

At work with Christ, from a proper distance

Disaster Responders Teams are helping to ensure that parishes continue to shine the light of Christ throughout their communities.

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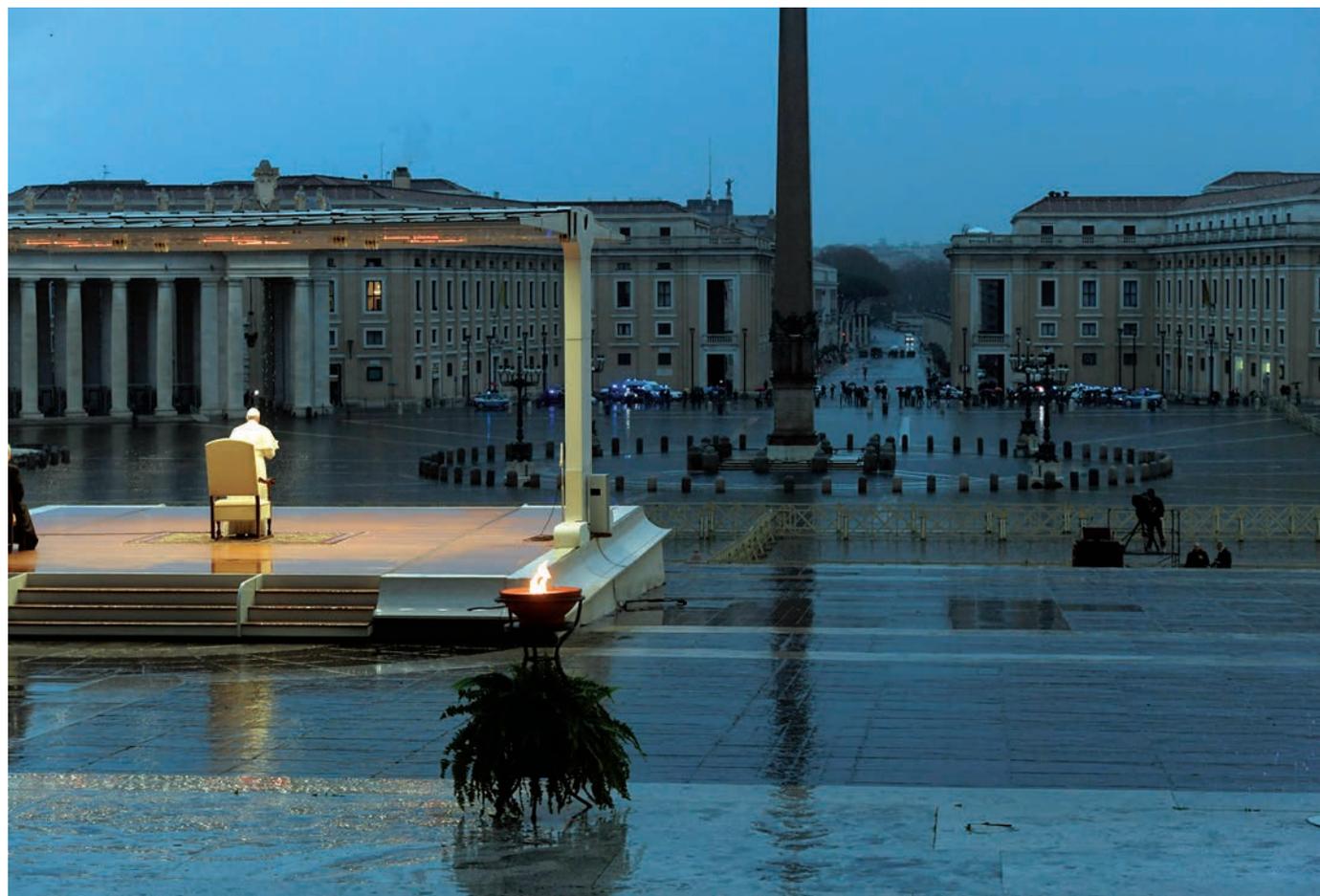
Official Decree. Page 14

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

April 3, 2020 • Vol. 63 No. 20

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Pope Francis: Believe that the Lord is here, that He cares



Live “urbi et orbi” blessing in a near-empty St. Peter’s Square was an ardent expression of hope that God is here, and Christ’s heart is burning with passion for His people

Pontiff insists that COVID-19 isn’t God’s judgment, but a call to live differently

Prays for divine protection, miraculous healing and conversion for the world

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The worldwide coronavirus pandemic is not God’s judgment on humanity, but God’s call on people to judge what is most important to them and resolve to act accordingly from now on, Pope Francis said.

Addressing God, the Pope said that “it is not the time of Your judgment, but of our judgment: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to You, Lord, and to others.”

Pope Francis offered his meditation on the meaning of the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for humanity March 27 before raising a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and giving an extraordinary blessing “*urbi et orbi*” (to the city and the world).

Popes usually give their blessing “*urbi et orbi*” only immediately after their election and on Christmas and Easter.

Pope Francis opened the service — in a rain-drenched, empty St. Peter’s Square — praying that the “almighty

See BLESSING, page 17

Pope Francis leads a prayer service in an empty St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican March 27, 2020. At the conclusion of the service the Pope held the Eucharist as he gave an extraordinary blessing “*urbi et orbi*” (to the city and the world). The service was livestreamed in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. — CNS photo/Vatican Media

Bishop McKnight decrees further suspension of public Masses, gatherings in diocese

Suspension at least until April 30

Will include Holy Week, Easter Triduum

No in-school instruction at schools at least until May 1

Part of community-wide efforts to protect the vulnerable

Bishop urges cooperation, appropriate ministries to continue

In an official decree effective April 1, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight extended at least until April 30 the suspension of all public Masses and gatherings in the Jefferson City diocese.

This suspension affects all liturgies for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum.

All Catholic schools in the diocese will follow this decree and remain closed through April 30.

Bishop McKnight made this decision in consultation and

cooperation with government and public health authorities in an effort to help slow the spread of the dangerous COVID-19 virus.

In the extensive decree, published beginning on Page 14 of this newspaper, the bishop prohibited public celebrations of the liturgy and devotions.

While assisting ministers are allowed at Masses that are livestreamed, those assisting ministers are encouraged not to present themselves for Holy Communion.

“These directives are in alignment with the recommendations of our federal government,” Bishop McKnight said when releasing the decree. “It is essential we do everything we can to protect people from the virus, especially those who are most

See SACRIFICE, page 18

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Diocese of
Jefferson City

Pray for deceased priests

Apr. 7 — **Fr. Robert J. Chenoweth**, St. Louis (2003)

Apr. 8 — **Fr. Bernard H. Mers**, Holy Guardian Angels, Brinktown (1984); **Fr. Richard Cronin**, Immaculate Conception, Loose Creek (2019)

Apr. 10 — **Fr. William F. Flanagan**, Holy Rosary, Monroe City; and St. Stephen, Indian Creek (2014)

Apr. 13 — **Fr. Severin H. Lamping**, Church of the Resurrection, Wellsville (1986)

Apr. 15 — **Fr. Edwin A. Schmidt**, St. Martin, St. Martins (2017)

Apr. 17 — **Fr. Blase J. Scheffer**, Annunciation, California (1969)

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.

**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.**

Online contributions can be made to any parish via diocese's website

People can now make online contributions to any parish in the Jefferson City diocese by visiting diojeffcity.org/support-parish.

This link can be used if a parish does not have another means for parishioners to support the ministries of the parish online.

Local Catholic Charities agency launches online portal for relief efforts

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO), the charitable services arm of the Diocese of Jefferson City, has opened an online request form for residents of the 38 counties of the diocese seeking assistance with COVID-19 (coronavirus)-related needs.

The online request portal, located on the Catholic Charities website at cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/covid-19, asks those

seeking assistance to enter basic demographic details and contact information, as well as a description of their COVID-19-related need.

They are also prompted to select if their need is financial or volunteer related, such as needing assistance with obtaining groceries or needed medical supplies while quarantined.

LeAnn Korsmeyer, diocesan director of parish and charitable services, noted that the dio-

cese has been actively recruiting volunteers throughout the diocese who are eager to assist people in need in their local communities.

"Catholic Charities will take the requests that come in and filter them to their local volunteer group appropriately," she said. "Our goal in this response is truly to be 'Better Together' and enable acts of



Catholic Charities
of Central and Northern Missouri

charity and mercy during this time of crisis."

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight said he's inspired by the outpouring of offers to help people affected by the coronavirus and to assist with efforts to mitigate its rapid spread.

"This online portal will allow our Catholic Charities personnel to provide effective and safe assistance to the most vulnerable in our communities in their time of greatest need," the bishop stated.

CCCNMO provides a range of programs and services to those in need in to a

38-county service area regardless of faith, culture or situation.

Programs include disaster services, food and nutrition services, refugee and immigration services, housing and financial counseling, and social ministries.

CCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester said Catholic Charities' mission of "Providing Care and Creating Hope" is as important now as it has ever been.

"Our experience responding to floods, tornados, and other natural disasters has prepared us as an agency to step up to the plate and assist with this new response, relief, and recovery effort," he said.

Residents who cannot access the internet can also request assistance through Catholic Charities via phone at (573) 635-7719.

Catholic Charities has also established a COVID-19 relief fund to help those in need.

Those interested in supporting these efforts may do so at cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give.

Bread Drive at Helias H.S.

DATE: April 4
TIME: noon - 4 pm

Bread is in short supply at Aging Best's senior centers in 19 counties throughout central Missouri.

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, Helias Catholic High School, the Diocese of Jefferson City and Aging Best plan to hold a "Give Us This Day" Bread Drive from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, to support local senior centers.

The drive-through drop-off for loaves of bread will be held at Helias Catholic, 1305 Swifts Highway in Jefferson City.

Simply place items in the trunk of your car and drive up.

Volunteers will collect donations directly from vehicles, and all social distancing and group size guidelines will be observed.

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Mailing address: PO Box 104900, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900. Phone: (573) 635-9127

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Parish response teams shining light on their communities

By Jay Nies

Amanda Durbin brought a 4-foot wooden cross to the high school youth group at St. Mary parish in Shelbina on Ash Wednesday.

She invited each member to try carrying the cross.

Then she asked if they could help someone else carry their cross.

“Of course, we can.”

“Then will you?”

“Yes!”

No one could imagine that Mrs. Durbin would be writing to those same young people three weeks later, when public Masses and gatherings were suspended in order to help slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

It was time for them not only to carry their own cross but to help others — especially people who are vulnerable — carry theirs.

“The Church is always being prepared for what God needs us to do,” Mrs. Durbin stated.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight instructed all parishes in the Jefferson City diocese to form Disaster Responders Teams to plan and oversee a

coordinated outreach to all people within their parish boundaries who are likely to need help due to the coronavirus pandemic and its effects.

Each parish response team was to identify and determine how best to contact people, Catholic and non-Catholic, who are elderly, alone or otherwise in need of a call.

The teams would also contact and determine how best to deploy the parishioners who volunteer to help people in need.

As of April 1, nearly 400 people had signed up as volunteers by visiting diojeffcity.org/parish-disaster-responders-team-volunteer-form.

“I am astonished by the enthusiasm and creativity our people are exhibiting during this time of crisis,” said LeAnn Korsmeyer, diocesan director of parish and charitable services.

“God is doing amazing things in our midst,” she added. “The Church is not empty, it’s being deployed.”



Young people in the Shelbina and Clarence parishes sent cards to people on the parishes' Disaster Responders Team's call list. — Photo from the St. Mary's Catholic Church of Shelbina, MO, Facebook page

Not forgotten

Mrs. Durbin and Chris Dimmitt are co-coordinators of the parish Disaster Responders Team for the Shelbina parish and neighboring St. Patrick parish in Clarence.

“The willingness and energy have always been there,” said Mrs. Durbin. “This is really pulling us together. “We’re seeing it come together and how much joy it’s bringing to people.”

The parishes' Disaster Responders Team made a list of people who needed to be regularly contacted — including people who are living alone, who have chronic illnesses or are elderly — and divided them up among the team's members.

Whenever there's news from the parishes or the diocese, the parish team members call to inform the people on the list.

“Not all of our people have access to email or social media, so they appreciate a call,” Mrs. Durbin noted.

The members also offer resources such as meals, shopping, medication pick-ups, supplies, transportation, support and prayer requests.

“One woman said it meant the world to her to know that the Church had not forgotten her,” said Mrs. Durbin.

Each of the 95 young people

in kindergarten through 12th grade in both parishes was assigned to be a prayer partner for a person on the call list.

The young people mailed cards to their prayer partners and pray for them daily.

St. Mary and St. Patrick are among the congregations in the Shelby County Ministerial Association that take turns delivering groceries one day a week to people who are homebound.

A man on the parishes' call list needs emergency surgery. A member of the parish team will take him to the hospital, and parishioners will prepare meals for him after he returns home.

Four people who work with the first person in Shelby County to test positive for COVID-19 had to be quarantined immediately.

“That Saturday, our group cooked and froze six or seven meals for each of those families,” said Mrs. Durbin.

“Seek the lost”

Before Jesus fed the 5,000, the disciples suggested sending them home because half-a-year's wages wouldn't be enough to buy food for all of them.

“And Jesus responded to their lack of faith with a miraculous outpouring of grace,” said Monsignor Marion Makarewicz, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake in Lake Ozark. “He is doing the same right now.”

He noted that his parishioners provide substantial funding and volunteer support for the local food pantry and have begun an outreach to show concern for local law enforcement and emergency workers.

He believes they're experiencing a wake-up call, a summons to seven days of personal prayer and active outreach per week in response to the grace of the Sunday sacraments.

“We need to take that sacramental grace out into the world and live it,” he said.

The local economy relies heavily on tourism, which is on

See PARISHES, page 20



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

APRIL

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 Holy Week services will not be open to the public, but they will be livestreamed/recorded for the public. Visit diojeffcity.org for details.

Apr. 5 Palm Sunday Mass, 9 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

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

Apr. 10 Good Friday Passion Service, 3 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

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

Apr. 12 Easter Sunday Mass, 9 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

Apr. 21 Catholic Rural Life Board of Directors Conference Call, 2 pm, Jefferson City

Apr. 22 Diocesan School Advisory Board Meeting, 3 pm, Jefferson City



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Bishop McKnight's April prayer intention for our Local Church

For a stronger sense of the mission of the Church, especially among our youth and young adults, in this time of pandemic and in our discernment of a new pastoral plan.



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

Para un sentido más fuerte de la misión de la Iglesia, especialmente entre nuestros jóvenes y adultos jóvenes, en este tiempo de pandemia y en nuestro discernimiento de un nuevo plan pastoral.

