

Diaconal orders for Derek Hooper May 30

In preparing to become a deacon and in looking ahead with hope toward the Priesthood, Mr. Hooper recognizes God's handiwork in the timing.
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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

May 15, 2020 • Vol. 63 No. 23

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

“Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord!”



This photo of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Folk and the clouds above it was taken shortly before sunset on April 30. While God has revealed His glory in numerous ways during this pandemic, many have eagerly anticipated attending Mass in person and receiving the Body of Christ in Holy Communion. — Photo by Bart Lawson

New parish assignments to take effect July 1, reflect evolving needs, realities in the diocese

See Bishop McKnight's Official Decree of Appointments on Page 4

By Jay Nies

An august assemblage of priests, deacons and laypeople will take on new or modified responsibilities this summer under an Official Decree of Appointments promulgated by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight May 1.

The appointments take effect July 1.

“These new assignments reflect our best efforts to make the most effective use of our priestly resources while we continue tilling the soil for a new springtime in our local Church,” the bishop stated.

He made the changes under the prayerful counsel of the diocesan Priest Personnel Board and his cabinet of advisors, tak-

ing into account the evolving needs and realities in the diocese. The full decree is published on Page 4.

A time to rest

Three diocesan priests will retire from their current ministries: **Father Gerald Kaimann**, pastor of St. Bonaventure parish in Marceline and canonical pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Brookfield; **Father Michael Quinn**, pastor of Holy Family parish in Hannibal; and **Father Patrick Dowling**, who serves in prison and hospital ministry.

In addition, **Dominican Father Richard F. Litzau** and **Dominican Father Michail P. Ford**, who currently serve at St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia, will

See BISHOP'S DECREE, page 15

Publicly celebrated Masses resume

Obligation to attend has been suspended until June 30

Social distancing, other safeguards must be vigorously observed

Those over 65, anyone with health concerns encouraged to delay attending

By Jay Nies

The bells of St. Mary's tolled the evening “Angelus” as Father Paul Hartley elevated the Most Blessed Sacrament.

“Behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world!” the priest called out. “Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb!”

About 60 people, keeping proper distance from one another, were kneeling under the gothic arches of St. Mary Church in Glasgow.

It was the first publicly celebrated weekend Mass there in seven weeks.

“As we will soon come to that moment when we will share in Holy Communion, let us give thanks to God that we can once again gather as His people,” said Fr. Hartley, pastor of the Glasgow parish and of St. Joseph parish in Slater.

“Let us resolve never to take the Eucharist for granted, but see it as a true gift of Christ Himself, given out of His love for us and for our souls,” the priest stated.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight had suspended the public celebration of Mass in the Jefferson City diocese in mid-March in response to the order from Gov. Mike Parson, to slow the spread of the dangerous COVID-19 virus.

Upon expiration of Missouri's statewide stay-at-home order on May 3, the bishop authorized parishes to resume

See PUBLIC MASSES, page 12

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

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OLD PARISH _____

05/15/20

Health procedures at the Chancery

Until further notice, anyone visiting the Chancery offices in the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center must have an appointment in advance with the person they intend to meet. Please note the Chancery will be screening all guests with a health questionnaire and temperature check. This is for the safety of all.

Pray for deceased priests

May 17 — **Fr. James J. Burns**, Immaculate Conception, Shackelford (1959)

May 18 — **Fr. William D. Baskett**, Sacred Heart, Eldon (1965)

May 21 — **Fr. James P. Owens**, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Thomas (1987)

May 23 — **Msgr. Bernard A. Timpe**, Holy Family, Freeburg (1973)

May 27 — **Fr. James P. Stanley**, St. Anthony of Padua, Folk (1970)

May 28 — **Msgr. Herman J. Breit**, St. Andrew, Tipton (1977)

Position Openings



Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Jefferson City is looking to hire for the following positions beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Please send your resume to Mrs. Heather Schrimpf if you are interested in either position. (hschrimpf@icangels.com)

School Administration Assistant (Secretary): Part-Time position working 20-25 hours weekly during the school year. The applicant must have a positive attitude and great communication skills; strong computer skills, with proficiency in Microsoft Office. The applicant must be highly motivated with strong organizational skills; able to coordinate multiple tasks simultaneously. Wages dependent on experience and qualifications.

School Librarian: Full-Time position during the school year. The applicant MUST have a love for reading and foster an atmosphere that encourages student usage. The applicant will provide for organization, circulation, and maintenance of library media; maintain inventory of library materials; assist and collaborate with teachers on curriculum; manage the Accelerated Reader program; organize and facilitate fundraising efforts for the library; and maintain program records. Wages dependent on experience and certification.

Art Teacher (PK-8): Full-Time position for grades PreK-8. Certification or working toward certification in Art preferred.

**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.**

Mailing address for diocesan offices

The Chancery offices in the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center have a new mailing address.

Please address all correspondence to the street address 2207 W. Main, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914.

The P.O. Box 104900 is no longer in use.

Please begin using the street address immediately. The Post Office will forward mail from the post office box to the street address for up to one year, but the forwarding process may slow delivery.

Fr. Reid to begin a year of immersion in hospital chaplaincy in Texas

By Jay Nies

Father Nicholas Reid is back in training.

Fr. Reid, a priest of the Jefferson City diocese who is serving as a U.S. Air Force chaplain in Alaska, has been assigned to a one-year Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program of study at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), located near Fort Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

"Think 'hospital chaplaincy,'" he said of the training.

Fr. Reid has served for the past several years as a chaplain at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

He and five classmates in the CPE program will study and minister together.

He pointed to the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education's (ACPE) description of Clinical Pastoral Education as interfaith professional education for ministry.

It brings theological students and ministers of all faith persuasions — pastors, priests,



**Father Nicholas Reid,
U.S. Air Force chaplain**

rabbis, imams and others — into supervised encounter with individuals who are in crisis.

"Out of an intense involvement with persons in need, and the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those to whom they minister," the ACPE website states.

Participants also gain a new

understanding of ministry from theological reflection on specific human situations.

"Within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and inter-professional relationships," according to the website.

Fr. Reid noted that many seminarians and priests undertake a shorter version of this program over the summer at some point in their training.

He was enrolled in a similar program over two semesters as a seminarian at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

His new training ground is impressive.

Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) is the U.S. Army's premier medical institution.

It is a 425-bed Academic Medical Center and is the U.S. Defense Department's largest

See FR. REID, page 19

The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City
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"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."
— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Positions Available



ST. JOSEPH
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City, Mo., is looking to fill the following positions for the 2020-21 school year:

After School Care Director: With hours from 2:30-5:30 pm every day, this supervisor position would oversee staff, plan and implement activities and coordinate supervision. Successful applicants will have prior experience in supervising youth. This position can be combined with other available positions for additional hours. Contact sallen@sjcsmo.org.

SCRIP Coordinator: SCRIP is a fundraising program through which patrons buy gift cards from among a selection of businesses and vendors. From these cards, sold at face value, a portion of the proceeds supports school operations. The coordinator of this program will work with local businesses, maintain the in-school inventory of gift cards, and coordinate sales to our patrons. Contact Spencer Allen at sallen@sjcsmo.org.

Bishops urge closer look at COVID deaths in black communities

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

A group of U.S. bishops expressed sorrow over disparities in infection and death rates among African Americans in U.S. communities.

“Our hearts are wounded

for the many souls mourned as African American communities across the nation are being disproportionately infected with and dying from the virus that causes COVID-19. We raise our voices to urge state and national leaders to examine the generational and sys-

temic structural conditions that make the new coronavirus especially deadly to African American communities,” said the statement issued May 4.

