCC 1324).

Through this sacrament, "we unite ourselves to Christ, Who makes us sharers in His Body and Blood to form a single body," (CCC 1331).

Holy Communion also cleanses us from venial sins. (If a Catholic is conscious of having committed a "grave sin" he or she must go to Confession before receiving Communion or he commits the additional sin of sacrilege.) "For as often as we eat this bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the death of the Lord. If we proclaim the Lord's death, we proclaim the forgiveness of sins. If, as often as His Blood is poured out, it is poured for the forgiveness of sins, I should always receive it,

should always have a remedy," (CCC 1393).

"Constant desire"

Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. George parish in Linn and Our Lady Help of Christians parish in Frankenstein and chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission for the Jefferson City diocese, emphasized that making a spiritual Communion is not intended to take the place of sacramental Communion, "but to increase our hunger for sacramental Communion and simply our prayer relationship and connection with Christ."

He likened it to the longing a married couple experienced when the husband and wife are physically separated from one another.

He pointed to a statement St. Pope John Paul II made in his encyclical letter, *"Ecclesia de Eucharistia"* — "... It is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of 'spiritual Communion,' which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. St. Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When

on you.'" (no. 34)

Making a spiritual Communion

The Church encourages frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist through making a spiritual Communion.

By making an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask Him to unite Himself with us. Here is the Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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Randy & Loralyn Fry, 35 years
Jeffery & Alicia Cotton, 27 years

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels
Paul & Theresa Branson, 22 years

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary
Danny & Mary Ann Lamb, 50 years

Kahoka, St. Michael
Mark & Deanne Whiston, 46 years

Marceline, St. Bonaventure
Leroy & Barbara Stallo, 49 years
Chris & Lisa Efker, 36 years
Buddy & Julie Niemeier, 28 years
Chris & Jeri Uhlík, 24 years

Martinsburg, St. Joseph
David & Sharon Welschmeyer, 40 years
Darren & Michelle Hombs, 26 years

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception
Karl & Becky Queathem, 25 years

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle
Tony & Marsha Strope, 50 years

Vienna, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ken & Carol Menges, 46 years

Birthdays

Edina, St. Joseph — **Marie Clark**, grandmother of Father Paul Clark, her 99th on March 18

Hermann, St. George — **Marilyn Landolt**, her 90th

Kahoka, St. Michael — **Mary O'Brien**, her 90th on March 8

Vienna, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary — **Bernice Schmitz**, her 97th on March 21

Names for the People Page

Information for the People Page comes from parish correspondents and individual parishioners, as well as bulletins and newspapers. Submissions for anniversaries (10 years or more), birthdays (90 years or more), and baptisms, deaths, marriages and initiations of local parishioners may be e-mailed to editor@diojeffcity.org; FAXed to (573) 635-2286 (please designate *The Catholic Missourian* as the recipient); or mailed to: *The Catholic Missourian*, 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914.

Baptisms

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Zoey and Emma Kraus**, daughters of Dale & Sarah Kraus

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Ada Cardwell, Olivia Karlin, Layla Spencer, Elliott Wulff**

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Violet Rose Rothove**, daughter of Sam & Liz Rothove

Glasgow, St. Mary — **Oliver Lee Fuemmeler**

Monroe City, Holy Rosary — **Jackson Joseph Kendrick**, son of Matthew & Karen Kendrick

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Kendyl Brauner**, daughter of Dylan & Carrie Brauner; **Rowan Krieger**, daughter of Tyler & Kaylene Krieger; **Hadlei Rockers**, daughter of Miles & Justice Rockers; **Griffin Spencer**, son of Zachary & Addie Spencer

Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **LeAnn Long & Patrick Lehman**

Initiations

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Sara Kraus**, who received sacraments of initiation on Jan. 24

ALMSGIVING

From page 12

should not mean out of mind.

The Old Testament is full of reminders about the need to give alms and a passage from the Book of Tobit goes a step further by saying “almsgiving saves from death and purges all sin.”

So, if believers know that they should give, why isn't this discipline more of a Lenten topic of conversation?

Jesuit Father Bruce Morrill, the Edward A. Malloy professor of Catholic studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, said one possibility is that so much of the religious practice of Lent is shaped by images that represent what people are trying to do with their faith — ashes, for example, or fish on Fridays.

“Almsgiving is not easily recognizable,” nor does it necessarily demonstrate religious devotion as prayer and fasting do with their focus on personal holiness, he said.