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



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Pilgrims to cathedral beg the Harvest Master to send more priests into the vineyard

Unite their prayers with those of St. Jude the Apostle

Call upon the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for help and protection during pandemic

By Jay Nies

The saints are there.

They're in heaven, praying and waiting for us to become saints like them.

"We're baptized into the Body of Christ! So we don't have to walk this pilgrimage alone," Dominican Father Patrick Tobin told pilgrims from all over the Jefferson City diocese during a March 15 Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The diocesan Vocation Office sponsored the all-day event in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Fr. Tobin, former associate pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia and current chaplain of the Dominican National Shrine of St. Jude in Chicago (www.the-shrine.org), was the featured speaker.

Participants were asked to pray fervently for vocations, especially to the diocesan Priesthood for this diocese.

The daylong prayer vigil took place the weekend before Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, instructed parishes to live-

stream their Masses, cancel public events and promote proper social distancing in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

At the closing Mass, the bishop led the people in praying for vocations and invoking the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary against all sickness.

Fr. Tobin brought to the event a major relic of St. Jude Thaddeus, one of Jesus's 12 Apostles.

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general for the diocese and pastor of St. Michael parish in Russellville, processed the relic into the cathedral.

Encased in an ornate, 18th-century reliquary, the relic was reserved for several hours in the cathedral's daily Mass chapel, for silent contemplation and individual veneration.

Before the closing Mass with Bishop McKnight, Fr. Paul Clark, part-time associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish and a chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, placed the relic on a table in the center aisle, just outside the cathedral sanctuary.

Spiritual health

In two meditations given during the day, Fr. Tobin encouraged the people to iden-



A family examines a major relic of St. Jude the Apostle, consisting of bone fragments of the saint's forearm, encased in an 18th century reliquary, after the closing Mass for the diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations on March 15 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. — Photos by Jay Nies

tify and address the root causes of their "default sins," gently hold one another accountable before God, and pray for each other.

"Make sure the people you love know that you want to support them in their pilgrimage to heaven," said Fr. Tobin. "Just knowing that someone is praying for them can be a powerful, powerful thing."

He spoke of the need for regular "check-ups" to honestly assess one's own spiritual health.

"Physically, you can be healthy but still have a few things you need to work on," the priest asserted. "It's the same for our spiritual life. We need to make the necessary changes in order to address the things that do not fall within a healthy range."

He suggesting asking a priest confessor for help finding and learning to manage the root causes of "chronic sins."

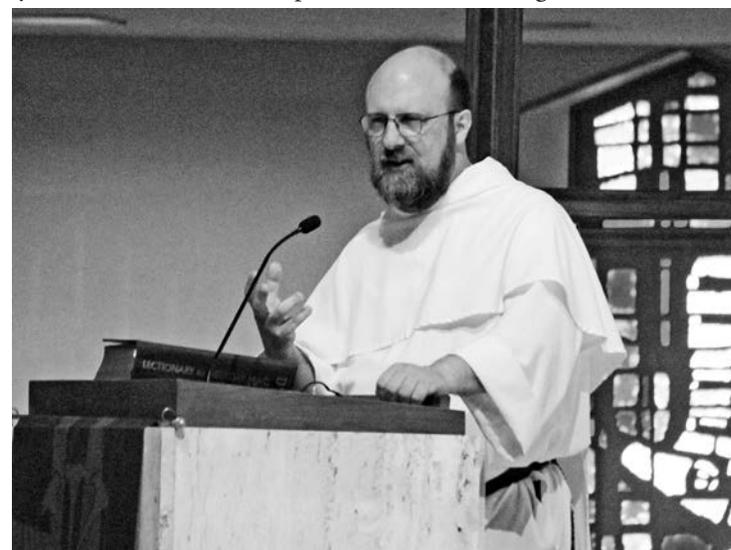
"Those are the ones you keep having to confess, over and over," he said.

Many of those sins are actu-

ally symptoms of an underlying condition.

"And if we can get at that root 'disease,' the symptoms will naturally diminish," he said.

He spoke also of finding



Dominican Father Patrick Tobin, chaplain of the Dominican National Shrine of St. Jude in Chicago, encourages the people attending the Day of Prayer for Vocations to address the root causes of their "default sins," gently hold one another accountable before God, and pray for each other.

and using an examination of conscience that is appropriate for one's own situation and stage in life.

"It's important to find one that fits where we are in terms of our age, where we are in terms of our family life, where we are in terms of our working career and so forth," he said.

Following a thorough and appropriate examination of conscience, a good priest confessor can often then recommend some good spiritual

reading — maybe a saint's writings.

"We have so many saints!" said Fr. Tobin. "Rest assured, there's a saint who matches whatever you are wrestling with, who has written about struggling with whatever you're struggling with."

"You shall receive"

Throughout the day, people adored Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament, prayed the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, and asked St. Jude to join them in petitioning the Lord, Whose friendship he was privileged to enjoy in this life.

Carol Hartman, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City, who was serving as a greeter for the event, said the condition of the world presents an urgent plea for prayer.

She believes God wants people to pray for vocations.

"God answers our prayers!" she said. "We don't just automatically expect priests to appear. We have to ask for them. Because God says, 'Ask and you shall receive.'"

Another volunteer talked about growing up in a family that regularly prayed together for vocations and encouraged each sibling to think seriously about what God wants him or her to

become.

"That means everything," the volunteer said.

Rachel Smith, a student at Truman State University in Kirksville and a member of St. Peter parish in Jefferson City, said it's essential for people to pray together for priestly vocations.

"There's certainly a great need for them in our diocese," she said.

See ST. JUDE, page 23

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.

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An unexpected opportunity to put Gospel values into action

Young men's Catholic group members staff mobile food unit

By Jay Nies

Safe in their cars, people from all around formed a procession through the grounds of St. Martin Church in St. Martins.

Each stopped and gave thanks as members of the Frassati Fraternity loaded boxes of food into their trunk.

The young men — mostly students and graduates of Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City — with their parents' permission were staffing a mobile food distribution center sponsored by the Food Bank of Central & Northeast Missouri and the United Way of Central Missouri.

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) helped bring them all together.

"It's something I didn't expect to be doing. It's pretty awesome!" said Helias Catholic senior Jonathan Dolan.

"It's good to be able to get out and do something meaningful," said Helias Catholic graduate Jacob Hartman, a seminarian for the Jefferson City diocese, who is home from studying at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas.

Wearing Catholic Charities T-shirts and caps, the young men worked at tables set up on both sides of one of the Food Bank's refrigerator trucks.

Maintaining safe distance from one another and the visitors, they unloaded the food, packaged components for several family meals into boxes and bags, and loaded them into the trunks and tailgates of people who needed it.

The supplemental food is always welcome for people whose paychecks don't go far enough, but it's particularly helpful in this time of business shutdowns and layoffs due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Food Bank and United Way operate mobile food pantries each month in several locations throughout Central Missouri.

Jami Wade with the Food Bank of Central & Northeast Missouri shared with CCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester her concern that a shortage of volunteers would



Members of the Frassati Fraternity and their chaplain, Father Joshua Duncan, staff a mobile food distribution center sponsored by the Food Bank of Central & Northeast Missouri and the United Way of Central Missouri. — Photos by Jay Nies

lead to canceling this month's three-hour food distribution in St. Martins.

Mr. Lester called Father Joshua Duncan, part-time associate pastor at Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City and chaplain at Helias Catholic, who is a coordinator of the Frassati Fraternity.

It took the priest less than two hours to field enough volunteers.

Mr. Dolan noted that he and his schoolmates have been out of school and learning at home for over a week.

"You've gotta' do something, so you might as well be out here helping somebody," he said.

"Where we're needed now"

Helias Catholic sophomore Logan Matthews noted that young people have been found to be less susceptible to the coronavirus.

"We have an obligation to do what we can because older people of our community are more affected by this than we are," he said.

Chad Volmert, a sophomore at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, relished the opportunity to help people while he's home from school.

"Since the coronavirus, we can't go face-to-face, person-to-person," he noted. "So we're having cars pull up so we can get around the coronavirus and still give people the food they need."

Mr. Hartman said he enjoyed taking part in community service projects at Helias, "so this really takes me back."

Helias Catholic sophomore Connor McDaniel said helping people is the best thing he

and his friends could be doing that day.

"This is where we're needed right now," he said, "and it's a great day to be out here."

A good lesson

Helias Catholic High School Assistant Principal Dwayne Clingman, who was helping oversee the operation, noted that Helias students are staying busy with their studies, even though school is closed due to the pandemic.

"They have homework," he said. "We have everybody online. They do Zoom calls and we have Google Classroom. They're going to class and taking tests."

He believes the sudden changes resulting from the pandemic and the community's response are a good lesson for young people about how life can change overnight.

He hopes they'll respond by giving thanks for how fortunate they are, lifting everyone up in prayer, keeping the faith and "doing whatever we need to do and helping out in any way we can."

"Pray for everyone"

Frassati Fraternity members get together on Sundays for prayer and fellowship and an occasional game of football or basketball.

"It's a good way for us to help each other grow in faith," said Helias Catholic sophomore Cody Cassmeyer.

A natural result of that faith is service.

"This is something I'm willing to do for people in need," said Mr. Cassmeyer. "I'm blessed with many gifts, so it's a chance for me to help those who are not as fortunate as I



am."

Mr. McDaniel said it's important not only to help people but to pray for them.

"We should pray for everyone, even ourselves," he said. "You can never tell how bad someone else has it."

"Sincere gift"

Mr. Matthews said he was acutely aware of God's presence through the whole time he and his friends were helping out.

"I always find great joy in serving other people, especially at things like this," he said. "I really think it's God calling me to do this, giving me that joy and the ability to do this."

Mr. Volmert agreed: "God is all over this," he said. "As Pope St. John Paul II would say, 'Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.'"

Mr. Cassmeyer said he recognized God's presence in his fellow volunteers, in the people and organizations that provided the food and helped organize the mobile distribution, and especially in the people being served.

"I get to have them bless me with their smiles and their thank-yous," he said. "Besides, I'm having a blast and

I'm glad to be here."

Summoned to sainthood

Fr. Duncan said he sees the young man embody the spirit of their group's namesake, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-25), who was a devout Catholic and ardent advocate for the poor.

"Especially their attitude, their eagerness, their joy, their willingness to help out in any capacity," said Fr. Duncan.

Blessed Frassati dedicated himself to the service of people in need — "even those who were very critically ill," the priest noted.

Fr. Duncan said frequent service opportunities help the young men dedicate themselves to a life of service for others, rather than simply fulfilling their own needs, their own immediate desires.

"That's what I'm seeing right here," said Fr. Duncan. "They're thinking outside themselves at this critical time."

He noted that everyone, no matter his or her vocation, is called to be a saint.

"These guys take it seriously," he said. "They're going to be amazing husbands, fathers, and maybe some of them, God-willing, priests, someday."



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Suggestions for participating in the live-streamed Mass

By Denise Barnes

When my adult children were young, they would occasionally inquire on a Sunday morning when having a hard time waking up, ‘Do we have to go to Church?’

To which I would reply, ‘No, you don’t have to go; You GET to go to Church!’

However, this past week, our bishops, in solidarity with our nation and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to protect our most vulnerable, have called for the ‘suspension of all public Masses.’

In short, we no longer ‘get’ to go to church as we know it.

This directive is not a victory for children who cry, ‘Do we have to go to Church?’ It is an opportunity to find a liturgical experience that will help the family grow in faith together.

Through the wonders of technology, we still have the opportunity to participate.

Because none of us know how long this may be our new normal, it is prudent for families to make a plan for the best liturgical experience.

What does that look like?

For Laetare Sunday (March 22, the Fourth Sunday of Lent), my homebound college student and I had a week to prepare for this new liturgical experience.

The one thing we could wholeheartedly agree on was, ‘It is going to be weird not going to church on Sunday.’

The following is what we learned from our experience:

PREPARE A SPACE: We had to do some work ahead of time. We had to research live-streamed Mass times at www.diojeffcity.org.

We prepared our space with pillows for kneelers, a Bluetooth speaker for volume, and the Apple TV device to be able to watch together from our



— Photos by Denise Barnes

large basement TV.

We added a crucifix, our bottle of holy water and some candles to the space, and ironically our basement windows have stained glass coverings on them.

With the holy water and the intimate gathering, we were able to bring back two things that were missing from our last public Mass: the blessing of ourselves with holy water as we entered our ‘church space,’ and the sign of peace.

Wherever your space is, make it sacred in some way so

in place. My daughter was fully prepared to be awakened as she has each Sunday for 20 years, and I even threw out the habitual nudging of ‘I am in the car!’ to let her know it was time to go, even though our trip was only down a flight of stairs.

PARTICIPATE: The fathers of the Second Vatican Council call all of us to be full, active participants in the Mass. We were never meant to be mere observers, and the same is true for the live-streamed Mass.

Simply ‘observing’ the Mass from your computer, TV or phone is not the intention of live-streaming. You can still sing the songs; you can still pray the responses; and you can still bring your ‘gifts’ to the altar.

And if you are not already giving electronically, you can even pass a collection plate and mail your offering to your local parish to support their outreach to those in need during this pandemic.

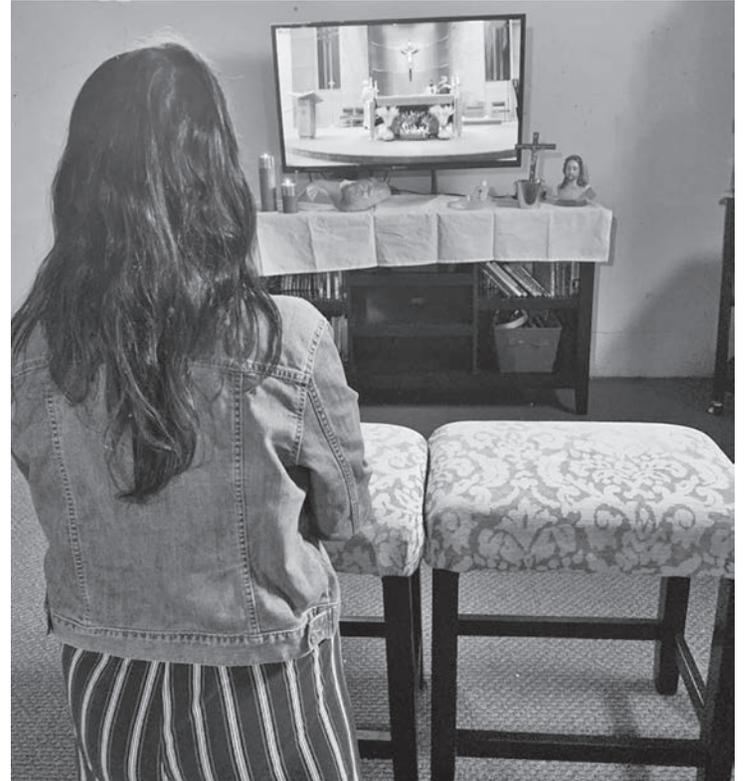
FIND THE BLESSINGS: At the celebration of this Sacrament, Jesus comes to us in three ways:

1) He is present in the gathering (‘For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them.’ Matthew 18:20);

2) He is present through the Holy Scriptures; and

3) He is present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Holy Eucharist.