The statement, on behalf of four U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committees, was issued by Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Archbishop Nelson J. Perez of Philadelphia, chairman of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church; and Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago, chairman of Subcommittee on African American Affairs.

Though an accurate rate of infections and deaths among African Americans at the national level is not yet clear, some communities are reporting high and alarming levels among their respective populations.

In St. Louis, in early April, for example, statistics showed that African Americans accounted for 64 percent of coronavirus cases even though blacks make up 45 percent of the population.

At around the same time in New York, African Americans were 28 percent of deaths, although they’re 22 percent of the population, and in the District of Columbia, African Americans account for almost half of the COVID-19 cases and 79 percent of deaths, according to May 4 figures.

But some say it’s hard to get an accurate picture of the situation among ethnic communities because some members may be dying at home or not seeking health care for the disease for a variety of reasons.

Figures from the nation’s capital for the same date also showed high rates among its Latino population, saying they account for 19 percent of Washington’s total COVID-19 cases though they’re only 9.1 percent of the population mirroring similar figures in other parts of the United States.

Some say lack of affordable housing, which causes crowded living conditions, a high rate of those populations serving as essential workers and lack of access



Funeral home workers in New York City carry a deceased person April 2, into a basement area where bodies are stored and prepared for funeral services during the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. bishops issued a statement May 4 urging state and national leaders to examine the impact of the coronavirus on African American communities.

— CNS photo/Andrew Kelly, Reuters

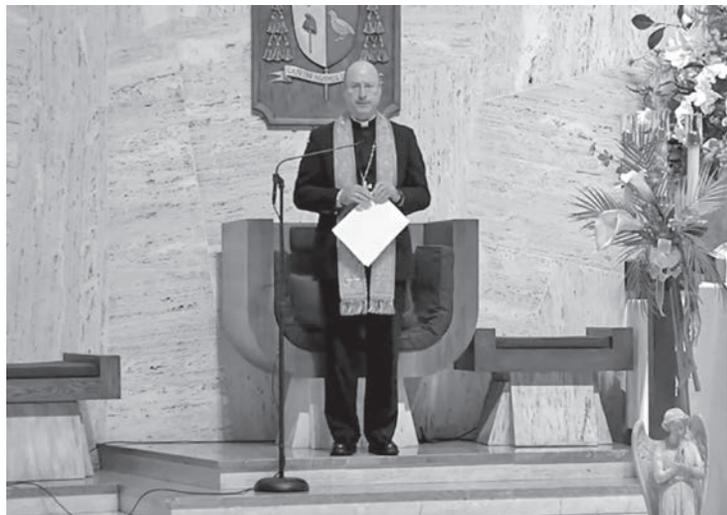
to health care are contributing to the rise in numbers among those ethnic communities.

“We stand in support of all communities struggling under the weight of the impact this virus has had not only on their physical health, but on their livelihoods, especially front-line

medical and sanitation workers, public safety officers and those in the service industry,” the bishops’ statement said.

“We are praying fervently for an end to the pandemic, and for physical health for all, and emotional healing among all who have lost loved ones.”

“St. Isidore, pray for us!”



From the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight leads Day 7 of a nationally livestreamed novena in honor of St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers, on May 13. Bishop McKnight is a board member of Catholic Rural Life (catholicruralife.org), which organizes the novena leading up to St. Isidore’s feastday each year. Bishop McKnight called the faithful to pray and reflect on mercy being practiced in rural areas in our country. Ashley Wiskirchen, diocesan director of parish communications, gave a reflection on the works of hospitality and charity practiced by St. Isidore and his wife, Maria. Bishop McKnight is also scheduled to lead the Day 8 reflections on May 14. The archived videos of these and the other bishops’ prayers can be found online at catholicruralife.org/virtualnovena/.



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

MAY

The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic:

- May 15** Diocesan Finance Council teleconference meeting, 11 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City
- May 20** Confirmation Mass, 6:30 pm, Our Lady of Snows Church, Mary’s Home
- May 30** Derek Hooper Transitional Diaconate Ordination Mass, livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- May 31** Fr. Chris Cordes 25th Anniversary Mass, livestreamed from Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Columbia
- June 1** Feast of Mary Mass, the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, Laurie

Bishop McKnight’s May prayer intention for our Local Church

As we honor the Mother of our Lord as the “Queen of May,” may there be a greater respect and appreciation for all women on earth who nourish us in mind, body and soul.

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

Al honrar a la Madre de nuestro Señor como la “Reina de Mayo”, que haya un mayor respeto y aprecio por todas las mujeres en la tierra que nos nutren en mente, cuerpo y alma.



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



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Official Decree of Appointments

The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight makes the following appointments:

RETIREMENTS

Reverend Patrick Dowling, from hospital and prison ministry, to retirement with residence at Holts Summit.

Reverend Gerald J. Kaimann, from pastor of St. Bonaventure Parish in Marceline and Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookfield, to retirement with residence at St. Joseph Rectory in Palmyra.

Reverend Michael F. Quinn, from pastor of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal to retirement with private residence at Monroe City.

These appointments are effective July 1, 2020.

CHANCERY APPOINTMENTS

Reverend Stephen W. Jones, from president of Helias Catholic High School and administrator of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, to full-time diocesan director of stewardship and part-time chaplain at Helias Catholic High School.

Sister Kathleen Wegman, SSND, as Bishop's delegate for religious.

Mrs. Bernadette Adams, as vice chancellor.

Deacon Ray L. Purvis, as director of deacon life and ministry, and to continue to serve at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

Deacon John A. Schwartz, as director of deacon formation, and to continue to serve at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.

These appointments are effective July 1, 2020.

PASTORS

Reverend Christopher M. Aubuchon, return from temporary medical leave and from full-time diocesan director of vocations, part-time chaplain at Helias Catholic High School and part-time parochial vicar at St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, to pastor of Visitation Parish in Vienna, Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Brinktown, and St. Aloysius Parish in Argyle and to continue as diocesan director of seminarians.

Reverend Simeon A. Etonu, from administrator of St. Mary Parish in Shelbina and St. Patrick Parish in Clarence, to pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Edina, St. Aloysius Parish in Baring, St. John Parish in Memphis, and as chaplain of the Kirksville Newman Center, and to further studies in Canon Law with the online program at the School of Canon Law at Catholic University of America.

Reverend Matthew J. Flatley, from pastor of Visitation Parish in Vienna, Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Brinktown and St. Aloysius Parish in Argyle, to pastor of Holy Family Parish in Hannibal and St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra and to continue as diocesan moderator of spiritual formation.

Reverend Colin P. Franklin, from pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Edina, St. Aloysius Parish in Baring, and St. John Parish in Memphis, and as administrator of St. Mary Parish in Milan and the Mission of St. Mary in Unionville, and as chaplain of the Kirksville Newman Center, to pastor of St. George Parish in Linn and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Frankenstein, to diocesan moderator of Catholic rural life and to further studies in Canon Law with the online program at the School of Canon Law at Catholic University of America.

Reverend Daniel J. Merz, SLD, from pastor of St. George Parish in Linn and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Frankenstein, to pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia and vicar for permanent deacons, continuing as chair of diocesan liturgical commission.

Reverend Benjamin E. Nwosu, to pastor of St. Mary Parish in Shelbina and St. Patrick Parish in Clarence, and to continue as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon and the Mission of the Sacred Heart Parish in Bevier.

These appointments are effective July 1, 2020.

ADMINISTRATORS

Reverend Jason T. Doke, STL, to administrator of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, and to continue as diocesan moderator of the curia.