He pointed out that the practice of giving to those in need was not recognized for its spiritual value even in the New Testament. Jesus spoke about being asked: “Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?” and His response was if they did this for “the least of these” they also did it for Him.

Deaths

Sister Judith Ann Moyers (formerly Sister Mary Dolorosa), 88 — of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, who once served at the former St. Elizabeth Hospital in Hannibal — on February 17. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 2 in The Sarah Community chapel in Bridgeton.

Camdenton, St. Anthony — **Richard Kruse**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **John M. Bryan**

Edina, St. Joseph — **Lawrence Schroeder**

Eldon, Sacred Heart — **Donald J. Ressel**

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Delores J. Hoffman**

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Eva Reidinger, Harrison Vessell**

Hermann, St. George — **Raymond Ochsner, Louis “Dugan” Speckhals**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Judith M. Connor, Barbara M. Nilges, Helen Scherr, Dorothy Witthar**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Gary D. Bernskoetter, Kathryn R. Elliott**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Joseph V. Kanga, Deanna “Missy” M. Treu, Carolyn S. Weider**

Linn, St. George — **Mary M. Haslag, Joseph “Bud” Jaegers**

Marceline, St. Bonaventure — **Elizabeth Stanley**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Fred Mormann**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Jim Schulte**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Patricia Felten**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Ronald L. Lootens**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Gerald D. Wolf**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Janet A. Frese**

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Sylvester “Bud” Fessler**

Elections

Father John Henderson — pastor of St. William parish in Perry and St. Frances Cabrini mission in Paris — to be vice president of the board of directors of Turning Point Recovery Centers in Hannibal

saying it translates “prayers into love for each other by giving to the needy in the name of Christ.”

He stressed the practice is not an optional one, but one that is required of believers, but he also lamented that it “seems to get the least attention among the three” Lenten disciplines.

The deacon suggested that people create an almsgiving plan that doesn't necessarily need to be about giving money but also could be a donation of time, energy or talents to those in need.

“Let's make almsgiving an encounter with God during Lent through the face of the poor,” he wrote.

Crossword puzzle answers

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



“By His wounds, you are healed”



The Confirmation class of Northern Boone County lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 6, in Holy Spirit Church in Centralia. The students also provided and served the Lenten meal afterward. — Photo from Holy Spirit parish’s Facebook page

Taste and see



Eighth-graders at St. Joseph School in Salisbury help prepare the school’s famous cinnamon rolls on Feb. 21 for a fundraiser. — Photos from St. Joseph School’s Facebook page

Gone but not forgotten



Students at Holy Family School in Freeburg prepare to bury the “Alleluia” on Ash Wednesday, as the word is not used throughout Lent at Mass until the Easter Vigil. — Photo from Holy Family School’s Facebook page

Next go Godliness



Members of the Immaculate Conception School Youth Group clean and disinfect the covers of the hymnals in Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City for a service project. — Photo from I.C. School’s Facebook page

There is no greater love than this



Third-graders at St. Stanislaus School in Wardsville display their artwork depicting the Stations of the Cross. — Photo from St. Stanislaus School’s Facebook page

Samuel anoints David king of Israel

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

The Israelites wanted to have a king to rule over them, so God anointed Saul as the first king of Israel.

But Saul wound up doing what was evil in God's sight, and God regretted making Saul king.

So, God sent the prophet Samuel on a mission.

"Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen My king from among his sons," God told the prophet.

"How can I go? Saul will hear of it and kill me," Samuel said.

"Take a heifer along and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacri-



ifice, and I Myself will tell you what to do; you are to anoint for Me the one I point out to you," God replied.

Samuel traveled to Bethlehem. As he entered the city, the

elders came up to him to ask whether his visit was going to be a peaceful one.

"Yes! I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. So, purify yourselves and celebrate with

me today," Samuel told the elders. He also had Jesse and his sons purify themselves and invited them to the sacrifice.

At the sacrifice, Jesse presented his sons to Samuel one by one.

Samuel thought for sure that Jesse's eldest son, Eliab, would be chosen by God.

"Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart," God told Samuel.

"Are these all the sons you have?" Samuel asked after meeting seven of Jesse's sons, none of whom God chose.

"There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep,"

Jesse replied.

"Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here," the prophet said.

David was brought before Samuel. David was a handsome youth and made a splendid appearance.

"There — anoint him, for this is the one!" God told Samuel.

Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the midst of his brothers, and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.

Read more about it...