He is still present during our live-streamed Mass. I



missed my parish family and the sense of community, and I most certainly missed the Eucharist, but I am confident that ‘absence will make the heart grow fonder.’

When we are able to gather again as a community for our next ‘First Communion,’ I know there will be abundant joy.

In the meantime, I am thankful to still be able to witness the transubstantiation.

Encourage each other to offer thanksgiving for the blessings of this family time.

Perhaps the recorded Masses and variety of services offers less excuse for skipping Mass.

Perhaps, it is easier to lug three children to a space in the home than dragging them across town to Church without having to load up diaper bags and other supplies.

My daughter and I even found a small bit of joy in being able to have our dog Boomer attend Mass with us.

Tucked away in our basement this Sunday for Mass took me back to our tour of the Catacombs in Italy.

Although not under threat of persecution, I found myself being thankful for those who continued to gather and celebrate in the early Church for something I may have taken for granted at times in my life.

SHARE: Whatever works for you, we should share with others. Post pictures or videos

of your family participating in Mass at home.

I reflect on how St. Paul had the gift of zeal, which he at first used to persecute Christians in the early Church. Then, after his conversion, he used that same gift to grow the Church.

The gift of technology and social media such as Facebook and Twitter have been often used for the devil’s work; it is encouraging to see these venues being used for the sake of spreading the Good News.

What an advantage we have over St. Paul!

The Church calls the family the *Ecclesia domestica* (the domestic Church) because parents are the first and primary teachers of the faith.

This pandemic and the suspension of public gatherings gives Catholic families an opportunity to evaluate the domestic Church and make faith a priority there.

Your participation in a live-streamed Mass is important to nourish your faith. It also tells your family that faith is a priority; it is a privilege not to be taken for granted or to be taken away.

May God bless your family as you celebrate together.

Mrs. Barnes, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City, is a communications specialist for the Jefferson City diocese. She is author of Growing Catholics: A Journey from Cradle to Catholic.

A list of links to live-streamed Masses throughout the diocese can be found at diojeffcity.org. Click on ‘Masses Being Livestreamed’

it is set apart from the ordinary.

PREPARE YOURSELF: Although we could agree it was not a sin to wear pajamas to our live-streamed Mass, we chose to dress as we would for our ‘regular’ Sunday Mass. This helped our focus and attention. It sent the message to each other that this was something important. It is still the source and summit of our faith, and worthy of the extra effort to dress accordingly.

Honoring the hour fast prior to Mass is a good habit to keep

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Extra time together helps Palmyra family focus on essentials

By Jay Nies

Lacey Timbrook is insisting that her son and daughter, ages 12 and 10, keep a daily journal of their “shelter in place” experience.

“I told them, one day you’re going to show this to your grandkids, and then they’ll have to believe the stories you tell them about all of this,” said Mrs. Timbrook, a member of St. Joseph parish in Palmyra.

She and her husband Shane have been hunkered down with their kids since the middle of March, as part of wide-scale efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

“This is certainly not normal,” she said. “This is something people are going to talk about years and years from now.”

Mrs. Timbrook said in spite of being mostly isolated from the outside world, she and her family are enjoying their abundance of time together.

“The kids are getting along a lot better than I thought they would,” she said. “I guess they don’t have any other choice. When that’s your only friend who’s around, you better be nice to them.”

The Timbrooks have discovered unforeseen blessings in sharing lunch and dinner together each evening and praying as a family at home.

“Because we’re not so busy,



LEFT: The children of Shane and Lacey Timbrook of St. Joseph parish in Palmyra use washable paint to decorate a window in their home during their time of “sheltering in place” due to the coronavirus pandemic, in this composite image. **RIGHT:** The completed artwork will remain as long as the family stays at home as part of community efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

— Photos by Lacey Timbrook

we have a lot of time, and we can spend some of that time talking to God and praying for the world right now,” said Mrs. Timbrook.

She noted that the family is fortunate to live on a mini-farm, “so we can always send them outside if they get too rambunctious.”

She and some friends have been sharing ideas for family activities over social media.

One afternoon in their second week of intense togetherness, she found a picture on Facebook of a window painted to look like a stained-glass image of a cross.

She and her children then went about replicating that look in their dining room window.

“I used painter’s tape as an outline,” she said. “I kind of went through with a marker to show where to put the tape.”

Once the “leading” was in place, the children used a colorful mixture of “Crayola washable paint with a bit of water and a squirt of Dawn dish soap” to color in the panes.

“It turned out pretty nice,” said Mrs. Timbrook.

They plan to leave it up for a while, at least until things get back to some semblance of normal.

“But for now, it’s nice to have it in the dining room,” she said. “Something a little different for when we’re stuck at home. I like it.”

Other people who saw pictures on Facebook liked it, too.

“I love this!” posted Kim Crow Donelson. “A silver lining in all the madness.”

“We are definitely going to do this, too!” stated Margie Sharp.

Mrs. Timbrook found an online “summer bucket list” of other activities they can do “while we’re together at home.”

Although the Timbrooks are enjoying their increased togetherness, they miss being with relatives over 60 who are in self-quarantine until the pandemic subsides.

The Timbrook children also miss playing with their friends.

“We’re ready to get back to seeing all of our family,” said Mrs. Timbrook. “It’s definitely made us maybe want to limit the things we sign the kids up for, so we do get to have more of this time once this passes.”

They’re praying for everyone who’s sick or susceptible and for healthcare workers, many of whom are under a lot of stress.

They also pray for the kind of compassion that makes all people aware of those in greatest need among them.

“And trying to reach out to those who are vulnerable to the disease and make sure they’re taken care of,” she said.

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.

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QUESTION CORNER

Is funeral Mass mandated? / Autistic youth and first Communion

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. Is a Catholic required to have a Catholic burial ceremony — in a church with a Mass? I am thinking of having just a graveside service instead — with a priest, of course, but just a private ceremony. (I mean no disrespect to the Church, but I think this might be easier for the family.) (Indianapolis)

A. Technically, a funeral Mass is not mandated by the Church when a Catholic dies. But it is certainly strongly encouraged. In fact, the Order of Christian Funerals says: “The Mass, the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral” (No. 5).

It pleases me that you do want a priest involved in your burial service — but the Mass is the most powerful prayer that the Church has, so why deprive yourself of that benefit? The celebration of the Eucharist commends the deceased to the mercy and compassion of the Lord, and it reminds those in attendance that death has been overcome by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

So it is also educational and can thus serve to bring comfort and peace to those in attendance. It bothers me that sometimes, these days, certain funeral homes seem to discourage the family of the bereaved from celebrating a funeral Mass, citing the extra cost of transporting the body to a church. But for me, I would surely want the strongest help that the Church can offer at the time of my passing — and that is the Eucharist.

It needn’t, though, be a public event. You can have as many — or as few — people at the Mass as you like; that all depends on whether you decide to publish in advance the details of the ceremony. At the very least, if you decide to mark your burial without a Eucharist, you would want to arrange a Mass at a later date.

Q. I read with sadness in today’s news that a priest in New Jersey denied the sacrament of first Eucharist to an autistic boy because the priest believed that the boy was “unable to determine right from wrong due to his disability.” Could you please clarify the Church’s position on this? I question whether a person’s mental status is an unambiguous reflection of what might be occurring in that person’s soul. I see individuals with Down syndrome who receive Holy Communion regularly, so where does the Church draw the line? Would individuals with other mental challenges also be denied Holy Communion — say, persons with schizophrenia or early onset dementia? (Sedalia, Missouri)

A. I’m sure that by this time, you have seen the follow-up to the situation you mention. Soon after the story broke, the pastor issued an apology on the parish’s website, saying that there had been “an unfortunate breakdown in communication that led to a misunderstanding.”

“A delay in receiving the sacrament was discussed,” he said, “until readiness could be assessed; there was never to be denial of Communion to this child.” The boy, said the pastor, is “welcome in our program and will be able to receive First Holy Communion this year.”

The sacramental guidelines for persons with disabilities, issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2017, explain that the criterion for reception of Holy Communion is simply that the person be able to distinguish the Body of Christ from ordinary food — “even if this recognition is evidenced through manner, gesture or reverential silence rather than verbally.”

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

Papal Audience

April 1, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on the Beatitudes, we now turn to the sixth Beatitude, which promises that the pure of heart will see God. To see God means having a personal relationship with Him. This requires looking deep within our hearts and making space for Him; as St. Augustine put it: “You were more inward to me than my most inward part” (Confessions, III, 6, 11). Yet often our hearts are slow and foolish, like those of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who at first failed to recognize Jesus by their side. To see God, then, requires a process of purification, whereby our hearts are freed from the sin which blinds us to His presence. This entails renouncing evil and allowing the Holy Spirit to instruct and guide us. A further aspect to seeing God is recognizing Him in creation, in the Church’s sacraments, and in our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest and most in need. If we let God purify our hearts, He will lead us ultimately to the beatific vision where we will enjoy the fullness of joy and peace in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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!



Remembering four religious sisters who perished in 1918-19 pandemic

By Father Thomas Alber and Pam Whitney

Four large, iron crosses stand side-by-side in Ridge Park Cemetery in Marshall.

They mark the final resting places of four Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion who gave aid and comfort to others before meeting their own untimely deaths.

The crosses are stark reminders of the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-19 that claimed an estimated 50 million lives worldwide, including about 670,000 in the United States.

“I heard people still speaking about those four ‘French Nuns’ from Kansas City when I was serving as a new priest at St. Peter in Marshall in 1985,” said Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general for the diocese and pastor of St. Michael parish in Russellville.

St. Peter parish dates from 1869, when Father Edward Hamill, pastor of neighboring Immaculate Conception parish in Shackelford, began visiting Marshall and offering Mass there.

A group of Sisters of Loreto established what is now St. Peter School in 1884. It was known at that time as St. Savior’s Academy and taught boys



— Photo by Father Thomas Alber

and girls.

Father Francis J. O’Neill was pastor when the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion, a French order of nuns, arrived to staff the school in the summer of 1917.

The “French Nuns” renamed the school the Academy of Our Lady of Sion and went about educating girls and young women there.

When the pandemic took hold in 1918, the people, especially children, stayed home as much as they could and waited for it to subside.

Sister Marion de Sion died on April 23, 1918.

Sister Mary Maximin de Sion died on March 16, 1918.

Sister Mary Edwarda de Sion died on May 9, 1918.

Sister Mary Cornelius de Sion died on May 2, 1919.

They were laid to rest near

the edge of the area that used to be set aside for Catholic burials in the cemetery.

Their dates of birth are not noted on the crosses, and St. Peter parish has no record of how old the sisters were when they died.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion sold the school property back to the parish in 1925 and the

Sisters of Mercy were invited to take over the school, then known as Mercy Academy.

St. Peter School now has 184 students enrolled in pre-school through eighth grade.

In order to help slow the spread of another deadly virus, COVID-19, the students at St. Peter and the diocese’s 36 other Catholic grade schools and three Catholic high schools are staying home to learn.

Public Masses are currently suspended.

Masses are livestreamed to Facebook using Father Mark S. Smith’s iPhone, a tripod and a few rubber bands.

Fr. Alber is senior associate pastor of St. Peter parish in Marshall.

Mrs. Whitney is a lifelong parishioner and former parish secretary.

Learning from the poor in a time of crisis

By Hosffman Ospino
Catholic News Service



Moments of crisis are great opportunities of self-assessment. Crises often confront us with what philosophers call “existential questions.” As our world faces the current pandemic that has halted our lives, literally, many ask about the why, how and where of life.

We are perplexed at how briskly our lives can change in the blink of an eye. We take so much for granted: life, health, the air we breathe, our families, others’ company, the workplace, restaurants, financial systems, churches, social services, rights and freedoms, etc.

In only a few days, the opposite of that which we took for granted imposed new norms. Temporarily, we hope, but still new norms. Fear invades us when

the natural act of breathing may bring us closer to death.

Desperation sets in when food and work become scarce. Suspicion rules as we witness our governments slowly impinging upon some of our hard-won freedoms, including freedom of religion (e.g., churches must remain closed), for the sake of the common good. Social isolation, voluntary or imposed, disorients us.

As I follow reactions and listen to conversations about our current situation, I notice a common thread: loss. Our awareness about what we are losing or what we have lost has exponentially increased. Will the lost return? Will life go back to “normal”? How long will this last?

We seem to yearn for a return to that stage when we could take things for granted. Life seemed easier and more bearable. We want to have as much control over our lives as possible. Unrestricted agency makes us feel more human, we think.

Our Christian calling and social distancing

By Elise Italiano Ureneck
Catholic News Service



The advent of the novel coronavirus has set into motion so many unprecedented actions and effects that it’s hard to keep track or make sense of them.

“Can you believe it?” is a refrain I find myself saying reflexively about everything from the stock market’s volatility to the cancellation of professional sporting events to the scarcity of frozen vegetables in local grocery stores.

It is clear from scientists and sociologists that “social distancing” *en masse* is our greatest chance at slowing the spread of the virus and giving our healthcare systems the best possible shot at keeping up with the demand (or at least not falling too gravely behind).

I’ve been heartened by how people of faith and goodwill have embraced the sacrifices required to preserve the common good.

The global phenomenon of imposed isolation provides an important moment to call to mind the many people who experience “social distancing” as a daily, lived reality — most often not of their choosing.

Throughout history, believers have found bold, creative and prophetic ways to demonstrate solidarity and communion with those on the physical or exist-

tential margins of society. This is such a moment.

As we go into our own isolation, we might ask ourselves, “Who are the people for whom this is routine, and how can we draw close to them now and when this is over?” Our isolation is likely to be temporary. For these folks, that’s not a guarantee.

— **The sick and homebound.** As social events and large gatherings, including public Mass, have been shut down, I have been thinking of the elderly, infirm, hospitalized and homebound who cannot take part in recreational, social or religious events.

How often we forget those who are isolated due to sickness or old age; those whose disabilities render them dependent on others for transportation to and from activities; those who rely on others to bring them Holy Communion.

When our isolation is over, can we commit to visiting them more often or bringing them Jesus, present in the Eucharist? In the meantime, can we write to them or call them to let them know we are thinking of them?

— **The imprisoned.** No other group of people experience enforced “social distancing” like the incarcerated. I confess that it was not until Pope Francis’ election that I paid any meaningful attention to how painstaking it must be to be cut off from society for your worst mistake.