Reverend Kelechi M. Uzuegbu, from administrator of St. Joseph Par-

ish in Palmyra, to administrator of St. Bonaventure Parish in Marceline with sacramental duties at Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookfield.

These appointments are effective July 1, 2020.

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Reverend Paul J. Clark, from part-time parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia and diocesan moderator of pro-life ministry, to parochial vicar of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia and diocesan vocation director, and to continue as part-time chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School and diocesan moderator of youth and young adults ministry.

Reverend Joshua J. Duncan, from diocesan assistant vocation director, part-time parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City and part-time chaplain at Helias Catholic High School, to parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, and to continue duties as the Bishop's master of ceremonies.

Reverend Benedict F. Chagula, to parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

These appointments are effective July 1, 2020.

PERMANENT DIACONATE

Deacon Mark J. Dobelmann, to occasionally assist the pastor of St. Clement Parish in St. Clement, and to continue assisting the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Vandalia and the Mission of St. John Parish in Laddonia, and continue assisting in prison ministry in that area of the Diocese.

Deacon Philip M. Garcia, from assisting the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City to medical leave.

These appointments are effective March 31, 2020.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Reverend Francis W. Doyle, to diocesan moderator of marriage and family life, and to continue as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia.

Reverend Anthony J. Viviano, from diocesan moderator of marriage and family life, to diocesan moderator of pro-life ministry, and to continue as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk.

Reverend James FINDER, currently a retired priest in residence at the Cathedral rectory, to senior priest in residence at Annunciation Parish in California and continuing hospital ministry in Cole County.

These appointments are effective July 1, 2020.

OTHER OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reverend Basil Eruo, from residence at St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, to an assignment by his Bishop outside the Diocese.

This announcement is effective May 18, 2020.

Reverend Michail P. Ford, OP, from parochial vicar of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, to an assignment by his Prior Provincial outside the Diocese.

Reverend Richard F. Litzau, OP, from pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, to an assignment by his Prior Provincial outside the Diocese.

These announcements are effective July 1, 2020.

Given at the Chancery this 1st day of May 2020

W. Shawn McKnight

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

Constance Schepers

Mrs. Constance Schepers
Chancellor

Bishop to ordain Derek Hooper a transitional deacon on May 30

Seminarian hopes to be ordained a priest of the diocese in 2021

By Jay Nies

Retired Texas Rangers left-fielder Rusty Greer might never get his name on a plaque in the Baseball Hall of Fame, but he poured every ounce of his being into the game he loved.

That's what made him one of Derek Hooper's favorite ballplayers.

"He worked hard and made the most of his ability, both on the field and in life," said Mr. Hooper, an avid baseball fan and third-year theologian at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago. "And he played with his heart."

That's the kind of deacon and eventually the kind of priest Mr. Hooper hopes to be: "a man who loves his people and is willing to serve and be there with and for them and help them grow closer to Christ in all that they do, and to lead by example."

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will ordain Mr. Hooper a transitional deacon for the Jefferson City diocese at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

Seating will be very limited out of an abundance of caution due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mass will be livestreamed at [diojeffcity.org/ordination](https://www.diojeffcity.org/ordination).

He hopes to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood next year.

Early impressions

Mr. Hooper enjoys watching sports, especially baseball and the Rangers, and reading and watching science fiction, especially "Star Trek" and "Star Wars."

He was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Southeastern Kansas.

His brother, Father Gabriel Greer, who is eight years younger, is a priest of the Diocese of Wichita.

"We grew up in a very strong and faithful family," Mr. Hooper said of himself and his siblings. "We attended Mass every Sunday. Whenever we could, especially over the summer, we'd go to daily Mass."

The idea of Priesthood first struck him when he was 12 or

13.

"We always interacted with the priests," he recalled. "My highschool chaplain had a strong influence on me. He was very faithful and knowledgeable."

Several young and exuberant priests served at his parish when he was in high school, including newly ordained Father Sam Pinkerton.

"One of my first interactions with him was at my great-uncle's funeral," said Mr. Hooper. "There was just something about him, you could see his faith."

Common prayers

After high school, Mr. Hooper served for two years in the U.S. Army, then went to Pittsburg State University in Kansas to study finance.

He became active in the Catholic Newman Center there and befriended several men who were discerning Priesthood.

"My prayer life really started taking off there," he said. "We prayed the Liturgy of the Hours regularly as a group. We prayed Rosaries, went to Mass and all sorts of stuff."

He also discovered a gift for ministering to young people.

"I enjoyed being with the kids, interacting with them, helping them try to grow in the faith," he said.

He didn't like the idea of foregoing marriage and family, but he was moved by the example of faith, prayer and service he observed in several priests.

They told him that a seminary is a good place to become closer to God while listening for a possible call to Priesthood.

They said, "If you end up discerning that it's not your call, the formation that you've had will make you a better husband and father."

He just wasn't ready.

"Wouldn't it be cool?"

After graduating, Mr. Hooper went to the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas, to pursue a Master of Business Management (MBA) degree in corporate finance and sports and entertainment management.

"I still prayed a lot," he re-

called. "I lived with some really good friends from when I was at Pittsburg State."

Near the end of his time in graduate school, something seemingly random suddenly occurred to him: "Wouldn't it be cool if you and your brother were in the same ordination class?"

He went to visit his brother, who was a seminarian at St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

"We went to a holy hour with the seminarians and it just kind of hit me that this is something I should do," said Mr. Hooper.

He returned to Kansas and applied for candidacy as a seminarian for the Wichita diocese.

He completed the pre-theology program and his first year of theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

But something still wasn't right.

"I ended up leaving the seminary," he recalled. "I knew I needed some time away."

"Teach what you believe"

He went back to in Pittsburg to work as an accountant at a manufacturing company.

"I enjoyed what I was doing," he said. "But one of the things I enjoyed most was talking philosophy and theology with my coworkers."

After a few months, he decided that it was time to go back into the seminary.

He reapplied and served a pastoral year at a large parish in Wichita, then went to Mundelein in Chicago to resume his seminary studies and formation.

Once again, at the end of his second year, things didn't seem right.

"I wasn't at peace with where I was," he recalled.

He accepted a temporary teaching position at his alma mater, St. Mary's Colgan High School in Pittsburg. He spent a year teaching Church history to juniors and seniors, morality to freshmen and sophomores, and an overview of Catholic Christianity to eighth-graders.

"I had a blast doing that,"



Derek Hooper

he said. "I really came into my own while teaching the faith, working with the kids."

Open door

His brother, newly ordained, was serving at Church of the Magdalen parish in Wichita.

His pastor was Father W. Shawn McKnight, who was about to become bishop of Jefferson City.

Fr. Greer told his brother, "If still you feel any indication that you're being called to Priesthood, give Bishop Mc-

Knight a call."

Mr. Hooper had been praying throughout that year for some clear direction.

"God opened doors that I never expected Him to open," he said.

Bishop McKnight invited him to spend a year teaching at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City and learning about his new diocese.

"I really loved that," said Mr. Hooper. "From very early on, I knew the peace that I had been missing, I felt at home."

The joy and satisfaction he found in teaching young people and interacting with their families helped solidify his calling.

"Kids are sometimes some of the most brutally honest people on earth," he noted. "It was good to get positive feedback from them."

Restless heart

Mr. Hooper has come to admire St. Augustine, a fourth-century intellectual who spent years searching for truth and meaning.

Following a sudden and

See DEREK HOOPER, page 23



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LeAnn Korsmeyer relishes new role in parish, charitable services

By Jay Nies

Like everyone else whose lives have been upended by the COVID-19 pandemic, LeAnn Korsmeyer has been longing for “normal.”