1 Samuel 16

1. Whom did God regret making king of Israel?

2. Which of Jesse's sons did God want Samuel to anoint?

Bible Accent

In 1 Samuel 16:14, we read that after God rejected Saul as king of Israel and had Samuel anoint David as the new king, the spirit of the Lord left Saul.

Saul then began to be tormented by an evil spirit from God. Saul's servants noted the change in their master.

"Look! An evil spirit from God is tormenting you. If your lordship will order it, we, your servants here attending to you, will look for a man skilled in playing the harp," they said. "When the evil spirit from God comes upon you, he will

play, and you will feel better."

Saul agreed with his servants' recommendation.

"Find me a good harpist and bring him to me," the king ordered.

One of the servants spoke up. "I have observed that a son of Jesse of Bethlehem is a skillful harpist," he said. "He is also a brave warrior, an able speaker and a handsome young man. The Lord is certainly with him."

David entered the king's service. Whenever the evil spirit came upon Saul, David would

play his harp, and Saul would be relieved and feel better. Saul grew fond of David and made the youth his armor bearer.

"Let David stay in my service, for he meets with my approval," Saul said in a message to David's father, Jesse.

A note in the New American Bible explains that by approving of David, Saul identified David as his legitimate successor as king.

Puzzle

Using the hints from 1 Samuel, circle the correct answer to each question about David.



1. Which of Saul's daughters was in love with David? Merob/Michal (18:20)
2. Who was jealous of David and wanted to kill him? Saul/Jonathan (19:1)
3. Whose sword did David receive from Ahimelech the priest? Abner's/Goliath's (21:9-10)
4. Who refused to give provisions to David and his men? Samuel/Nabal (25:4-11)



Answers: 1. Michal; 2. Saul; 3. Goliath's; 4. Nabal.

Trivia

What Philistine champion did David defeat? (Hint: 1 Samuel 17)

Answer: Goliath.



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Saint Spotlight

St. Casilda was a Muslim who lived in Spain in the 10th and 11th centuries and was known for showing kindness to Christian prisoners. After becoming ill, she made a pilgrimage to the shrine of San Vincenzo de Briviesca and was cured in its healing waters. She became a

Christian, and she lived in solitude and penance in a cell near the shrine. Casilda reportedly lived to 100, and we honor her on April 9.



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New book gives refugees' firsthand accounts of their experiences

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

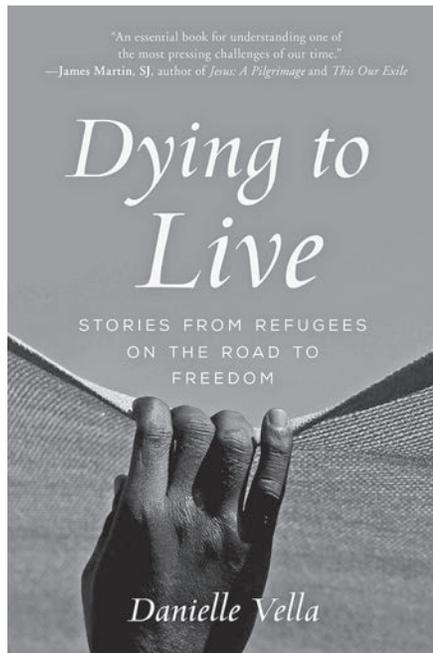
"People see refugees all the time as victims, but what they are is resilient," said Danielle Vella, an official with Jesuit Refugee Service who spent six months collecting the stories of refugees, primarily in camps in Africa, Asia and Europe, but also the lucky few who have made it to the United States.

The first-person accounts Vella collected are published in her new book, *Dying to Live: Stories From Refugees on the Road to Freedom*.

Vella appeared March 2 at Georgetown University in Washington as part of a tour of Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States to promote the book.

In an interview with Catholic News Service prior to a lunch-hour address, Vella said the idea for *Dying to Live* was first floated by its publisher, Rowman & Littlefield. Vella had visited refugee camps in 2016 as the number of refugees worldwide were swelling, and wrote weekly articles about her journey that were later published in book form.

"Some of them I'm still in touch with," Vella said of the refugees she interviewed for



the new book. "Some people I don't know where they are."

Vella said she was "better prepared than before" to hear the heart-wrenching tales of violence and deprivation that confronted refugees in their bid to find a new home.

Some of the refugees endured unspeakable horrors before deciding to flee their native land. Others encountered even worse treatment while fleeing. The first dozen pages of *Dying to Live* include enough devastation for a 200-page book.