His Holy Thursday tradition of washing prisoners’ feet and visiting the incar-

Once again, will the lost return? Will life go back to “normal”? How long will this last? I am suspicious of anyone who provides facile and too quick answers to these questions. Even if this is a short crisis, nothing prevents that we may not experience it again in the near future or something different places us in a similar condition.

For millions of people in our world, and in our own country, what many experience as (a preferably temporary) condition of loss is the *de facto* reality that shapes their everyday lives. The poor, the vulnerable and the dispossessed, the sick, the refugee and the imprisoned do not and cannot take life for granted.

When one cannot take for granted life, food, health, freedom, peace, work, company and even one’s own space, one has no option but to hold on to the simplest and readily available treasures one has. When one lives without the privileges that characterize the lives of many in a rich nation like ours, one may be better positioned to critique the excesses

that take our eyes from the essential.

Read me well. I am not romanticizing poverty or illness or suffering. I am simply suggesting that in a time of crisis, we need guides for the journey, women and men drawing from the wells of their own struggles and dispossession to help us navigate the difficulties of the present moment and help us to reencounter our own humanity.

The poor, the vulnerable and the dispossessed, the sick, the refugee and the imprisoned are often the people that when all is well many in our society ignore and reject. That is our social sin for which we need true conversion. Paradoxically, in a time of crisis, they are perhaps the people better suited to guide us. Through them, we may find surprising paths to encountering God.

Let us place ourselves at the feet of the poor and vulnerable to learn from them during this time of crisis. After all, Jesus invited us to encounter Him in them.

Ospino is professor of theology and religious education at Boston College.

REFLECTION

Until the fury has passed by

By Mark Saucier

This will be a Lent to remember.

Almost everyone has accepted the challenge of sacrifice.

You might say that all this self-denial and social concern wasn’t entirely free will. You might add that it had nothing to do with one’s relationship with God; just a response to fear and government mandate.

Still, we always start somewhere.

There is some historical connection between what is going on and the season in which it occurs.

The period of fasting, penance and almsgiving we call Lent is a physical recollection of the way in which Jesus prepared for His ministry with a 40-day fast in the desert, in the *quarantena*.

In the 17th-century, Italy was ravaged by the bubonic plague. Venice demanded that ships remain offshore for 40 days. This was the *quarantina*, which became our quarantine.

The length is believed to have been influenced by the Judeo-Christian tradition in which 40 represents a period of trial, chastisement and change.

There is something to be said for looking at our social quarantine as a Lenten experience. Not to diminish the immense suffering, there are good things happening behind closed doors.

There is a kind of fast with people forced to eat in. For some, there is time to cook, recovering the aromas, colors and flavors that bless the table.

Without sports or meetings, some families are rediscovering the joy and riches of eating together.

Canceling plans, foregoing activities, and ceding our freedom is a penance. But the void left by imposed sacrifices is being filled.

Games and puzzles are spread across the floor. Couples reencounter in long walks and lingering meals. In some hands, pens blossom into letters.

Almsgiving appears in many forms. It’s helping food pantries cope with the crisis, or sewing masks and gowns for those who cannot retreat to safety.

It’s calling friends and neighbors or buying only what you need. It’s kids leaving messages of good wishes in chalk on the sidewalk. It is praying for strangers.

This time is challenging, even unbearable to some, but it will come to an end.

Five weeks into Lent, our Sunday readings offered a vision of relief and new-found hope. Ezekiel quoted the Lord saying, “I will put My spirit in you that you may live.” Then Jesus called Lazarus from the grave.

One day soon, we too will be called back to life, released from the grip of death. The only question is, “How has this grave changed me?”

“Priests on the Porch” outreach helps people stay connected

By Jay Nies

The St. Peter Rectory stands along a busy Broadway bypass for eastbound travelers during construction at the State Capitol.

Father Jeremy Secrist and Father Basil Tigga, pastor and associate pastor of St. Peter parish in Jefferson City, are taking turns from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, welcoming visitors to the spacious, open-air, front porch of their home.

From a safe distance, they provide listening ears, words of encouragement, blessings, spiritual reading and the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick for those who need it.

They call it “Priest on the Porch.”

“It’s been a good way for us to continue to be present to people during this time when we’re required to be socially distant,” said Fr. Secrist.

Visitors have ranged from prayer-seekers to penitents to people just saying hello on the way into church to pray.

Some have made it an occasion to drop off their contribution envelopes.

“We’ve also had some great conversations with people who happen to be walking down the

sidewalk,” said Fr. Secrist.

He got the idea for “Priest on the Porch” the night Bishop W. Shawn McKnight instructed parishes to live-stream their Masses, cancel public events and promote proper social distancing in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

“I figured this would be a good way to be present to people who are feeling anxious and isolated,” said Fr. Secrist.

He noted that the rectory porch is “very public, with lots of fresh air and plenty of space for the 6-foot distance recommended by the CDC.”

It’s also historical: the late Monsignor Joseph Selinger, who was pastor from 1904-34, stood on the same porch on Feb. 5, 1911, blessing firefighters who were responding to the fire that destroyed the old Capitol.

Fr. Secrist said he can’t help but think of the First Reading from the Mass for Ash Wednesday, in which the Prophet Joel proclaims: “Between the porch and the altar, let the priests weep, let the ministers of the Lord weep and say: ‘Spare Your people, Lord!’” (Joel 2:17)

“We’re certainly at a time



Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of St. Peter parish in Jefferson City, greets passers-by during his time as “Priest on the Porch” outside the St. Peter Rectory. He alternates with Father Basil Tigga, associate pastor.
— Photo by Jay Nies

like that here in this country,” said Fr. Secrist. “Maybe it will help to know that there is a priest out here, on the front porch, and that he’s still praying and offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the needs of the people.”

He said this is just one piece of how the entire parish community — lay and ordained — must work together to continue announcing Christ’s presence throughout this critical time in history.

“This is part of our whole parish trying to ‘think outside the box’ and respond to the needs that are right in front of us right now,” he said.

“We are all members of the one Body of Christ,” he stated, “and each and every one of us has a vital role to play in contributing to the overall health and wellbeing of the Church.”

Reactions to “Priest on the Porch” on social media have been positive.

“Way to step up!” Shawn Bailes posted on Facebook. “I’m extremely grateful to have access to a sacrament, especially in this time of need.”

“Necessity is the mother of invention,” stated Sallie Keeney. “Great idea!”

All who hunger

Fr. Secrist said people who visit the porch also minister to him and Fr. Tigga.

Several visitors have expressed confidence that this time of pause and separation will help people refocus their priorities.

Fr. Secrist agrees with those who say being physically separated from Mass for a time will lead to a greater hunger and appreciation for the Eucharist

among the faithful.

“There is definitely a growing intensification of their love of the Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist,” the priest stated. “I see people coming to church for Adoration. I see people coming to pray the Stations of the Cross, to pray the Rosary and do their spiritual reading in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament.”

He hopes that during the extra time many people are spending at home, they are seizing the opportunity to intensify, reexamine and rediscover their need for daily personal prayer.

“Another thing that keeps coming up in conversations on the porch is how families are rediscovering what it means to share a meal together at home and play card games and spend time together,” he said.

He emphasized that especially in uncertain times, it’s important for people throughout the diocese to make use of whatever opportunities are available in their parish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

He believes that when it’s finally possible to celebrate Mass publicly again, “there will be such thanksgiving, such utter gratitude for being able to pray together and encounter the Lord sacramentally among the People of God.”

In the meantime, he echoed St. Paul’s insistence that absolutely nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord,” (Romans 8:39).

Music minister offers weekday livestream for kids, families

By Jay Nies

Sing-alongs, dance-alongs, prayers, worship anthems, spontaneous comedy, banter and heaven-knows-what-else.

“That’s why we’re calling it ‘Music ’n Stuff.’ We really don’t know what else to call it,” said Shannon Cerneka, music teacher at St. Peter School in Fulton and youth minister at St. Peter parish.

Mr. Cerneka, half of the well-known youth-ministry duo Oddwalk, has begun livestreaming a 30-minute program from his home at 11 a.m. each Monday through Friday.

Anyone can tune in live or on-demand by visiting www.facebook.com/shannoncerneka.

The uplifting and mostly unscripted exposition is for children and parents who are at home in order to help curb the spread of coronavirus.

“It’s really a hodgepodge of things,” said Mr. Cerneka. “It’s kind of like a little variety show. My wife (Erin) is part of some of it. My kids kind of pop in and out of the frames.”

It started out as a way to offer something familiar to his students who are away from school and out of their routine.

“I thought that at least for them and their families, I could put something together that’s

See CERNEKA, page 15



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Discovering new ways to teach and learn amid school closures

Sacred Heart School in Sedalia sets fast pace for distance learning

By Hope Lecchi

Sedalia

With the temporary closure of all schools in Pettis County because of the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers and students alike have been discovering new and different methods of teaching and learning.

Many schools have turned to computer technology to connect with students.

It's a way to provide curriculum resources while helping maintain a schedule for students to focus on during this time when few things have a sense of normalcy.

Sacred Heart School (SHS) in Sedalia created a plan to use technology for alternative lessons.

Less than 48 hours after in-school instruction ceased, the teachers were providing their lessons online, remotely, and students were learning from home.

"Our staff has been incredibly adaptable," said Sacred Heart Dean of Students Sam Jones. "Jane McMullin (the high school history instructor) began classes via Zoom conferencing the very next day after suspending on-ground instruction."

All of Sacred Heart's staff members in grades 6 through 12 began conducting classes via Zoom on March 23.

Sacred Heart School, which offers pre-kindergarten through high school, is part of St. Vincent de Paul parish of Pettis County.

Former educator Father Joseph Corel, who is one of two pastors *in solidum* of the parish, emphasized that learning and teaching "will be different, but it will still be happening."

Mr. Jones said the school was "fortunate to have last Tuesday (March 17) to practice with our students logging in."

"Administration asked all of our teachers to schedule a minimum of three Zoom classes each week," he stated. "I've noticed that many of our teachers are already planning for Zoom instruction every day, which is in excess of our



LEFT: Sacred Heart School Director of Technology Marlo Siron, left, watches as teacher Jane McMullin talks with her sophomore history class online. Schools are using computer technology to teach students remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. **RIGHT:** Sacred Heart School Campus Ministry teacher Debbie Bolin prepares to teach her eighth religion class remotely.

— Photo by Faith Bemiss, courtesy of the Sedalia Democrat



original requirements."

Mr. Jones noted that Sacred Heart already had multiple teachers already using Google Classroom at the junior high and senior high levels. This allowed those teachers to continue delivering assignments without any changes whatsoever.

Administrators quickly set about training all of Sacred Heart's elementary teachers in Zoom conferencing the day in-class instruction ceased.

Before long, educators were also keeping live, online "office hours."

"These office hours will allow parents to log in and ask questions regarding instruction," said Mr. Jones. "Many of our elementary teachers have already begun recording lectures and sending them out to parents as well."

Marlo Siron, Sacred Heart's director of technology, already had a system in place for checking out iPads and ChromeBooks wireless learning devices.

This ensured that every student in grades 6 through 12 would have full access to all of the school's instructional materials, said Mr. Jones.

SHS Development Director Liz Van Leer credited both Mr. Jones and Ms. Siron for taking the lead on developing a workable plan for the students and teachers.

They "were nimble in developing a plan for alternative lessons," Mrs. Van Leer said. "The template they created is being shared with other school

administrators in the area. As Mr. Jones said, "We're all in this together."

"While we're all in the ever-moving target, SHS is focused on delivering new classroom instruction, not just review," she added. "Mr. Jones said they took this approach because SHS is equipped with the technology. The strong parent partnership and classroom size are also keys to success."

Mrs. Van Leer praised Ms. Siron's vision and tenacity in obtaining fast and reliable wireless internet access for the school and the necessary equipment for students to continue their learning at home.

"We're able to do what we're doing now because she had the vision and helped bring it to fruition," said Mrs. Van Leer.

"I've never been more proud of our school and our parents," she added.

While no one knows what the duration of the school closing will be, Mr. Jones is optimistic about the new teaching and learning methods.

"I'm just in awe of how quickly our teachers have adapted to a completely new way of delivering instruction," he said. "I'm feeling incredibly optimistic that we can deliver a very effective product and continue on with instruction of new materials immediately."

In the meantime, Fr. Corel urged parents during this new and hopefully short period of

distance learning to be "be patient with yourself, your children and your teachers."

"Remember to find a routine that works for you and your family," he advised. "Parents, don't be afraid to set some clear expectations and boundaries of a routine. Take

the lead and make it happen."

Hope Lecchi is the education reporter for the Sedalia Democrat (www.sedaliademocrat.com), which published a version of his article March 20. It is republished here with permission.

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Nurse at clinic joins in livestream Rosary while working

Tara Lepper and some co-workers were at the nursing station, working and praying.

Their computer tuned to a livestream on the Diocese of Jefferson City's Facebook

page, where Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, two priests and two laypeople were praying the Lu-

minous Mysteries of the Rosary for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It was a good opportunity to join with others in faith and pray for everyone to be safe and healthy," said Mrs. Lepper, a registered nurse on the Capital Region Medical Center Neurology Clinic staff.

It was March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

The bishop noted that all Christian prayer is to God through Jesus, "but as we do with one another, we also ask for others to help us in our prayer. In this case, we are asking Jesus's mother to pray with us and for us."



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On feastday, Bishop McKnight seeks St. Joseph's intercession, urges all the faithful to be of service

By Jay Nies

It is worth noting that none of St. Joseph's words are recorded in Sacred Scripture — only his decisive and obedient actions.

"This makes St. Joseph a good model for all of us," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight told a very small congregation in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, along with all who would tune in online, during a March 19 Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary.

"Sometimes, perhaps, we rely too much on words and not enough on action," the bishop stated in his homily. "We are called to fulfill our vocations and to place the needs of others before even our personal fears and apprehensions: to be a people of action."

It was the first Solemn Mass in the cathedral since all public Masses in the Jefferson City diocese were suspended, in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

"In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, we might be full of fear," said Bishop McKnight, his words resonating in the nearly empty cathedral. "We hear every day about how infectious this virus is, and how serious and deadly it can be, especially for those who are over 60 years of age.

"But, my dear people, during this time in which we are experiencing something as close to a plague as we may ever encounter in our lives," he said, "the Church is called to fulfill her vocation: to be present to those who are in need, the sick, the lonely, the poor and the forgotten!"

He acknowledged that the Church must exercise great prudence in carrying that mission out, in order to keep the virus from spreading more quickly than there are health-care resources available to handle it.

"Nonetheless, the Church, in her maternal instinct, will not fail to care for those in need," he insisted. "And in so doing, we fulfill our mission to be light in the darkness."

He explained that the an-

cient practice of having patron saints makes a connection between the community of faith and the saint entrusted with that community's patronage: "We seek their protection as we contemplate their particular virtues or role in salvation history."