She recognized long ago that mundane and uneventful times are prime opportunities to encounter, worship and serve God.

They’re also a vital training ground for the times that are difficult and eventful.

“You have to live in the moment, in today,” insisted Mrs. Korsmeyer, the Jefferson City diocese’s new director of parish and charitable ministries.

“And even in the busy-ness and mundaneness of a ‘normal’ day, that’s when we hold onto Christ, that’s when we pray, that’s when we ‘train up,’” she said. “We stay on our knees, doing what God wants us to do.”

Mrs. Korsmeyer recently succeeded Sister Kathleen We-

gman of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, now retired, as diocesan director of parish and charitable ministries.

She moved into the role just as the parish phase of discernment for a new diocesan pastoral plan was getting under way — and right before the pandemic threw everything into sudden, yet surprisingly fruitful turmoil.

“Who would have thought?” said Mrs. Korsmeyer. “Our bishop was sharing with us this vision of us being ‘better together,’ of our parishes being widely recognized as centers of charity and mercy — I like to say that he was pouring that oil over us — and then it was like we were being baptized by fire!”

“We thought we’d have some time to think about what it all means, and then suddenly it became ‘The need is now! The need is real! Let’s go and serve!’” she said.



LeAnn Korsmeyer

People throughout the diocese have stepped-up to look out for each other and cast their gaze toward the peripheries.

“This is what we’ve been training for all of our lives,” Mrs. Korsmeyer insisted. “We’ve been sent out on mission in ways we never anticipated.”

She’s been amazed at people’s response to the bishop’s invitation to volunteer in any way possible as communities have weathered stay-at-home orders and limited mobility.

She and her administrative assistant, Erin Boeckmann, processed hundreds of online volunteer applications for Parish Disaster Responder Teams.

Mrs. Korsmeyer noted that parishes and the diocese have always been immersed in charitable activities, “but now people are stepping-up as representatives of the Church, one Body, and taking cooperation and collaboration to a new level.”

She’s convinced that that experience will be invaluable toward discerning further needs and planning sustained ministries in parishes.

“It’s just amazing how God puts everybody in place to

serve,” she said. “And now more than ever, our role in the Chancery needs to be helping to facilitate that and being a positive resource for the people.”

Something to share

Bishop McKnight originally hired Mrs. Korsmeyer last July to help facilitate the Church’s ministry to women of the diocese.

“Women’s ministry has been going on since the first woman walked the earth,” she noted. “So this started out as an opportunity to collaborate and facilitate many of the good things that were already going on in the diocese so that even more people could reap the benefits.”

Women are often the most active parishioners and effective evangelizers of young people. But in this age, they are often too overwhelmed with demands and responsibilities to be able to stop and enjoy each other’s company while walking and resting in the Lord.

“We saw a need for women to have a hub, where we could gather and unite and form community and share resources and then be sent back out on mission,” said Mrs. Korsmeyer. “It is also a great opportunity to form women into ministries that specifically address women’s spiritual needs. All of us who work in the Chancery are a resource to people in the parishes. They tell us what they need, and we try to help them.”

She noted that while women’s ministry is important, it’s

just a part of something much larger.

“We need women and men to have opportunities to grow in fellowship and community,” she noted. “There are activities that are better for men and women to do separately. But there are many opportunities — such as the Eucharist, devotions, community events, and service projects — that we should be doing together.”

“In this moment”

Mrs. Korsmeyer had been serving for 12 years as director of religious education at St. Stanislaus parish in Wardsville, coordinating sacramental preparation, religious education and an array of faith formation opportunities for young people and adults.

She facilitated volunteer and fellowship opportunities between St. Stanislaus parishioners and the Salvation Army’s Center of Hope Shelter in Jefferson City.

She believes her opportunity to serve at the diocesan level “came to be through the grace of God.”

She had been friends with Sr. Kathleen since Father Gregory Meystrik introduced them when he was pastor in Wardsville and Osage Bend.

“I had said to him, ‘I feel that God is calling me toward something,’” Mrs. Korsmeyer recalled. “Fr. Meystrik said, ‘There’s someone you need to meet.’”

Sr. Kathleen quickly became her mentor, helping her discern a calling to a more active role in the Church.

“I believe it was God’s intention that Sr. Kathleen and I meet,” said Mrs. Korsmeyer. “We formed this great friendship. She walked with me and showed me how to look in the right direction, toward the light.”

That friendship deepened while Mrs. Korsmeyer and her family weathered the fear, discomfort, disappointment, acceptance, hope and eventual healing and restoration from her cancer diagnosis and rounds of chemotherapy, radiation and surgeries.

See KORSMEYER, page 14

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Trust has been a pillar of Fr. Kaimann's Priesthood for 50 years

By Jay Nies

"Do priests go to heaven?"

Alvina Kaimann was taken aback by her 10-year-old son's unusual question.

She said yes.

"Then that's what I need to do!" he told her.

"From then on, I was pretty well set on being a priest," said Father Jerry Kaimann, who is noting his 50th priestly anniversary this year.

"I've always felt like this is where I'm supposed to be," he said.

The current pastor of St. Bonaventure parish in Marcelline and canonical pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Brookfield believes the Priesthood suits him because he enjoys being of service to other people.

"God has blessed me, very much so, and I want to share that with others," he stated.

A bridge for all

Fr. Kaimann sees the ministerial Priesthood as "a bridge that brings people to God and God to people."

With and for Christ, "my purpose is to be that connecting link for everybody — not just my parishioners or certain people, but everyone," he said.

Half a century ago, he would look up to the pastors of this diocese and think, "They've already done everything! By the time I'm a pastor, there won't be anything left to do."

"That certainly changed!" he said.

Family milestones

All four of the Kaimann siblings are celebrating milestones this year.

"My older sister has been a Franciscan nun for 60 years, my brother is 50 years married, and my younger sister is 40 years married," said Fr. Kaimann.

They all grew up on a farm just outside Old Monroe, in the northern part of the St. Louis archdiocese.

They all had Franciscan Sisters of Oldenburg, Indiana, as teachers, and Immaculate Conception parish was the center of their family life.

"My parents were such that whenever the church doors were open, we were there," Fr. Kaimann recalled. "Whenever

there was something to do around the church, we were always there — and for the most part, it was our machinery and tractor!"

He and his brother were used to being altar servers at Mass and various liturgical events throughout the year.

"In my family, the Church was very important and priests were very special," he said. "Along with that, going to heaven was important."

First and third

After grade school, young Jerry went to Hannibal to attend St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary for high school students considering the Priesthood.

From there, he went on to Cardinal Glennon College, Kenrick Seminary and the Saint Louis University School of Divinity, all in St. Louis.

He pursued his formation with steady confidence that God one day would make him a priest.

"I was never concerned about whether I'd be allowed to continue on or not," he recalled. "I figured that if I worked hard, I'd eventually make it. And I didn't mind working."

He served as a transitional deacon at St. Peter parish in Jefferson City.

On March 14, 1970, in Immaculate Conception Church in Old Monroe, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

He was the third priest to be ordained from his parish and the first priest to be ordained by Bishop McAuliffe.

"Good people"

Fr. Kaimann looks back upon his newly ordained self as "pretty idealistic and maybe a little naïve."

He served first as an associate pastor: for three months at St. Mary parish in Glasgow, three years at what is now Holy Family parish in Hannibal; two years at Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City; and two years at Sacred Heart parish in Columbia.