Hakeem, an Afghani, recounted when Taliban fighters took away many of his village's young people: "Their families

don't know what happened to them to this day." It is a tough call, he added. "We are afraid of the government and afraid of (the) Taliban too. Whatever we do, one side is going to see us as the enemy."

Anwar, a Pakistani man, ran a school that educated both Muslims and Christians. The Pakistani Taliban wanted it shut down, had desks set afire, then murdered his dog — with threats his family would be next.

"Anwar was afraid now," Vella writes. "The very next morning at dawn, he asked a close friend to call for

him and his family. 'We went far away to a city near Islamabad. In my place, they didn't know where we had gone,' he says. The family stayed indoors from then onward. Anwar did not even allow his children to go to school. Anwar fled to Europe, leaving behind enough for his wife and children 'so that my children would be able to eat.'"

Martin spoke to Vella about being a forced child conscript of the Ugandan military. "We were not even given the chance to bathe; the only chance was when we crossed a small river, that is when the water touches you, or when it rains," he said, noting he wore the same clothing for six months. "I've seen people dying when they got tired; they cannot walk any-

Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

The Call of the Wild (PG)
I Am Patrick (Not rated)
I Still Believe (PG)
Sonic the Hedgehog (PG)



Adults

Bloodshot (PG-13)
Brahms: The Boy II (PG-13)
Burden (R)
Emma (PG)
Fantasy Island (PG-13)
Gretel and Hansel (PG-13)
Impractical Jokers: The Movie (PG-13)
Les Miserables (R)
Onward (PG)
The Photograph (PG-13)
The Rhythm Section (R)
The Way Back (R)



Limited Adult Audience

Downhill (R)
The Invisible Man (R)



Morally Offensive

Birds of Prey (R)
The Hunt (R)

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

more. I've seen people killed before my eyes, people slaughtered like goats. We were forced to watch how they were killed. That was the training they were giving us."

Even with the trauma they experienced, these refugees still have hope, Vella said. "In fact, they shame you into hoping for them," she added, noting they were surprisingly open about sharing their stories.

They have left their home and work behind — and in some cases their family — but "they want to feel useful," Vella said.

Despite the differences in country, religion and circumstances, the refugees she interviewed undertook their perilous journey and "trust that God will do the rest," Vella said, to keep them safe and alive until they reach their ultimate destination.

Refugees also possess a great deal of trust, she added. While in flight, they put themselves in God's hands. Once they are in a new country, they place

themselves in the hands of asylum and immigration officials and policymakers.

Vella wonders whether the hope refugees have is misplaced. "Almost all refugees hope they are taken in by a prosperous country," she told CNS, but at the luncheon she said that lack of coordination by the European Union is stymieing that possibility.

"Europe is 700 million" people, said Vella, a native of Malta who currently works for JRS in her home country. "One million (the estimated number of refugees in Europe awaiting placement) into 700 million should not be so hard," she told the lunch audience.

"I'm afraid the majority of refugees will never leave the camps," she told CNS. "They're in a kind of limbo."

She paused for a moment, then said, "I remember I was at Vatican Radio in 2004 when the Vatican said limbo doesn't exist anymore. ... But this is kind of like a limbo on earth."

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You have redeemed the world!



Young people from St. Louis of France parish in Bonnots Mill brought the Stations of the Cross to life on March 15.

— Photos by Melanie Beel-Peters



CONVERSION

From page 19

makes you want something you may be missing," she said. "And I believe that "something" is faith."

Mr. Beier had grown up with no religious affiliation but was open to what his wife wanted.

"I've had to work through some doubts," he said. "A lot of the things I heard about Catholicism and many other religions, didn't make sense to me. Being an engineer, I essentially need proof for why things are the way they are. That's just how my mind works."

Through the RCIA, he has studied actual documentation for the claims of Christianity.

"There's historical evidence for all of these things that have taken place through history," he said.

He's becoming more comfortable with the fact that some things cannot be proven on this side of eternity — "specifically, what happens after you

pass away from this life."

"That is where I've really had to make the leap and believe that this is the right thing to believe," he said.

Mrs. Beier said she's impressed with how the RCIA helps people learn the fundamentals of Catholic Church teaching before they are initiated.

"Rather than having you jump head first, they give you all that knowledge to make a sound decision," she said.

The couple hopes to celebrate the convalidation of their marriage in the Church on their first wedding anniversary.

Both are seeking annulments for failed attempts at marriage.

"Something obviously wasn't right and didn't work out," said Mrs. Beier. "But we're together now, and everything happens for a reason. And this time, I want everything to be right. And I think

putting God at the center of that is what was missing."