The bishop pointed out that upon appearing to St. Joseph in a dream, the angel told Joseph not to be afraid of his calling in life and all that it would entail.

"The angel seeks to ease not fear of himself, but of Joseph's own appointed task as son of David, spouse of the Virgin, and foster father to Jesus," the bishop stated, referring to the Gospel reading from Matthew, Chapter 1. "The angel was not saying, 'Do not be afraid of me,' but 'Do not be afraid of your calling' — or more precisely, 'Do not be afraid to take Mary, your wife, into your home.'"

Joseph knew well of the messianic sign prophesied by Isaiah: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel," (Isaiah 7:14).

"And when he saw Mary as both virgin and mother, Joseph trembled at the thought of being such an immediate recipient of the fulfillment of that

prophecy," said Bishop McKnight.

Joseph was aware of his own unworthiness for this great vocation of being the foster father of the Lord and Messiah.

"Like Isaiah before him and Peter after him, Joseph sought to excuse himself from the scene," Bishop McKnight noted. "But the angel arrived

See ST. JOSEPH, page 15

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Official Decree: On pastoral activities in the Diocese of Jefferson City during the COVID-19 pandemic

In light of the guidance from the United States Federal Government, the State of Missouri, the directives of county health officials, the special Decree from the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. N. 153/20 and "Update" of 25 March 2020), and for the benefit of the common good, I hereby mandate as the Diocesan Bishop the following directives on all pastoral activity in the Diocese of Jefferson City:

1.) Public celebrations of the liturgy and devotions are expressly forbidden. Families and individuals who are asymptomatic may make visits to their parish church for private prayer as long as no more than ten people are present in the church at the same time and social distancing (at least six feet between persons) is observed. Pastors and their equivalent are responsible for ensuring that no more than ten persons are present in the church whenever it is open to the public. Families and individuals are encouraged to pray at home, especially the Liturgy of the Hours, the Scriptures, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and to participate spiritually in sacred celebrations livestreamed from the Holy See, our Cathedral, and their local parish church.

2.) Priests are highly encouraged to celebrate Mass every day, on behalf of and for their flock, but with no more than one assisting minister and another person if the Mass is being live streamed (all of whom are to be asymptomatic).

3.) Masses without a congregation that are livestreamed for the benefit of the faithful may have up to nine asymptomatic assisting ministers (musicians, lector, acolyte, deacon, etc.) for only the following solemn occasions: The Holy Week services of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil; the Sundays of the Easter Season; the solemn Masses on the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Altar or Church and the Parish Patronal Feast Day. Social distancing must be observed for these Masses, with no offertory procession or the exchange of the sign of peace, and assisting ministers are encouraged not to present themselves for Holy Communion.

a.) The Chrism Mass will be livestreamed from the Cathedral on Thursday, April 2, at 10:00 am. All the faithful, especially priests, are requested to participate spiritually by watching the livestream of this Mass which celebrates our unity as a priestly people. Priests of the diocese are highly encouraged to renew their priestly promises together at the same time. The distribution of the holy oils after the Chrism Mass will take place in concert with the deans and the deacons of the diocese. Holy oils from last year are to be used until the new oils have been distributed, which may not take place until later in the Easter Season.

b.) On Palm Sunday, the commemoration of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within church buildings in the following manner: when livestreamed, the second form giv-

en in the Roman Missal (the solemn entrance) is to be adopted; when not live streamed, the third form (the simple entrance) is to be used. Due to concerns for contamination, blessed palms from the solemn entrance are not to be made available to the faithful.

c.) For the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the procession is also omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. On this day the faculty to celebrate Mass in the parish church or a chapel, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all priests.

d.) On Good Friday, the addition of the following intention is to be added:

*XI. For an end to the pandemic
Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end
to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our
world,
that our God and Father will heal the sick,
strengthen those who care for them,
and help us all to persevere in faith.*

*Prayer in silence. Then the Celebrant says:
Almighty and merciful God,
source of all life, health and healing,
look with compassion on our world, brought
low by disease;
protect us in the midst of the grave challenges
that assail us
and in your fatherly providence
grant recovery to the stricken,
strength to those who care for them,
and success to those working to eradicate this
scourge.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.*

The adoration of the Cross by a kiss shall be limited solely to the celebrant. Other ministers may individually genuflect or bow to the Cross.

e.) The Easter Vigil is to be celebrated only in the Cathedral and parish churches. When it is livestreamed and with a suitable number of assisting ministers (but no more than nine), a simplified lucernarium may take place with the blessing of the fire and the candle inside the church; otherwise, the Easter Vigil begins with a simple lighting of the Paschal Candle and the chanting of the Exsultet following. For the "Baptismal Liturgy" only the "Renewal of Baptismal Promises" is to be done. The Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion of the Elect shall take place on a Sunday (or its Vigil) of the Easter Season or beyond, whenever the public celebration of Mass resumes. The reception of Candidates into full communion with the Catholic Church shall take place at any time after the prohibition of public Masses has been lifted. Persons, whether Catechumens or

not, who are in danger of death but are not at the point of death and so are able to hear and answer the questions involved, may be baptized with the shorter rite in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (cf. "Christian Initiation of a Person in Danger of Death"). If they are at the point of death, "Christian Initiation for the Dying" in the *Pastoral Care of the Sick* is to be observed (cf. no. 277). Candidates for full communion who are in danger of death may be received into full communion, confirmed and given First Communion immediately, even outside of Mass, with the celebration of the Rite of Penance beforehand.

f.) On Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter), a special Holy Hour with the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Solemn Benediction may also be celebrated with up to nine assisting ministers if it is livestreamed.

Services that are not livestreamed on these days must adhere to the requirement of no more than one assisting minister.

4.) Funeral rites may be celebrated with no more than ten people present (including the ministers and funeral home staff). Graveside services may take place immediately with no more than ten people present, and the celebration of a memorial Mass can take place once the prohibition of public Masses is lifted. Livestreaming funeral rites would benefit the faithful who are not able to attend in person.

5.) Weddings should be rescheduled for a later time. However, wedding liturgies may take place with no more than ten persons present (including the ministers). Livestreaming the wedding liturgy is encouraged for the benefit of those who cannot attend in person.

6.) The distribution of Holy Communion outside of Mass and the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick are not permitted except for the celebration of the Last Rites. The faithful are highly encouraged to seek the sacraments from their parish priest before going to the hospital, as there is no guarantee a priest will be available or admitted to some hospitals at certain times.

7.) For the Last Rites, the use of a mask, medical gloves, fresh oil and a cotton ball or Q-tip, as previously communicated (see diojeffcity.org/anointing-of-the-sick-during-the-pandemic/) shall be observed. To prevent cross-contamination of the Blessed Sacrament, the priest or ministers should only bring the amount of Communion necessary for Viaticum.

8.) The Sacrament of Penance should be offered daily by appointment or at designated times in the church or some other suitable place, so long as the following is observed:

a.) A designated person monitors the number

DECREE

From page 14

of people present in the space at any one time, ensuring no more than ten persons are present (including the confessor).

b.) Social distancing is observed by hearing confessions in a large room or outdoors with chairs or kneelers placed at least six feet between the confessor and the penitent, and with no one else present in the room or space to preserve the seal of confession;

c.) The use of a confessional is allowed but only if a complete barrier (such as a wall with a fixed grille) exists between the penitent and the confessor. Sanitizing wipes are to be provided on the penitent's side to wipe down the kneeler before use.

d.) The Sacrament of Penance is not to be celebrated via cell phone. In addition, in the present circumstances cell phones should not be used even for the amplification of voices between a confessor and penitent who are in visual range of each other. Current threats against the seal of confession also raise questions about information on cell phones.

When the faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452). By Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary (20 March 2020), the gift of special indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.

9.) All confirmation Masses will be rescheduled.

10.) Adoration chapels with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament must be closed until the prohibition of public Masses is lifted. In accordance with no. 1, Eucharistic processions as well as Benediction are not permitted (except with regard to no. 3f.)

11.) All in-person meetings greater than ten persons or which cannot guarantee proper social distancing of at least six feet are strictly prohibited whether indoors or outdoors. This prohibition includes and is not limited to the following activities: education, catechesis, youth programming, devotional activities, socializing, and other similar pastoral activities. Outdoor or indoor playground equipment shall not be open for use.

12.) Charitable activities of the Church are to follow the diocesan safe environment policies (Virtus) and the guidance of the local county health director.

This decree is effective on April 1, 2020, and until April 30, 2020, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City
on this 31st day of March, 2020

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

Mrs. Constance Schepers, Chancellor

CERNEKA

From page 10

fun and give them a little break," he said.

He has noticed that people are looking increasingly beyond themselves, searching for ways to share healing, hope and humanity in this time of "social distancing."

All the while, a sudden abundance of "together time," coupled with a quick transition to homeschooling, can bring stress to families.

"So we're basically just trying to have some fun together and offer the kids and their parents some music and a little respite during the day," he said.

A typical offering includes an audience-participation song, such as "Awesome God," "Lean On Me" or "The Chicken Dance," that gets kids up on their feet and burns up some energy.

Then, guitar in hand, Mr. Cerneka tackles some requests.

"Someone asked me for some Willie Nelson," he said on March 23. "So today, I played 'On the Road Again.'"

From that, he leapt into "Soul On Fire" by contemporary Christian band Third Day.

Mrs. Cerneka then joined him for a duet of a song called "Anchor of Hope."

He noted that people request the rambunctious "Matilda the Gorilla" every day.

"We just can't play it every day, so we've instituted 'Matil-



Shannon Cerneka's son Noah joins him in a sing-along during one of Mr. Cerneka's recent "Music 'n Stuff" livestream webcasts.

da Mondays," he said.

He acknowledged that honoring requests and keeping things fresh is "stretching me a bit."

"But this is something I can do," he said. "It's a way of kind of breaking down the walls and having some fun."

He closes each livestream with a short, simple prayer he recently composed and set to an equally simple melody:

"God of all that lives, hear our heart-felt prayer: Grant us healing. Give us peace. Keep us from despair."

"It is intentionally a short, easy, accessible song," said Mr. Cerneka. "My hope is that these kids who are watching will learn it and memorize it and be able to pray it on their own."

He believes this "Prayer of Hope" is aptly named.

"For me, it expresses confi-

dence in a God Who is going to walk with us through all of this and will still be with us on the other side of it," he said.

"We're not playing a game of chance," he asserted. "I know that we have a God Who loves us and is suffering with us and will be with us always."

"That's what this prayer is for me, and I want children to be able to pray it as their prayer, too."

Mr. Cerneka also urges everyone to pray for all the people who are sick and suffering from this health emergency, as well as the medical professionals and everyone who has a hand in helping people stay safe and find healing from illness.

"We need to laser-focus our prayers on the people who are separated from each other and for those who have gotten sick," he said.

ST. JOSEPH

From page 13

to prevent him from allowing that laudable reverence to keep him from his appointed task: 'Do not be afraid — do not allow your holy fear to keep you from your vocation.'"

Joseph immediately did as the angel commanded, taking Mary, his wife, into his home.

Spiritually connected

Joining Bishop McKnight at the altar were Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos; Father Louis M. Nelen, pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish; and Monsignor Donald W. Lammers PA, a retired priest of the diocese.

Deacon John Schwartz assisted them.

Seminarian Ryan Bax functioned as the altar server. Shane Kliethermes, a member of Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City who is a student at Benedictine College in Atchison,

Kansas, proclaimed the readings.

Bishop McKnight noted that making a Spiritual Communion — also known as a Communion of Desire — is an important facet of the life of the Church.

"Sometimes, we can't always be in church, yet we can always be spiritually connected with one another in Christ," he said.

At the Offertory, organist Tom Halpin played a quiet variation on the ancient Gregorian chant, "Ubi Caritas." The words, in Latin, mean, "Where charity and love are true, God is present."

Bishop McKnight asked everyone to beseech God for protection for all who are suffering at this time of pandemic, including healthcare workers, first responders and especially all who are lonely, poor and most in need.



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. Versailles, Mo. in Morgan County, was named for the powerful “Sun King” King Louis XIV of ____ by French residents in the County.
7. Though the ____ of Versailles may be pronounced “Ver-sigh” in French, it is “Vur-sayles” in Ozarkian.
10. Similar to Ave. or Rd.
12. All the vowels.
13. “Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath ____ not?” (Luke 14:3).
14. Von Bismarck of Germany or Preminger of film.
16. Cobb of baseball or Warner of beanie baby fame.
17. “____ missa est”; last words of the Latin Mass.
18. Peachtree State (abbr.).
19. They didn’t treat him fairly. He got ____ deal (2 wds.).
20. Bill Laurie was a local Versailles athlete who became

22. Versailles is noted as the home of Bud Walton, Sam’s brother and cofounder of Walmart in 1962. Their first expansion store was a Ben Franklin ____ store in Versailles in 1962.
25. High priest in the youth of Samuel the prophet (1 Samuel 2:9+).
26. Mo. has trapping seasons for various ____ bearing animals. Trapping appeals to hands-on outdoors people who can also make a little money on pelts. Trapping is also important in helping to regulate animal populations.
27. In Monopoly, if you pass ____, you collect \$200.
28. In business, letters for basic hourly rate (wages).
29. Postal abbr. for our neighboring State to the east.
30. ____, Mo., pop. 1,545, straddles the boundary of Maries and Osage Counties. It is one of many towns on the route of the anticipated 144 m. Rock Island Trail.

32. In the 1840’s Versailles was a ____ coach stop for a line from Jeff. City to Springfield, Mo.
35. Letters indicating Roman Catholic, sometimes used in inter-denominational gatherings.
36. Where the Dodgers play (abbr.).
37. 7-____; the uncola.
39. Spanish ceramic pot for cooking or storage.
40. Up the creek without a ____.
42. The Screen Actors ____ has a lot of influence about who movies hire, their pay, hours and working conditions.
44. In 2019, Versailles hosted the 40th anniv. of its annual Olde Tyme Apple Festival with a parade, apple pie contest, apple ____ and apple darlin’ contest, live theater and demolition derby.
46. United States Grand Lodge (____) is the governing body of the Order of Oriental Templars (chartered in 1996). It sponsors the Gnostic Catholic Church (reviving an extremely old heresy) claiming to confer sacraments including a Gnostic Mass. Their supreme law: do what thou wilt.
47. “The way you wear your hat, the way you ____ your tea...” —from the 1937 film musical “Shall We Dance?” music by George Gershwin.
48. Part of a flower.
50. “They urged him, ‘ ____ with us, for it is nearly evening...’” (Luke 24:29).
51. ____ the Riveter — WWII poster icon of women working for the war in factories.
52. Former fast flier.