He has been serving as a pastor since 1977: first of St. Joseph parish in Canton, Shrine of St. Patrick parish in St. Patrick and the former Notre Dame mission in LaGrange;

then of Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville and St. Joseph parish in Fayette; then of Immaculate Conception parish in Montgomery City and sacramental minister of St. Patrick parish in Jonesburg.

He became pastor of St. Bonaventure parish in Marcelline on July 1, 2002.

For his first two years there, he was also pastor of St. Joseph parish in Hurricane Branch.

Since 2004, he has been pastor of the Marcelline parish and canonical pastor of the parish in Brookfield.

"Whenever you go into a parish, you know there's going to be a lot of good people," he said. "If you're open to them and good to them, they'll support you and work with you."

Daily discipline

Fr. Kaimann learned the importance of taking time to pray every day.

He and Father Bill Forst, now deceased, were both assigned to Cathedral of St. Joseph parish.

"And I noticed how he went to church every morning before Mass to just pray," Fr. Kaimann recalled. "And I said, 'I need to do that.' And I started doing it and have continued all my life."

Another important discipline for him has been running.

"I've been a runner all my life," he said. "I started when I was in college. I've always done it early in the morning. I found that it has been great for self-discipline and it's been a really important thing for me."

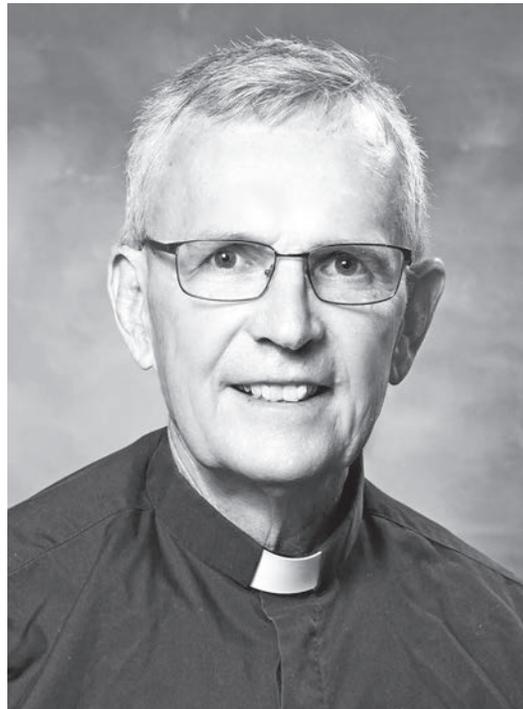
He also enjoys bicycling and fishing for "whatever's biting."

"Consistently amazed"

Fr. Kaimann said the Priesthood hasn't always been easy, "nor has my life always been smooth. But I do believe that it is in the struggles that we grow."

Those struggles help "our humanity and encourage us to trust God," he said.

He believes a parish must be a Christ-centered community "that reaches out to all people, especially those that have drift-



Father Jerry Kaimann

is the faith of the people," he said, "that they follow in faith and trust in the Lord."

He stays grounded and avoids burnout by attending to his own relationship with the Lord "in order to be more like Him and being open to the Spirit forming and changing me."

He believes the decades have helped make him humble and more trusting in the Lord.

"It's all about God, about God's plan," he said. "It's all God's doing."

A new season

Fr. Kaimann is grateful for many things, especially the great home life he experienced while growing up, and the gift of these 50 years of Priesthood.

He will retire from being a pastor on July 1. He plans to move to the rectory of St. Joseph parish in Palmyra and help out with Masses there.

For his jubilee, he asks for prayers for God to help him "grow more in the likeness of the Lord."

He realizes that the clarity he experienced in knowing and answering his priestly calling is not necessarily the norm.

"It can be frightening if you think you're being called and you don't know if you're up to it," he noted. "But if you trust in the Lord, He will be there for you and you will find peace in the midst of whatever is happening."

"So do not be afraid!"



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QUESTION CORNER

Pope and bishops in China / Is it too late to pray?

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Q. I was surprised to read in the Catholic press an article criticizing Pope Francis' agreement to allow the Communist government to nominate candidates for bishops in China. So my question is this: Are those under the Pope's authority allowed to question publicly such an arrangement made by the Holy Father? (Newark, Ohio)

A. The answer to your question is "Yes," but first some important background.

The provisional agreement that you reference was made in September 2018 after years of careful negotiation. Previous to that, in a dispute going back for more than half a century, mainland China's some 12 million Catholics were more or less equally divided between an underground organization that recognized the Pope's authority to name bishops and a state-supported Patriotic Association that named its own bishops.

Under the 2018 agreement, the excommunication of seven bishops who had been ordained with government approval was lifted, and new bishops are now proposed to the Vatican by the Chinese government after it receives input from the Chinese bishops' conference and Catholics from the areas involved. Then the Pope makes the final decision as to whom to appoint, essentially giving the pontiff veto power.

As a result of the new agreement, all of the Catholic bishops in the world's most populous country are now in communion with Rome, and Catholics will have more autonomy in the exercise of their beliefs. The Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said at the time that the agreement helps to give the Church "a greater freedom" so that it can dedicate itself to "the mission of announcing the Gospel."

The Church's decision to enter the agreement was a prudential and pastoral one with which anyone is free to disagree. In fact, one of the strongest critics when the agreement was being considered was Cardinal Joseph Zen, the retired archbishop of Hong Kong.

Q. I have a question that is personal. I haven't been to church in a while; and I don't usually pray, although recently I have begun to. Will God accept me still, if I start going to church at this point in my life? (I want to get close to Him and I hope that it's not too late.) (Anaheim, California)

A. It is never too late. God's love for us is deep and everlasting. The Second Letter of Peter (3:9) tells us that the Lord "is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Think of the criminal on the cross who turned to Christ only hours before his death and was promised that, that very day, he would be with Jesus in paradise. And think, too, of St. Augustine, who lived a dissolute life as a young man, fathering a child out of wedlock and who, for years, followed various philosophers only to become disillusioned with their teachings.

When he was in his 30s, Augustine was inspired to pick up a Bible and "chanced" upon these words from Paul's Letter to the Romans (13:14): "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh." Soon after, he was baptized by St. Ambrose and became one of our greatest

See DOYLE, page 18

Papal Audience May 13, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now consider its essential characteristics. Prayer involves our entire being yearning for some "other" beyond ourselves. Specifically Christian prayer is born from the realization that the "other" we are seeking has been revealed in the tender face of Jesus, Who teaches us to call God "Father," and wants personally to enter into relationship with us. In His farewell discourse at the Last Supper, Jesus no longer calls His disciples servants but friends. When we commune with God in prayer, we need not be fearful, for He is a friend, a trusted ally. Whatever our situation, or however poorly we may think of ourselves, God is always faithful, and willing to embrace us in mercy. We see this unconditional love on Calvary, for the Lord never stops loving, even to the end. Let us seek to pray by entering into this mystery of God's unending Covenant with us. This is the burning heart of every Christian prayer: entrusting ourselves to the loving and merciful arms of our heavenly Father.

I greet the English-speaking faithful joining us through the media. In this Easter season, I invoke upon you and your families the joy and strength that come from the Risen Christ. May God bless you!



Can a bishop restrict how we receive Holy Communion?

By Father James Goodwin

For many Catholics, this has been a difficult time. Many have not been able to receive the Eucharist for nearly two months.

In parts of the country, this is now changing, and bishops are authorizing public Masses, with modifications to allow for proper social distancing.

This is intended to avoid spreading the virus.

However, almost as soon as this was announced, it ignited a new front in the liturgical wars. Some bishops have restricted reception of Holy Communion to solely in the hand and prohibited Holy Communion on the tongue.