The Beiers asked for prayers for the motivation to continue learning and growing in their relationship with God long after they receive the Easter Sacraments.

"We don't want to become complacent," said Mrs. Beier. "We want to continue on our journey and keep following that path."

They're amazed at how many people are drawn to the Church by the needs of their children.

"Everybody wants something better for their kids," said Mrs. Beier. "And it's amazing how when people think about wanting something better for their kids, they lean toward faith."

Intense preparation

All Catholics are encouraged to keep the candidates and catechumens in prayer through

Daily Readings

Sunday, Mar 22

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
1 Sm. 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-6
Eph. 5:8-14
Jn. 9:1-41

Monday, Mar 23

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop
Is. 65:17-21
Ps. 30:2-6, 11-12a, 13b
Jn. 4:43-54

Tuesday, Mar 24

Ez. 47:1-9, 12
Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
Jn. 5:1-16

Wednesday, Mar 25

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Is. 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps. 40:7-11
Heb. 10:4-10
Lk. 1:26-38

Thursday, Mar 26

Ex. 32:7-14
Ps. 106:19-23
Jn. 5:31-47

Friday, Mar 27

Wis. 2:1a, 12-22
Ps. 34:17-21, 23
Jn. 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, Mar 28

Jer. 11:18-20
Ps. 7:2-3, 9bc-12
Jn. 7:40-53

Sunday, Mar 29

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Ez. 37:12-14
Ps. 130:1-8
Rom. 8:8-11
Jn. 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday, Mar 30

Dn. 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62
Ps. 23:1-6
Jn. 8:1-11

Tuesday, Mar 31

Nm. 21:4-9
Ps. 102:2-3, 16-21
Jn. 8:21-30

Wednesday, Apr 1

Dn. 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
(Ps.) Dn. 3:52-56
Jn. 8:31-42

Thursday, Apr 2

Saint Francis of Paola, hermit
Gn. 17:3-9
Ps. 105:4-9
Jn. 8:51-59

Friday, Apr 3

Jer. 20:10-13
Ps. 18:2-7
Jn. 10:31-42

Saturday, Apr 4

Saint Isidore, bishop, doctor of the Church
Ez. 37:21-28
(Ps.) Jer. 31:10-13
Jn. 11:45-56

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for March:

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

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these last, most intense weeks of preparation before they're received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

The symbols of fire, light, water, oil, bread and wine will be highlighted in a Liturgy filled with some of the Church's richest traditions and rituals.

Neophytes, as newly initiated members of the Church are known after the Easter Vigil, will continue meeting regularly through Pentecost, celebrated

50 days after Easter.

That phase, called Mystagoga, is a time to "savor the mystery" of Easter and to experience a full and joyful welcome into the community.

"We're so amazed at how God brings people to Himself and to His Church," said Paul Kelly, a member of the RCIA formation team at Fort Leonard Wood. "My wife and I are so happy to be a part of the process of helping people learn the truth and beauty of the Catholic Church."

Fr. Fields at ecumenical service: Time to wipe away the dust

By Jay Nies

A glass dish can grow dull and opaque with dust.

“But when you clean it, how it sparkles!” Father Robert Fields told an interchurch

gathering at the dawn of Lent.

About 80 Christians from

several congregations, including a large contingent from St. Michael parish in Kahoka

and Shrine of St. Patrick parish in St. Patrick, gathered for an interchurch Ash Wednesday service in St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Kahoka.

It was part of the Clark County Ministerial Alliance’s annual slate of weekly Lenten services, hosted by local congregations with messages given by local pastors.

Fr. Fields, pastor of the Kahoka and St. Patrick parishes and canonical administrator of St. Joseph parish in Canton and Queen of Peace parish in Ewing, preached the Ash Wednesday message and helped distribute ashes.

He spoke of how faith in God summons all Christians toward unity.

“We’re all in this together,” he said, “and our love for God shows in how we treat one another, in our words and our actions.”

Fr. Fields and Pastor Dixie Laube of St. Paul’s UCC traced ashes into the shape of a cross on the foreheads of those who stepped forward.

The people sang “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” and other hymns.

“We share a common origin,” Fr. Fields noted. “God raised us all up from the dust of the earth. We also share in the hope of one day dying with Christ in order that we may be raised up with Him for all eternity.”

The Ministerial Alliance sponsors Lenten services at 7 p.m. each Wednesday in various Clark County churches.

St. Michael Church hosted the March 11 service, with Pastor Franz Kinkhorst of Kahoka United Methodist Church preaching the message.




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