DOWN

1. “Faith of our ____”; Catholic hymn (1849) by Frederick Faber in memory of Catholic martyrs from the times of King Henry VIII and the establishment of the Church of England. Other versions than the original are often used, e.g. Protestant hymnals remove Marian references.
2. Versailles was more spe-

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46					47			48			49
50					51				52		

- cifically named for the extravagant ____ palace which King Louis XIV built in 1682, 13 miles from Paris.
3. Artificial intelligence (____) is seen as one of the biggest growth industries in the next 20 years.
4. ____ Diamond, Am. singer & songwriter; at over one million records sold and ten #1 singles, he is considered one of the best selling musicians of all time.
5. “...the most unkindest ____ of all,” —refers to pain from the betrayal of a trusted friend (e.g., Brutus’s stabbing of Julius Caesar); quote is from Shakespeare’s play “Julius Caesar.”
6. The country lad certainly got an ____ when he toured the nightlife of Las Vegas.
7. Roman garb.
8. A fruit and a color.
9. Ark builder.
10. Oak Island in Nova Scotia is said to be the site of a long sought ____ of fabulous treasure.
11. Joseph Franklin Rutherford, born in Versailles in 1869, was founder of the Jehovah’s Witnesses and 2nd President of its *Watch* ____ magazine.
15. Versailles was founded in 1835 when remnants of the Osage Indian ____ still lived in the county.
21. Capital of Peru; also a type of bean.
23. B&O or Short Line on a Monopoly board.
24. Some historians argue that lead poisoning (from lead goblets, dishes, drinking from and bathing in water from lead pipes, etc.) hastened the ____ of the Roman Empire.
26. The helicopter of Capt. Ben Smith of St. Stephen parish near Monroe City was shot down in Iraq in 2003, said to be the first member of a parish in our diocese to die in that war. In 2008, 800 people gathered to name the air ____ at the Monroe City airport in his honor.
30. Precedes A.D.
31. Dipper.
33. “In God we ____.” It has to be true. It says so right on our money.
34. “Good ____, Miss Molly” by Little Richard, 1956; recorded by other artists in 1958, 1969, 1974 and re-released in 2006.
35. ____ waves (AM, FM, short wave, etc.) in the earth’s atmosphere travel very close to the speed of light.
37. Arm bones.
38. Short for Physical Ed.
40. Afternoon and evening.
41. He ____ into his savings so often that he hardly has any savings left.
42. Fr. “ ____ ” was the nickname of Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first African-Am. priest, as he was known in his later years of ministry in Chicago.
43. A grocery store chain of independently owned stores.
45. Delivery package service.
47. A Jr’s dad.
49. In the U.S. Army, rank under a captain.

ANSWERS on page 19

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BLESSING

From page 1

and merciful God” would see how people are suffering and give them comfort.

He asked to care for the sick and dying, for medical workers exhausted by caring for the sick and for political leaders who bear the burden of making decisions to protect their people.

The service included the reading of the Gospel of Mark’s account of Jesus calming the stormy sea (Mark 4:35-41).

“Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives,” the Pope said. “Let us hand over our fears to Him so that He can conquer them.”

Like the disciples on the stormy Sea of Galilee, he said, “we will experience that, with Him on board, there will be no shipwreck, because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things.”

The Gospel passage began, “When evening had come,” and the Pope said that with the pandemic and its sickness and death, and with the lockdowns and closures of schools and workplaces, it has felt like “for weeks now it has been evening.”

“Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void that stops everything as it passes by,” the Pope said. “We feel it in the air, we notice it in people’s gestures; their glances give them away.

“We find ourselves afraid and lost,” he said. “Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm.”

However, the pandemic storm has made most people realize that “we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented,” the Pope said.

And it has shown how each person has a contribution to make, at least in comforting each other.

“On this boat are all of us,” he said.

“Wake up, Lord!”

The pandemic, the Pope said, has exposed “our vulnerability and uncovers those



Pope Francis holds the monstration as he delivers his extraordinary blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world) during a prayer service in the portico of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 27. The service was livestreamed in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

— CNS photo/Vatican Media

and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from His redeeming love.”

Pope Francis told people watching around the world that he would “entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, health of the people, and star of the stormy sea.”

“May God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace,” he said. “Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak, and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm.”

Introducing the formal blessing, Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of St. Peter’s Basilica, announced that it would include a plenary indulgence “in the form established by the Church” to everyone watching on television or internet or listening by radio.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. Catholics following the Pope’s blessing could receive the indulgence if they had “a spirit detached from sin,” promised to go to confession and receive the Eucharist as soon as possible and said a prayer for the Pope’s intentions.

false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities.”

In the midst of the storm, Pope Francis said, God is calling people to faith, which is not just believing God exists, but turning to Him and trust-

To read the text of the Pope’s message and to see a video of the entire service, visit: vaticannews.va

ing Him.

As Lent and the pandemic go on, he said, God continues to call people to “convert” and “return to Me with all your heart.”

It is a time to decide to live differently, live better, love more and care for others, he said, and every community is filled with people who can be role models — individuals, “who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives.”

Pope Francis said the Holy Spirit can use the pandemic to “redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people — often forgotten people — who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines,” but are serving others and making life possible during the pandemic.

The Pope listed “doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.”

“How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility,” he said.

And “how many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer.”

“How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all,” he said. “Prayer and quiet service: These are our victorious weapons.”

In the boat, when the disciples plead with Jesus to do something, Jesus responds, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

“Lord, Your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us,” the Pope said. “In this world that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything.

“Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in

things and be lured away by haste. We did not stop at Your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet,” Pope Francis said.

“We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick,” he said. “Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: ‘Wake up, Lord!’”

“Star of the stormy sea”

The Lord is calling on people to “put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be foundering,” the Pope said.

“The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith,” he said. “We have an anchor: by His cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by His cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by His cross we have been healed

James O’Donnell 

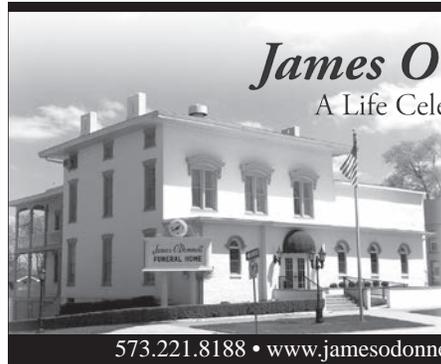
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SACRIFICE

From page 1

vulnerable, and to support all those who are working tirelessly to stop its rapid spread and to treat those who are infected.”

The decree includes instruction on how priests are to celebrate the Holy Week services and the Sundays of the Easter Season.

It also provides direction for the celebration of other sacraments and rites, such as the Anointing of the Sick and Penance.

It states: “The distribution of Holy Communion outside of Mass and the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick are not permitted except for the celebration of the Last Rites.”

Bishop McKnight urged laypeople to participate in Sunday celebrations of the Mass from home through the internet, television or radio.

As of the weekend of March 28-29, 51 parishes were livestreaming and archiving their Masses in English (five in Spanish) over Facebook, YouTube or other online media.

Find the links at: diojeffcity.org, and click on “Masses Being Livestreamed.”

The bishop also urged all people who are prevented by these circumstances from receiving Holy Communion to receive a Communion of Desire (also known as Spiritual Communion) and to offer up their temporary loss of this sacrament for all who are sick and all who have died from this pandemic.

He directed parishes and Catholic schools, within the bounds of prudence, government directives and advice from public health officials, to continue serving communities.

He likewise summoned all people, while following the same directives, to minister in Christ’s name to one another, especially those who are elderly, sick or poor.

“At no other time in our lifetimes has it been more important for all of us to put the gifts we received at baptism to use in service to our fellow human beings,” the bishop stated. “All of us are summoned to be visible manifestations of God’s grace to the people He places before us during this time of crisis.”

Sacrifice of praise

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, emphasized that every Mass is offered for the benefit of the People of God.

In Eucharistic Prayer I, the priest beseeches God to “graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family.”

Fr. Merz noted that the entire Church — all who are in heaven, all who have died and await full admittance into heaven, and all who remain in this life — are present at every Mass.

“Even the angels, because when we sing the ‘Holy, Holy,’ we join with the angels!” he said.

What is a private Mass?

Every Mass is for the whole Church, but a private Mass is offered by the priest to which he admits only the minister or ministers needed.

“The priest is celebrating Mass with and for the whole people,” said Fr. Merz, “even if no one else is physically present or only those are present who are needed to celebrate Mass appropriately.”

Who is present at a private Mass?

At a minimum, only the priest is needed, but other ministers may be included to help him celebrate more worthily.

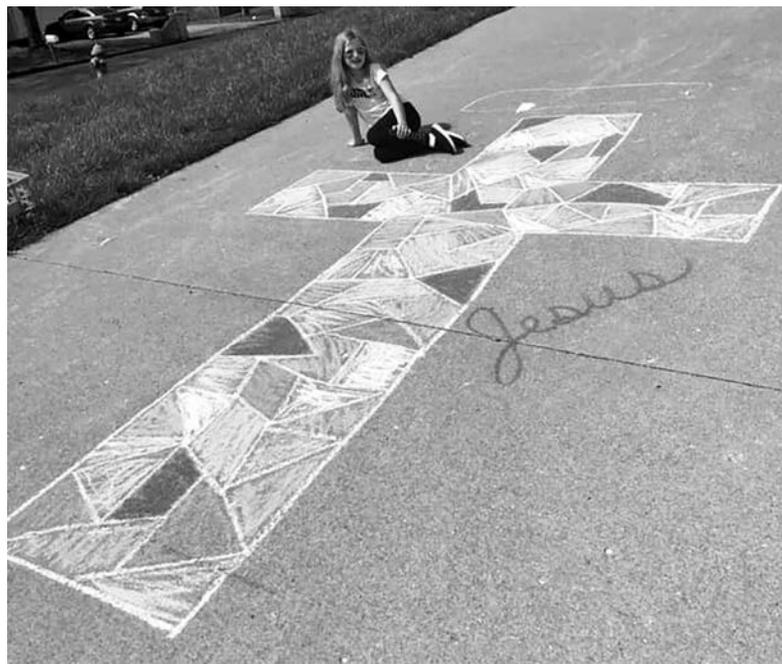
The diocese makes a distinction between a weekday Mass and a Sunday Mass, which has more solemnity.

“Therefore, more ministers may be expected at a Sunday Mass, where more music is encouraged and additional help may be needed,” said Fr. Merz.

Also, if the Mass will be live streamed, then even one more minister can be added.

Those are the factors determining the number of people who need to be physically present.

“For a Sunday Mass, you could have a deacon, a lector, an acolyte, a musician and a cantor, and then if it’s live streamed, someone to do the livestream,” said Fr. Merz.



A student of St. Andrew School in Tipton completes an art project in her driveway March 26 during this time of learning away from school.

— Photo from St. Andrew School’s Facebook page

The federal and state governments are temporarily prohibiting intentional gatherings of more than 10 people, and those 10 should not exhibit any symptoms of sickness.

“So if it is deemed necessary, you could have additional music ministers or altar servers, so long as the number of people, including the priest, is not greater than 10,” he stated.

Bishop McKnight has instructed parishes not to allow any other members of the assembly to attend, but only those needed to fulfill the essential ministries.

What is a Communion of Desire?

Fr. Merz acknowledged that these arrangements will be all the more difficult for the faithful during Holy Week and the Easter Triduum.

“It is a very Catholic thing for us to unite our sufferings and sacrifices to the cross of Christ,” he said. “We call this ‘offering it up.’”

“This particular privation and separation from the community, we offer that up as a prayerful gift to God,” he stated. “We’re adding our sacrifice to the sacrifice of the Mass.”

That is called “making a Communion of Desire.”

Although not preferable to receiving Holy Communion sacramentally in the flesh, Spiritual Communion is possible and desirable due to the fact

that every Mass is offered by the whole Body of Christ, on behalf of the Body of Christ.

“And as members of the Body of Christ, we can and should unite ourselves to the offering of the Mass through prayer and through desire,” Fr. Merz stated.

He emphasized that a Communion of Desire — often referred to as a Spiritual Communion — is not intended to take the place of sacramental Communion, “but to increase our hunger for sacramental Communion and reinforce our prayer relationship and connection with Christ.”

“We look forward with great joy and anticipation to joining one another once again at the altar of sacrifice and the banquet table of the Lord, where He makes Himself truly present to us and within us,” he said.

Not without precedent

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general for the diocese and pastor of St. Michael parish in Russellville, pointed to a solid historical precedent for Bishop McKnight’s actions.

He pointed to widespread cessation of public Masses and other Catholic gatherings throughout the United States and abroad during the 1918-19 influenza pandemic, which claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans and millions of people worldwide.

“Many people have the mistaken notion that this is the first time in the history of our country that there have not been public celebrations of the sacraments,” Msgr. Kurwicky stated.

“But in fact, in Missouri in 1918-19, when the parishes that are now part of the Jefferson City diocese were still part of the St. Louis archdiocese and the former Dioceses of Kansas City and St. Joseph, the bishops — unwillingly at first — issued the same prohibition against public gatherings and public sacraments until the pandemic passed by,” he said.

Among the people who died in that pandemic were four religious sisters who were teaching at what is now St. Peter School in Marshall. (See related article, Page 8)

Msgr. Kurwicky noted that even the Nov. 10, 1918, consecration and installation of Bishop Christopher E. Byrne, formerly pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Columbia and of St. Joseph parish in Edina, as bishop of Galveston, Texas, was off limits to the public.

“Owing to the influenza prevailing at the time, church gatherings were prohibited,” historian Father John Rothensteiner wrote in his 1928 *A History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis*.

Msgr. Kurwicky noted that bishops and pastors took similar steps during a series of deadly cholera epidemics that ravaged communities throughout Missouri in the 1840s through the 1860s.

He said these steps were not only prudent due to the contagious and dangerous nature of such infections, they were also holy and in keeping with God’s plan.

“We may never know how many people are with us today, helping us carry-out the mission of the Church right here in our midst, who would never have been born had those steps not been taken to help prevent even more deaths,” the priest stated.

For more information about the diocese’s response to COVID-19, visit diojeffcity.org/public-health.