Can they do this canonically?

Before I answer, let me say that many traditional Catholics have suffered greatly from some who flouted the law and their rights in the past.

There has been a lack of charity and justice shown toward traditional Catholics. Those who often talked about being "inclusive" tend to exclude those who are more traditional.

This has often created division by insisting on liturgical practices that often deviate from liturgical law. It has created a hypersensitivity among traditionally-oriented Catholics. Therefore, they react quickly to defend what they see as their rights.

That said, the answer is yes,

bishops can restrict the manner of reception of Holy Communion temporarily in extraordinary circumstances.

A pandemic certainly qualifies as an extraordinary circumstance.

Many will point to *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, which says, "Although each of the faithful always has the right to receive holy Communion on the tongue, at his choice" (No. 92)

This looks pretty cut and dried that it's up to the communicant, but it's not quite that simple. The minister of Holy Communion and the other faithful also have rights.

According to the Church's law, the rights of the faithful are not absolute. The Code of Canon Law states in Canon 223 that "in exercising their rights, Christ's faithful, both individually and in associations, must take account of the common good of the Church, as well as the rights of others and their own duties to others" and that "ecclesiastical authority is entitled to regulate, in view of the common good, the exercise of rights which are proper to Christ's faithful."

In addition, the bishop is the moderator of the liturgy in the diocese (see Canon 835, which states that "the sanctifying office is exercised principally by bishops, who are the high priests, the principal dis-

pensers of the mysteries of God and the moderators, promoters and guardians of the entire liturgical life in the Churches entrusted to their care").

These canons tell us that for the common good and to protect the rights of others, the bishops can restrict rights in ways they would not in normal times.

The common good is that the virus does not spread and others have the right to worship without being needlessly exposed to it.

It is a matter of justice and charity to avoid the spread of a deadly illness. This is a duty that we have toward our neighbor.

This restriction is a temporary measure to allow for Mass and the reception of Holy Communion while avoiding the spread of illness.

In Canon Law, according to the *regulae iuris*, if one can do the greater, one can do the lesser. If the bishops can restrict public Mass, which they can, they can restrict the manner of receiving Holy Communion.

St. Thomas, in the *Summa* (First Part of the Second Part, Q. 96) states:

"Now it happens often that the observance of some point of law conduces to the common weal in the majority of instances, and yet, in some cases, is very

See COMMUNION, page 15

How to continue the Easter celebration at home

By Laura Kelly Fanucci
Catholic News Service



May is usually a month crammed with celebrations on our calendars.

We rush between graduations, First Holy Communion, confirmations, showers for summer weddings or babies, Mother's Day brunches and Memorial Day barbecues.

But now we find ourselves facing a very different spring and summer.

Staying at home and staying apart are taking their toll on our society and our spirits.

For many of us, being apart from our parish communities is particularly painful.

How can we continue to celebrate Easter when we can't receive the sacraments?

Here are ideas for living out the 50 days of the Easter season with your family.

Even as we long to come back together in church, let us remember how God delights to surprise us in Easter by showing up where we least expect it.

Get up early and watch the sunrise. Then cook breakfast together and

read the story of Jesus serving a morning meal for His friends on the beach (John 21).

Visit a park and notice signs of spring: flowers in bloom and fresh green trees. Give thanks to God for the beauty of nature and the resilience of creation.

Light a white candle on your dinner table. Pray in a special way for your parish with whom you usually gather around the altar: your pastors, parish staff, musicians and all the parishioners.

Talk a walk with your family, as many of us are doing these days. Before you go, read the story of the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). When you get home, read the Gospel again and reflect on the disciples' discovery together.

Sing Alleluias. Add extras to your grace before meals. Listen to sacred music during work or home schooling. Put on praise and worship songs after Sunday breakfast as you're preparing to pray with an online Mass.

Do spring cleaning with others in mind. What could you give to those in need, especially now that so many are suffering? Read Acts 2:43-47 to remember how the early Christians shared with each other so that no one was in need.

Something missing in the Mass

By Father Eugene Hemrick
Catholic News Service



While watching Mass on television at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, I thanked God for technology, and especially its gift to shut-ins. Yet seeing empty pews made me feel something was missing.

Lacking was an aging parishioner ascending church steps with difficulty. He could easily be excused, but Mass means everything to him.

Missing were parents teaching toddlers to make the sign of the cross with holy water from the baptismal font.

Absent was an elderly woman painfully making a reverential genuflection.

Ushers distributing song books and greeting people were absent.

Crying babies were nowhere to be heard, nor were there smiling parishioners greeting one another.

Absent were the collective voices saying, "And with your spirit," "Christ have mercy" and "Amen."

St. Matthew's is beautifully adorned, but on television its awe-inspiring at-

mosphere seemed hollow.

Nothing is more inspiring than being part of a worshipping congregation — watching parents teach children about the Mass' meaning and seeing everyone's reverential posture when the bread of life is raised.

Liturgists point out the Mass is more than said, it is prayed. It is true we can pray silently in our hearts, but praying together as a body reminds us that we are one body together with Christ that is symbolized best by human presence.

It is easy to envision participation in Mass as orchestrated gestures and familiar rituals.

That elderly woman bending a painful knee and genuflecting visibly symbolizes that we bend our knee before God acknowledging that all we are we receive from God.

The sign of the cross of a little child is a profession of faith in Christ who suffered and died for us. These gestures are more than rituals — they come from the heart.

Church closings is an occasion to reflect on liturgy as a communal event in which our collective gestures, postures and vocal responses are the lifeblood of the Mass. Nothing can truly substitute for that presence.

Plant a small garden together. Read the parable of the sower and the seed (Matthew 13). Remember how seedlings are a sign of hope and seeds are a world waiting to happen, a promise held in our hands.

Bake bread together. Flour and yeast are finally coming back to grocery shelves, as more people are baking than ever before. Take advantage of time at home to watch the ordinary miracle of dough rising. Savor the smell of freshly baked bread filling the house and read the parable of Luke 13:20-21.

Set Sundays apart. Days can run together when weekdays and weekends feel the same. Brainstorm ways to make Sunday feel special: Visit a park together, take a longer walk, bake a special dessert or let yourself nap on the day of rest.

Feast in community, social-distancing-style. Share dinner with family over FaceTime or have a virtual happy hour with friends to raise

an Easter glass on Zoom. Share small moments of grace from the past week. Travel down memory lane and reminisce about a favorite holiday together.

Dye eggs again on Pentecost or have another at-home egg hunt in your backyard or living room. (Why not, while we're still stuck at home?) Stretch the season of Easter out till the end.

Part of the fun of being Catholic is celebrating holidays for weeks after others move on.

Remember — even as the world is changing — that it is still Easter: a season of surprising joy, stunning transformations and Christ coming among us all over again.

Fanucci is a mother, writer and director of a project on vocation at the Collegeville Institute in Collegeville, Minnesota. She is the author of several books, including "Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting," and blogs at www.motheringspirit.com.

REFLECTION

Proverbially speaking

By Mark Saucier

"It's time to quit patting the mule and start packing the wagon," my grandfather would say, and I'd know it was time to get back to work.

Like many of his time, and particularly those from a rural background, he had a lot of entertaining sayings. Some were colorful, some pointedly descriptive, and some morally instructive.

Listening to him and others talk around the stove at the store, you'd hear things like, "Lord willing and the creek don't rise" about future plans, or "mean as a sack of wet cats" about some unsavory fellow.

A burly guy could "hunt bear with a switch." A lazy person could have been "born in the middle of the week, looking both ways to Sunday."

Aphorisms like "Ifs and buts butter no bread" and "every pea helps fill the pod" didn't require any explanation.

Adages like "If you don't say it, you don't have to unsay it" or "a bad workman blames his tools" were short parables.

Responses such as "every path has its puddles," "a short cut is a wrong cut," or "never cackle unless you lay" summarized a moral and postulated a truth.

Some of this can be traced back to the hills of Kentucky and Tennessee, some back to Germany or Ireland.

But if you really want to pursue it, you can find a lot of it in the Book of Proverbs, part of the "Wisdom" section of the Old Testament.

With no mention of prophets or covenants, Proverbs deals in daily experience and its lessons for living life.

"Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger and not your own lips," and "deep in water are the purposes of human hearts" have a familiar ring.

According to Proverbs, wisdom demands an attitude that trusts "in the Lord with all your heart ... and He will make straight your paths."

It reminds us that "the heart of the intelligent acquires knowledge."

In relationships, it advises that "a mild answer turns back wrath," that "love prospers when a fault is forgiven," and that "as iron sharpens iron, one person sharpens another."

We are admonished personally to "let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you," "ponder the path of your feet," and "defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Today, the Book of Proverbs is still fresh and timely. Read it.

I think you'll find, as my grandfather used to say, "Now you're digging where there's taters."

Fr. Eruo from Nigeria to be military chaplain

By Jay Nies

Father Basil Eruo has always seen himself as part of a growing family.

It's about to get much bigger.

"Being a priest means being called from among the people, from among your family, to serve all of God's people, minister to them and be a shepherd for them," he said. "You are serving the whole Church that is one family — different families, different places, no boundaries."

Fr. Eruo, a priest of the Diocese of Orlu, Nigeria, has been ministering in the Jefferson City diocese since July 2007.

At age 49, he has enlisted in the Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Air Force, where he will minister to servicemen and women and their families from all over the world.

He is scheduled to begin Officer Training on May 19 at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

On July 14, he will be stationed with the 82nd Training Wing at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas.

It's a bustling training center for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

"I'm going to a place where they host like 60,000 airmen from 11 countries all over the world," said Fr. Eruo.

He's excited at the prospect of ministering to so many people, right where they live and work, every day.

"My work will be to be present to them — be with them in the moment, help them work

through whatever they need to work through," he said.

Two dioceses, one Church

Fr. Eruo grew up in a large, Catholic family in eastern Nigeria.

He entered junior seminary at age 12 and spent 17 years in formation before being ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Aug. 21, 1999.

He served for two years as an associate pastor and for five-and-a-half as a pastor in his home diocese before coming to Missouri.

He had never been to the United States.

In this diocese, he first served as associate pastor of St. Patrick parish in Rolla, then of St. Peter parish in Jefferson City.

From there, he was appointed administrator of St. Joseph parish in Canton, Queen of Peace parish in Ewing and the former Notre Dame mission in LaGrange.

He then served as administrator of Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville and St. Joseph parish in Fayette, followed by St. Joseph parish in Palmyra.

He spent the past year in residence in St. Martins, filling in for other priests.

"That changed everything"

Fr. Eruo attended a conference of Catholic priests from Africa shortly after he arrived in the United States.

Several U.S. Air Force representatives were there seeking prospective chaplains.

"I thought about it but it

quickly went by the wayside," he recalled.

He didn't think he was strong enough. He was worried about being deployed to a dangerous locale.

The Air Force continued sending him emails, asking him to reconsider.

About two years ago, he drove from Palmyra to Whiteman Air Force Base, located west of Sedalia, to visit a priest from his home diocese who was serving as a base chaplain.

"That changed everything for me," Fr. Eruo stated. "I toured the base, and a lot of ideas came up in my head."

That chaplain, Father Emmanuel Okwarocha, described his fast-paced, hands-on ministry among the people he was sent to serve.

"It really appealed to me," Fr. Eruo recalled. "A week later, I called and said I would like to be a chaplain."

In the moment

At Maxwell AFB, he and his fellow officers-in-training will undergo testing to make sure they're not infected with COVID-19.

They'll spend 14 days doing purely academic work in isolation as an added precaution.

Then, the next phase will kick in.

"It will be a lot of physical training — running, sit-ups, push-ups and marching," he said.

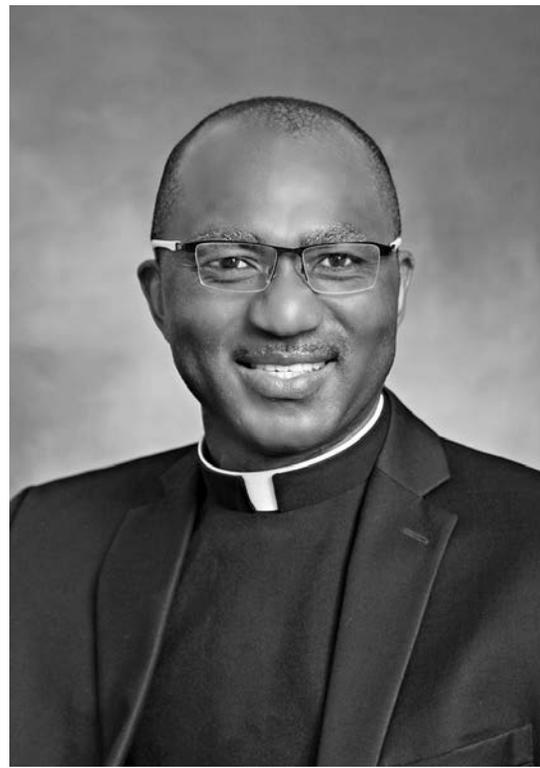
After Officer Training, he'll take up residence at Sheppard AFB in Texas, serving as pastor to all of the Catholics on base, in addition to ministering to anyone else who needs it.

He'll offer Mass every day, baptize children, marry couples and administer the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

"I'll be preparing people for the sacraments, as well," he said.

But the bulk of his ministry will occur "in the moment" — being present to people who are working in high-stress situations.

Some are living hundreds or



Fr. Basil Eruo

thousands of miles from their families. Some are preparing for dangerous missions.

"I'll be there to help them work through whatever they need to work through," he said.

Listen carefully

Fr. Eruo came to this diocese near the front of a wave of international priests who are here temporarily to help minister while gaining experience.

"Before I came here, I thought all the parishes in the United States were in big cities," he said. "Serving in parishes in small villages was something I never really thought about."

It took some time for him to get acclimated to U.S. culture, speech patterns and cuisine.

Back home, lunch is usually the big meal of the day, often consisting of fufu (usually made from cassava or yam or cocoyam) and melon or vegetable soup or seasoned rice.

"The portion of meat that one person eats here is probably what three would share where I grew up," said Fr. Eruo. "We eat more vegetables and grains, and the meat is more supplemental. Here, it's the other way around."

Everywhere he was assigned, he found parishioners who were kind and welcoming to him and eager to hear and put the Good News into practice.

"People have been awesome and very appreciative and co-

operative," he said.

Although he's been speaking English since grade school, the people here speak it differently.

"When you first come here, it's kind of difficult to understand how an American speaks English," he stated. "But eventually, your ears get attuned to what you're hearing and you conquer that."

Up to the challenge

Fr. Eruo has stayed connected with family and friends back home through regular phone calls and video chats.

He also enjoys taking road trips to visit friends on his day off.

An avid soccer fan, he enjoys rooting for the Manchester City Football Club.

He loves playing tennis, ping-pong, chess and Scrabble.

He believes the people and parishes here have helped him become a better priest.

"Experience builds you up," he said. "Challenges come, and you get better."