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Darrell & Robin Schulte, 27 years

Columbia, Sacred Heart
Frank & Carol Nacarato, 38 years

Kahoka, St. Michael
Ed & Tammy Riney, 53 years
Brad & Kay Sprague, 27 years

Kirksville, Mary Immaculate
Phil & Marsha Ordonio, 54 years
Don & Kathy Westhoff, 51 years
Robert & Peggy Maeder, 49 years
Winston & Pat Vanderhoof, 41 years
Albert & Margie Kurz, 36 years
Thom & Denise Bahr, 25 years
Tom & Cassie DeBlauw, 20 years
Lisa & Mark Findling, 19 years
Walter & Marie Gladbach, 18 years

Marceline, St. Bonaventure
Jerry & Joan Main, 67 years
John & Marjorie Krumpelman, 49 years
Duane & Barbara Daller, 48 years
Tom & Vickie Lodder, 48 years
George & Barbara Bussman, 45 years
Jim & Judy Lindsay, 43 years
James & Beth Kearns, 37 years
Bill & Marie Jobson, 35 years
Bruce & Jenny Shoemaker, 33 years
John & Donna Bell, 31 years
Clinton & Brandy Gladbach, 15 years

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows
Doug & Dana Doerhoff, 30 years
Travis & Tracy Wunderlich, 20 years
Matthew & Melissa Brown, 15 years

Milan, St. Mary
Antonio & Maria Lopez, 35 years

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception
James & Virginia Cochran, 67 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph
Ted & Theresa Hudson, 64 years
Joe & Veronica Thomas, 40 years
Joseph & Dora Rothweiler, 39 years
Greg & Carolyn Foster, 38 years
Roger & Tammy Foster, 36 years
Ted & Susan Lantz, 35 years
Bruce & Carolyn Foster, 33 years
Kirt & Debbie Malone, 30 years
Dwayne & Becky Goodwin, 23 years
Luke & Christie Mahsman, 17 years

St. Patrick, Shrine of St. Patrick
Dan & Myrna Daughtery, 47 years

Vandalia, Sacred Heart
Herman "Sonny" & Alice Wright, 60 years
Kenny & Shari Brewer, 34 years

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; or mailed to: *The Catholic Missourian*, P.O. Box 104900, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900.

Baptisms

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Robert Amidei**

Fulton, St. Peter — **Beckham Andrew March**, son of Andrew & Kimberly March; **Gentry James Thompson**, son of Kyle & Jenna Thompson

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception — **Kiersten Lynn Rakers**, daughter of Brian & Rachel Rakers

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Matthew Albert Rohlfing**, son of Kevin & Charlotte Rohlfing

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Abel Jerome** and **Kenadi Ann Timmerman**

Deaths

Ruby L. Schoup, 79 — who served as parish secretary at St. Michael parish in Kahoka from 1998-2011, as well as helping clean the parish and rectory — on Mar. 22. Burial was to be in St. Michael parish cemetery with a Memorial Mass at a later date.

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Mary L. Lander**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Del Twenter**, **Lisa Wright**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Marvin W. Barrett**, **Melvin Leonard**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Frederick H. Lueckenhoff**

Macon, Immaculate Conception — **Norbert Sarazine**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **William Walter**

Russellville, St. Michael — **David J. Raithe**

St. Clement, St. Clement — **Isabelle V. DeSutter**



Crossword puzzle answers

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

Community life not optional for sisters with local ties who are serving in Rome

By Jay Nies

Sister Cindy Weber SSND and Sister Ruth Ann Klauser SSND, who are members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame's General Counsel in Rome, are living under Italy's stringent quarantine measures for slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

"We are safe," said Sr. Cindy, who previously served at St. Joseph parish in Westphalia. "We cannot go out anywhere because of the lockdown."

Sr. Ruth Ann previously served as principal of Mary Immaculate School in Kirksville.

The SSND Generalate has two wings, one for the 15 sisters who are members and staff of

the General Counsel, the other for the SSND novices, of which there are currently 17.

None is allowed to go anywhere.

"March 7 was the last time I went off this property," Sr. Cindy stated.

The sisters and the novices have separate dining rooms but pray in the chapel as one community.

"Probably what unites us the most is our prayer together," said Sr. Cindy.

This includes a special daily prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It does give us hope," she said.

The sisters' routine has not changed very much. They plan to add more time for prayer during

Holy Week.

Sr. Cindy said not being able to participate in Mass the way they normally do "is poverty for all of us."

"We have stayed very close to what Pope Francis has prayed," she said. "We have watched him on TV. We will do this during Holy Week also."

The sisters share some of the common duties around the house, since they have no lay staff.

Two sisters prepare their 1 p.m. meal, known in Italian as "Pranzo."

On weekends, sisters take turns preparing brunch and other meals.

"We enjoy our time at meals together," said Sr. Cindy. "We usually sit at the table for around 45 minutes."

URENECK

From page 9

cerated on his apostolic visits put names and faces on people I had only counted by number. If we hope to reintegrate these people into society (where possible), we need to take seriously the cause of prison reform.

And for those with a life sentence or those on death row, perhaps we can offer them human contact through letters and donations, and visits when it's appropriate. To be cut off is one thing; to feel forgotten for the remainder of one's life is another.

— **Those suffering from mental illness.** Our era has seen an unprecedented rise in anxiety and depression that cuts across race, gender and age groups.

While there is less stigma surrounding those who experience psychological suffering and better effort to help them remain integrated into society, the struggle for those with mental illness is interior and often invisible.

This means that people can feel intensely isolated even when still in the mix. Can we reach out more often to those we know who are fighting daily internal battles? When we're able to, can we visit those who live in group homes or offer support to those who care for loved ones with mental illness?

— **The displaced and the homeless.** One of the greatest humanitarian plights of our generation is the refugee

crisis.

I can't count the number of photos and news stories of displaced families that have broken my heart in the past few years, of families making the impossible decision to leave home, country and relatives for the chance of a better life — or survival — in a foreign land.

I have been thinking, too, of people who are homeless, who live each day without a stable social network of friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Can we reimagine how to help these people establish a home, find work and build a social support system after having gone without it for a time?

I am hopeful that these days of quarantine and social distancing will eventually end. I'm also hopeful that this pruning will bear great fruit down the road, including works of mercy and advocacy for those for whom social distancing is the norm.

This is the time to reimagine Jesus' command to love our neighbor. Let's not squander the chance to close the "social distance" between ourselves and those on the margins.

Elise Italiano Ureneck, associate director of the Center for the Church in the 21st Century at Boston College, writes the "Finding God in All Things" column for Catholic News Service.

PARISHES

From page 3

hold due to the pandemic.

Even after the coronavirus threat subsides, “the social and economic vulnerability of our community is going to be the lasting problem,” said Msgr. Makarewicz. “Things won’t be the same for many people from now on. And they can’t be the same for us as Catholics.”

Since arriving in 2017, he has been encouraging Our Lady of the Lake parishioners to “move from passive reception of those who drop in, to actively seeking out those who need the Gospel.”

“God’s providence has shown us clearly that for us to continue as a parish and truly evangelize, we must break out of our passive attitude and actively seek the lost and forsaken,” he said.

Praying at all hours

The coronavirus had not as of April 1 made its way to the arc in the river that gives Osage Bend its name.

“We just keep praying — in the middle of the night, in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening — that it never comes,” said Deacon Fred Schmitz, parish life collaborator of St. Margaret of Antioch parish.

But stay-at-home orders and other factors have brought

How Can We Help?

During this difficult time, the Pastoral Council of St. Francis Xavier is seeking to identify ways that we can assist those in need. We ask that you please contact us if you, or someone you know, needs any type of assistance. Information provided and all conversations will be kept in complete confidence.

If necessary, the lay leadership of the parish will be called upon to help in the distribution of supplies and materials.

Contact Information
Fr. Michael Penn: (573) 395-4401
Deacon Mike Berendzen: (573) 694-4916
Principal Tobar: jtobar@sfxtaos.com

Knights of Columbus St. Francis Xavier Council 6430 placed this notice in all orders at its March 20 drive-through fish fry, the last it would be able to hold before before Cole County implemented a stay-at-home order.

other problems to some local residents.

The parish set up an emergency phone number that people can call for assistance at any time.

The parish’s Disaster Responders Team identified people in the area — especially people who are not listed in the parish directory — with whom to stay in regular contact.

“Is there anything we can do for you?” the team members are asking when they call. “Do you have someone looking in on you? If you have any kind of need, please do not be afraid to call.”

Deacon Schmitz called

to mind all of the healthcare workers in other parts of the country and the world who are risking their lives to help people who are sick.

“It all boils down to putting your faith and trust in Almighty God, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” he said.

“Ready to assist”

Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville and St. Joseph parish in Fayette recently bulk mailed postcards to parish households. Printed on the cards are the “Act of Spiritual Communion” prayer, along with contact information for assistance.

Parishioners have been making wellness calls by phone to senior citizens and families of people with health risks.

“We have volunteers ready to assist them,” said Father William Peckman, pastor of both parishes. “We are partnering with the Cooper County Health Department in making sure uninsured people can get tested for COVID-19. We are also assisting in providing aid to our parishioners and those in our community who have lost jobs due to COVID-19 or have COVID-19 in the home. We have received great help from our local Knights of Columbus in this. We are adapting as the needs present themselves.”

Father Mark Smith, pastor of St. Peter parish in Marshall and the Holy Family mission in Sweet Springs, wrote to his parishioners that he is “humbled and strengthened by the grace of God that I see active around me in the works and care of so many of you.”

He noted that parishioners have taken Missouri Valley College students into their home, following the school’s suggestion that students move out of the residence halls.

Some parishioners have run errands for people who can’t or shouldn’t leave their homes.

Some are helping with food distribution to students through the public school system, and some are increasing their contributions to the food pantries.

“We can’t stop”

How do you replenish the local food pantry during a pandemic?

Go cruising, of course! “We called it ‘Cruising for a Cause,’” said Mrs. Durbin.

Members of the Shelbina and Clarence parishes joined people of all faith backgrounds in loading pantry staples into their cars March 30 and driving to a local drop-off point.

Volunteers there maintained proper social distancing while retrieving the food from the trunks of the cars that pulled through the driveway.

The people then cruised the main road through Shelbina for about two hours, waving to each other and slowing down to wave to residents looking out the window of the local nursing home.

Fifteen of those residents who are parishioners were in a faith sharing group for the diocesan “Better Together” pastoral planning process.

“Much of the wisdom they shared in that group is now coming into play in our re-

sponse to the crisis,” said Mrs. Durbin.

Parish Disaster Responders Team members making calls immediately recognized a great hunger in the communities for this level of engagement.

“We need to keep calling,” said Mrs. Durbin. “We can’t stop doing this when the crisis is over. We need to stay in touch and keep helping.”

Toward that end, St. Mary and St. Patrick parishes plan to establish their own conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul — an international Catholic organization led by laypeople, which promotes prayerful solidarity and concrete acts of charity in local communities.

“We’ll always remember that it was born of the pandemic,” said Mrs. Durbin.

She believes the stronger bonds that parishioners throughout the diocese are experiencing through service also intensifies the desire for communal worship.

“We’ve never known this kind of separation from the Mass in our lifetimes,” Mrs. Durbin noted. “I have an overwhelming sense that the people of the Church will come back tenfold when public Masses resume in our diocese. It’s going to be amazing!”

Distance learning



Young people help staff a “Drive-Through PSR” outside Mary Immaculate Catholic Church in Kirksville March 25. Families of students in the parish’s religious education program drove through the church parking lot to pick up bags containing Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, prayer journals, Confirmation Holy Spirit booklets, and workbooks for catechism and First Holy Communion preparation.

— Photos from Mary Immaculate Catholic Church’s Facebook page

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Jesus' friends find the empty tomb

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

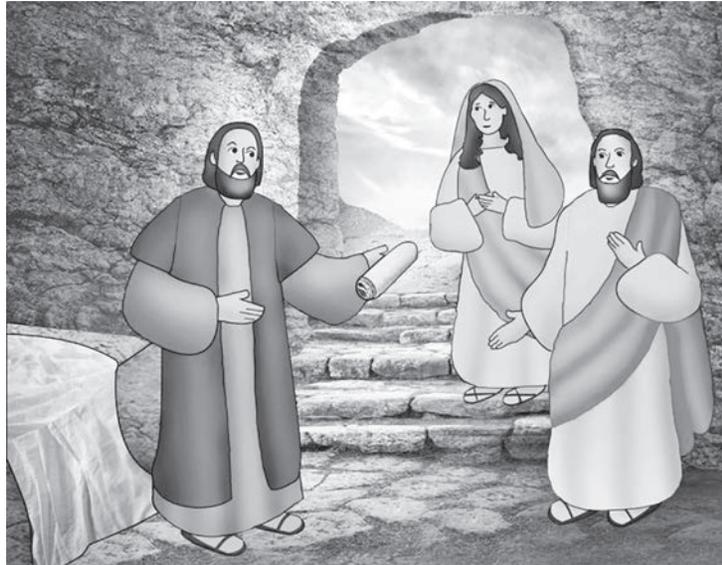
Jesus had been arrested, condemned to death and died on the cross at Golgotha on what Christians now call Good Friday.

On that day, Joseph of Arimathea, a secret follower of Jesus, took Jesus' body from the cross for burial.

Joseph and another man, Nicodemus, covered Jesus' body with spices and burial cloths. They placed Jesus' body in a new, unused tomb in a garden that was near Golgotha.

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala, a follower of Jesus, visited the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark.

When Mary noticed that the stone covering the tomb had



been removed, she quickly ran to tell the apostles.

"They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him," she told Simon Peter and the other

apostle whom Jesus loved.

The two apostles raced to the tomb. The other apostle ran faster than Simon Peter and arrived first but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived, he

went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths and the cloth that had covered Jesus' head.

The other apostle joined Simon Peter, and they both believed that Jesus' body was gone. The two men returned home, because they did not yet understand that, according to Scripture, Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Mary, however, stayed at the tomb and wept. As she was crying, Mary bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white.

"Woman, why are you weeping?" they asked.

"They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid Him," she replied.

Just then, Mary turned around and saw a man whom she thought was the gardener.

"Sir, if you carried Him away, tell me where you laid Him, and I will take Him," she said.

"Mary!" the man exclaimed.

Mary suddenly realized that the man was Jesus.

"Stop holding on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father," He told Mary. "But go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am going to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'"

Mary rushed back to the apostles.

"I have seen the Lord," she said, and gave them the message from Jesus.

Read more about it...
John 19 & 20

1. Who buried Jesus?
2. Whom did Mary mistake Jesus for?

Bible Accent

We read in John 20 that after Jesus appeared to Mary of Magdala, He appeared to the apostles two times.

In verse 19, we read that the apostles were in a locked room when Jesus came into their midst.

"Peace be with you," Jesus said. As the apostles rejoiced, Jesus again spoke.

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you," He said.

Jesus breathed on them.

"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained," He said.

The Apostle Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared, so when he returned to the locked room, he would not believe that his friends had seen Jesus.

About a week later, Jesus again appeared to the apostles. This time, Thomas was present.

"Put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your

hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe," Jesus told Thomas.

"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.

"Have you come to believe because you have seen Me?" Jesus asked. "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Essay

Describe how you would feel if you had encountered the empty tomb and the resurrected Jesus.

Saint Spotlight

Mark Roy was born in Germany in 1577. He studied philosophy and law, and he eventually opened a law practice in Alsace. He didn't like the poor behavior of his fellow attorneys, so he decided to enter religious life. He was ordained a Capuchin priest and took the name Fidelis. He became known for his holiness, preaching and leadership. After being a superior at several houses, he was invited to become a missionary in Switzerland to call Protestants back to the Catholic Church. Fidelis' work was dangerous because people hated the Catholic Habsburgs, a dynasty of European rulers. He was murdered by opponents in 1622, and we remember him on April 24.



Puzzle

Using the hints provided, put a T next to the true statements about the events surrounding Jesus' passion and an F next to the ones that are false.



1. James cut off a man's ear during Jesus' arrest. (John 18:10)
2. The crowd shouted for the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. (John 18:39-40)
3. Golgotha means "Place of the Skull." (John 19:17)
4. The inscription on Jesus' cross read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." (John 19:19)



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

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Cardinal Timothy Dolan's reflections provide much food for spiritual thought

Who Do You Say I Am?: Daily Reflections on the Bible, the Saints and the Answer That Is Christ, by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan. Image (New York, 2019). 369 pp., \$26.

Reviewed by Brian T. Olszewski
Catholic News Service

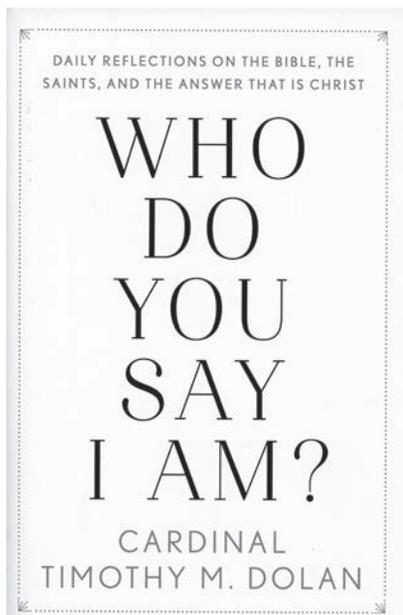
Anyone who has ever heard Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan — in personal conversation, interviewed on TV, giving a homily or addressing a conference — knows the archbishop of New York is not at a loss for words.

Nor is he at a loss for words in his new book, *Who Do You Say I Am?*

He provides a reflection for each day of the year on a variety of topics and about a diverse group of people.

One will not know what to expect from page to page, which is why this will not become a “thought for the day” book that collects dust on a shelf.

Readers will be curious about the topic of his latest reflection.



At times it is a retreat-like examination of conscience, e.g., on Jan. 25, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, he asks: “Am I living up to what I profess? Where do I fall short, and what about my life needs changing?”

He employs the same approach Oct. 11 when he writes about the threefold mission of the Church — to sanctify, serve and teach. It’s instructive, not preachy.

Some pages have an advice columnist tone. On June 9, he offers three steps for someone wishing to return to the Church: prayer, celebrating Sunday Mass and making a good confession. He does so in a voice that is not demanding but reassuring and welcoming.

Reading page after page, one realizes there isn’t a topic about which Cardinal Dolan can’t write.

Among his reflection subjects are gratitude, freedom, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, patience, friendship, St. Louis Cardinal baseball Hall of Famer Stan Musial and pasta (he begins one reflection with, “I love to eat”).

He provides catechesis on

Advent, Lent and Easter, as well as about numerous saints, e.g., St. John the Evangelist, St. Irenaeus, St. Damien of Molokai, St. Katharine Drexel.

He also makes references to the lives of Blessed Paul VI, Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

Lest a lesson get by the reader, the cardinal writes about some of them multiple times, including children and family.

Each page includes a quotation from Scripture to set the tone for what he writes.

All of the writing is good, but some parts are better than others. The strongest material is when he writes about personal experiences. One reflection involves his 8-year-old niece being diagnosed with bone cancer. Another is about his mother living in an assisted living facility and her concern that she’s a burden on her children.

One of the most poignant is his story about visiting a prison and being presented a sketch of Jesus on the cross that was done by a resident who had sketched himself on the cross next to Jesus.

The onlookers in the artwork were several of his fellow residents. The artist told the cardinal, “We’re all right there with Christ on the cross.”

Who Do You Say I Am? is a worthwhile investment for

Movie Ratings

Ratings are supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office. Due to the lack of movies being released as cinemas are shut down because of COVID-19, no new ratings have been added since March 12. Visit www.usccb.org for current reviews.



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)

On air

Mustard Seed
Sunday Scripture readings
and reflections

Sundays, 10:06 am, KWIX-AM 1230, Moberly
Sundays, 8 am, KRL-AM 1420, California

EWTN and other
Catholic programming
Covenant Radio Network
broadcasts

KHJR 88.1 FM, Jefferson City
KBKC 90.1 FM, Moberly
KEFL 91.5 FM, Kirksville
94.7 FM, Columbia
103.3 FM, Fulton
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

those who want daily spiritual nourishment. Cardinal Dolan provides much about which to think and pray — and smile — and he delivers it in a manner

readers will enjoy.

Olszewski is the editor of The Catholic Virginian, biweekly publication of the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia.

Ascension helps Catholics stay spiritually engaged during COVID-19

Ascension, a leader in Catholic faith-formation, recently launched multiple engaging pieces of content through a series of livestream events on YouTube and Facebook.

These feature popular Catholic presenters who walk with Catholics during this challenging time and offer positive affirmations and reflections.

Ascension is currently providing live faith-enriching content to enable Catholics throughout the United States and beyond to continue engaging with their faith in the homes-in real time.

As Jeff Cavins, creator of The Great Adventure Bible study program, stated: “In many ways we find ourselves facing new challenges that, if approached from a disciple’s perspective, become new opportunities. As many of our friends contemplate the studies in which they have participated, they now realize they have been

in training for such a time as this. It is time to do God’s will and encourage those who do not know the Lord.”

The livestream events Ascension is currently offering on its social platforms include the following:

- The Rosary at 3 p.m. central time, which has averaged more than 40,000 participants a day.

- Sunday Mass celebrated by Fr. Mike Schmitz at 9 a.m. central time, which was viewed by more than 170,000.

- Sunday Mass with the Most. Rev. Nelson Perez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, at 10 a.m. central time, which was viewed by more than 50,000.

- Other livestream events on a multitude of topics by Ascension’s presenters and authors, including Jeff Cavins and Danielle Bean.

For more details please visit ascensionpress.com.



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Prayer for a Spiritual Communion

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 in 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.

ST. JUDE

From page 4

She believes people can help God answer those prayers by trusting Him fully, conforming to His will, and courageously taking on challenges that seem scary, difficult or uncomfortable.

“There are things that we may not want to do but that we’re called to not just do but do well,” she said. “God sees our gifts, and I think to be truly open to His will, we have to do some things that scare us.”

Hope does not disappoint

St. Jude is one of the most revered saints and called-upon intercessors, especially among Catholics in the United States.

He is often referred to as “the patron saint of hopeless or impossible cases,” but Fr. Tobin asserted that he is more accurately “a patron saint of hope.”

Jerilyn McGuire, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish, said it was amazing to pray in the presence of a relic of St. Jude, “who was at the Last Supper with our Lord Jesus Christ” and received the fire of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Mrs. McGuire noted that the Church faces seemingly impossible odds in confronting various illnesses — most notably sin and disbelief in God.

She plans to unite her prayers with St. Jude’s every day through Lent for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and for her fellow Catholics and the entire world to understand the importance of God’s Divine Mercy.

A wife and mother of eight,

she believes it’s important to look at the saints not only as amazing people who did the impossible but also “as our friends in heaven.”

“The one thing we as humans have in common is that we are loved by God, we have souls and we will all die one day,” she said. “My hope is to be in heaven, which is what Saint means in heaven.”

“People of hope”

At the closing Mass, Bishop McKnight summoned the faithful to open their hearts to the gift of hope and to pray “for those who are in need throughout the world and within our country, who are gripped by fear and lacking in trust.”

He said that with the threat of the coronavirus, people will be tempted to lose trust and give in to fear.

“But Christians are people of hope,” he said. “Now is the time to strike the rocks of desperation and despair and drink from the fount of living waters! We shall rely on the Lord!”

He said that in praying for vocations, “we should hold up a specific request to the Holy Spirit: that our young people may be open to what God wants them to do with their life; and that they may be given the gift of courage to accept the call of God in their life and not fear the many reasons they might have not to follow.”

The bishop cited as an example the healthcare workers throughout the world who are risking their lives in order to care for the sick.

“They have all made the choice for a life that is more, that is better, because of their choice for life with and in God, which provides a firm sense of hope and trust in times of danger and desperation,” he said.

He highlighted the importance not only of communal worship but also private, personal prayer.

Trust, listen, respond

He urged young people to take an active role in helping with the Church’s response to the coronavirus pandemic.

“I can’t think of a better way right now for you take your rightful role in the life and mission of the Church,” he said. “Instead of fretting about the pandemic, how about trusting in the Lord, listening to His voice, and responding with faith, hope and charity?”

He noted that God’s call sometimes comes when least expected.

“Please give God the opportunity to reveal His call to you,” he appealed, “and give your Church the opportunity to support you when you respond.”

“Talk with people who know you well,” he advised. “Talk with your parish priest about what you are contemplating with your life. Ask them what they see in you.”

Bishop McKnight thanked all of the people who had a hand in organizing the event, and urged everyone to continue praying.

For more information about vocations, visit diojeffcity.org/vocations.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Apr 5

PALM SUNDAY OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD

Mt. 21:1-11

Is. 50:4-7

Ps. 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Phil. 2:6-11

Mt. 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

(7) Ez. 36:16-17a, 18-28;
Ps. 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (when
Baptism is celebrated) or Is.
12:2-4bcd, 5-6 or Ps. 51:12-
15, 18-19 (when Baptism is
not celebrated)

(8) Rom. 6:3-11; Ps. 118:1-2,
16-17, 22-23

(9) Mt. 28:1-10

Monday, Apr 6

Monday of Holy Week

Is. 42:1-7

Ps. 27:1-3, 13-14

Jn. 12:1-11

Tuesday, Apr 7

Tuesday of Holy Week

Is. 49:1-6

Ps. 71:1-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17

Jn. 13:21-33, 36-38

Sunday, Apr 12

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE
RESURRECTION OF THE
LORD

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Ps. 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Col. 3:1-4 or 1 Cor. 5:6b-8

Jn. 20:1-9 or Mt. 28:1-10; or

Lk. 24:13-35 (at an afternoon
or evening Mass)

Wednesday, Apr 8

Wednesday of Holy Week

Is. 50:4-9a

Ps. 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34

Mt. 26:14-25

Monday, Apr 13

Monday in the Octave of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33

Ps. 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11

Mt. 28:8-15

Thursday, Apr 9

HOLY THURSDAY OF THE
LORD’S SUPPER

Ex. 12:1-8, 11-14

Ps. 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18

1 Cor. 11:23-26

Jn. 13:1-15

Tuesday, Apr 14

Tuesday in the Octave of Easter

Acts 2:36-41

Ps. 33:4-5, 18-20, 22

Jn. 20:11-18

Wednesday, Apr 15

Wednesday in the Octave of
Easter

Acts 3:1-10

Ps. 105:1-4, 6-9

Lk. 24:13-35

Friday, Apr 10

FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF
THE LORD (Good Friday)

Is. 52:13—53:12

Ps. 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25

Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Jn. 18:1—19:42

Thursday, Apr 16

Thursday in the Octave of Easter

Acts 3:11-26

Ps. 8:2ab, 5-9

Lk. 24:35-48

Saturday, Apr 11

THE EASTER VIGIL IN
THE HOLY NIGHT (Holy
Saturday)

(1) Gn. 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a;
Ps. 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14,
24, 35 or Ps. 33:4-7, 12-13,
20, 22

(2) Gn. 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a,
10-13, 15-18; Ps. 16:5, 8-11

(3) Ex. 14:15—15:1; (Ps.) Ex.
15:1-6, 17-18

(4) Is. 54:5-14; Ps. 30:2, 4-6,
11-13

(5) Is. 55:1-11; (Ps.) Is. 12:2-6

(6) Bar. 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ps.
19:8-11

Friday, Apr 17

Friday in the Octave of Easter

Acts 4:1-12

Ps. 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a

Jn. 21:1-14

Saturday, Apr 18

Saturday in the Octave of Easter

Acts 4:13-21

Ps. 118:1, 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-
21

Mk. 16:9-15

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for April:

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Bishop speaks of respect for life, calls for solidarity, cooperation

“Respect for life is something God expects from all of us,” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight said of the steps the diocese is taking to help dampen the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

He was referring to his March 30 decree — extending at least until April 30 — the suspension of all public Masses and gatherings in the diocese.

He said that while it pains him personally as a bishop to forbid the public celebration of the sacraments of faith in this diocese, “I am also sorrowful over the number of people in our local hospitals and throughout the world who are suffering greatly because of this virus.”

“I have parents who are elderly, who have had cancer and heart disease,” he noted. “People like them are particularly at risk. I think our love for people like them requires us to do what we can.”

The decree was preceded by a letter from Bishop McKnight on March 29, asking parishes to review their finances and work with diocesan staff to prepare for the consequences of a decline in donations.

On average, parishes receive 86 percent of their revenue from tithing by parishioners. For those parishes whose parishioners donate in-person on Sunday, the inability to gather for Masses can have significant implications.

“Our towns and cities will emerge from this pandemic, but our lives will be very different after the virus has passed,” Bishop McKnight asserted. “Our efforts are to help the people of our diocese stay healthy, keep calm and work together so our families can thrive.”

“The diocesan directives encourage a sense of co-responsibility between our clergy and laity to ensure our parishes and schools are able to respond to the post-pandemic world with creativity and flexibility,” he said.

*Jesus said to them,
“Come away by yourselves ... and rest a while.”*

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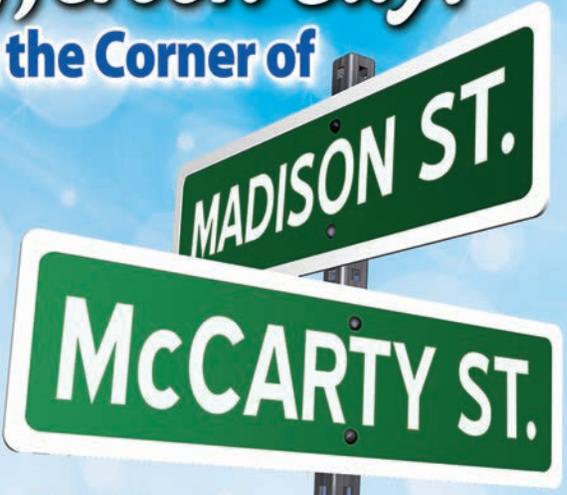
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