He no longer worries about what to say to someone who's sick or suffering.

"I've learned that sometimes, you don't need to say anything," he said. "Sometimes your presence is enough."

Ambassadors for Christ

Fr. Eruo believes God called him to be a priest to pray, lead and minister.

"A priest is called from among the people and put out there to provide spiritual guidance for the people, offer the Mass and give them the sacraments," he said.

For Fr. Eruo, being Catholic is a response to an ongoing tugging in his heart to be close to God, Who made him, sustains him and promises eternal life.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

See CHAPLAIN, page 23

Kirksville parishioner receives student-led award at Truman State

By Maura Shimmens

Though this year's path to Truman State University's Educator of the Year was a bit different than usual, Dr. Joseph Benevento is grateful for the efforts and dedication of the students who bestowed the honor upon him.

A professor of English, Dr. Benevento has been nominated for the Educator of the Year award 10 times during his tenure at Truman and has been a finalist four times previously.

"The thing I am most happy about is that I have been here since 1983, and all that time I have sustained my work ethic — having been nominated in four different decades — and so my hard work is being rewarded," he said.

He has always taken the student-initiated award very seriously. To him, it is one of the highest honors he can receive and a benchmark of his work as an educator.

The process starts with a nomination from a student. Each educator that is nominated is then sent a prompt to answer, which is used by the student committee to choose eight finalists.

This year's prompt was: "What inspired you to be a professor?" which Dr. Benevento said is right up his alley.

"The neighborhood I grew up in (Queens, New York) was very tough," he answered, "and they used to make fun of me

by calling me 'the professor.'"

Being in a very anti-intellectual environment, he explained, meant that education as a career path wasn't even on his radar.

In fact, in college, he had aspired to be a singer-songwriter, something his American Romanticism students still benefit from each year — as an undergraduate he set all 52 cantos of Whitman's "Song of Myself" to music.

But his once-discouraging moniker became a sweet story later on.

"Many years later at a neighborhood reunion, my childhood friend came up to me and said, 'Joey, when we were kids they called you 'Professor, hey Professor!' and now you are! Boy, I wish they would have called me 'Millionaire, hey, Millionaire!'"

Because Dr. Benevento was on sabbatical during this year's selection process, the committee wouldn't have been able to

make a classroom visit, as they had planned to do for the final round.

He asked to substitute a poetry reading he was scheduled to do in March. But when the reading, along with the other finalists' classes for the semester was cancelled, the committee asked the professors to choose a class of students to evaluate



Dr. Joseph Benevento, a member of Mary Immaculate parish in Kirksville and a professor of English at Truman State University, is the recipient of the university's Educator of the Year Award.

them.

His class had the second-highest response rate out of the eight polled — another testament to his impact on students.

Dr. Benevento credits his Catholic upbringing in Queens with his human-centric teaching methods. Not only was he one of seven children, but his mother also took in many others when she saw the need.

His education at Cathedral Preparatory Seminary gave him an edge going into academia, as well.

"I worked harder there than I ever had to at NYU," he said. "I have always appreciated the education I received there."

When it comes to teaching at a public university as a practicing Catholic, he says that although it is not easy, "it's not that hard in another way — I am just myself."

Dr. Benevento challenges his students to consider what a Judeo-Christian background is

to them when they read *Moby Dick*.

The novel centers around Captain Ahab challenging who he believes to be an unloving God, but Dr. Benevento finds more in the story. He is surprised that students don't often think to juxtapose Ahab's God of the Old Testament and a figure his students are much more likely to be familiar with — Jesus.

"I am dismayed at how few students think — there's Jesus, the benevolent God, Who suffered for us and counterpoised the idea of an unbenevolent God," Dr. Benevento stated.

He brought up a quote from Melville himself: "I have written a wicked book, and feel spotless as the lamb."

He too, wishes to challenge assumptions of Christianity.

Though he may not be able to share his faith overtly with his students, Dr. Benevento, by being himself, is able to translate his beliefs of religion and relationship.

"I'm not the most orthodox Catholic in the world," he says, "but I do think that Catholicism at its core, 'love your God with your whole heart and soul and love your neighbor as yourself' — if we lived like that, we'd all be better off."

Ms. Shimmens, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City, is a student at Truman State University in Kirksville.

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

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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 mantel 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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PUBLIC MASSES

From page 1

the public celebration of Mass, so long as state and local health regulations continue to be followed.

At the same time, Bishop McKnight has dispensed until June 30, the obligation for all the faithful of this diocese and for all who are present within its territory, to attend Sunday Mass.

People who are 65 or older or who have health conditions that increase their vulnerability to COVID-19 are encouraged to refrain from attending Mass until further notice.

People who are sick or who have been exposed to the coronavirus must not attend Mass.

All people, including children over age 2, who enter a church must have a face mask or other covering for their mouth and nose. It must be worn at all times except when they are seated in a pew.

At least 6 feet of social distance must be maintained at all times between members of different households.

The Offertory Procession, the Sign of Peace, the holding of hands at the "Our Father," and the reception of Holy Communion from the chalice is suspended until further notice.

Pews and frequently touched surfaces are to be cleaned with disinfectant before and after every Mass.

At parishes throughout the diocese, catechumens and candidates have been preparing to



Father Paul Hartley, pastor of St. Mary parish in Glasgow and St. Joseph parish in Slater, preaches the homily at Mass on Saturday, May 9, in St. Mary Church. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a statewide stay-at-home order, this was the first publicly celebrated weekend Mass in the Church since mid-March.

— Photos by Jay Nies

be welcomed into full communion with the Church.

They were to receive Sacraments of Initiation in their home parishes at the Easter Vigil, but the pandemic and suspension of public Masses put that on hold.

In his April 17 decree regarding the pandemic and the instructions he issued on April 28 for implementing the decree, Bishop McKnight encouraged parishes to hold such baptisms and receptions into the Church by May 31, the Solemnity of Pentecost.

Place of encounter

Eastern sunlight through the

stained-glass windows of Holy Family Church in Freeburg poured tall, red Chi-Rho images onto the pews and Father William Debo's vestments the morning of May 6.

The Chi-Rho is an ancient symbol for Christ.

About 16 people were present for the first publicly celebrated Mass at Holy Family since the Third Week of Lent.

"Here we are in the Fourth Week of Easter, filled with Easter joy as we come together for



Father William Debo, pastor of Holy Family parish in Freeburg and Sacred Heart parish in Rich Fountain, distributes Holy Communion during Mass on Wednesday, May 6, in Holy Family Church. It was the first publicly celebrated Mass in the Church in seven weeks.

the first time to receive Jesus in the Eucharist after a long period of longing and anticipating," Fr. Debo, pastor of the Freeburg parish and of Sacred Heart parish in Rich Fountain, stated.

He noted in his homily that no one has been immune to the sacrifices made necessary by the pandemic.

"We've had to challenge ourselves," he said. "We've had to change our very way of living. Our very way of praying and worshiping has been altered in various, very significant ways."

And the days ahead will likely remain filled with uncertainty and challenge — the very things that made the weeks leading up to Easter so memorable.

"We know as Christians, as



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followers of Christ, that every day, regardless of the season, is a time of prayer, of fasting if we are able, of almsgiving and reaching out to those in greatest need among us," Fr. Debo stated.

"So we continue that journey in the midst of this beautiful Easter Season," he said. "And in that prayer and in that sacrifice and in that concern and help for those who are suffering through this time of pandemic — that is where we truly celebrate Easter joy and encounter Christ in His resurrection."

Lost and found

Lifelong Freeburg parishioner Nancy Maxwell said this

See REJOICING, page 17

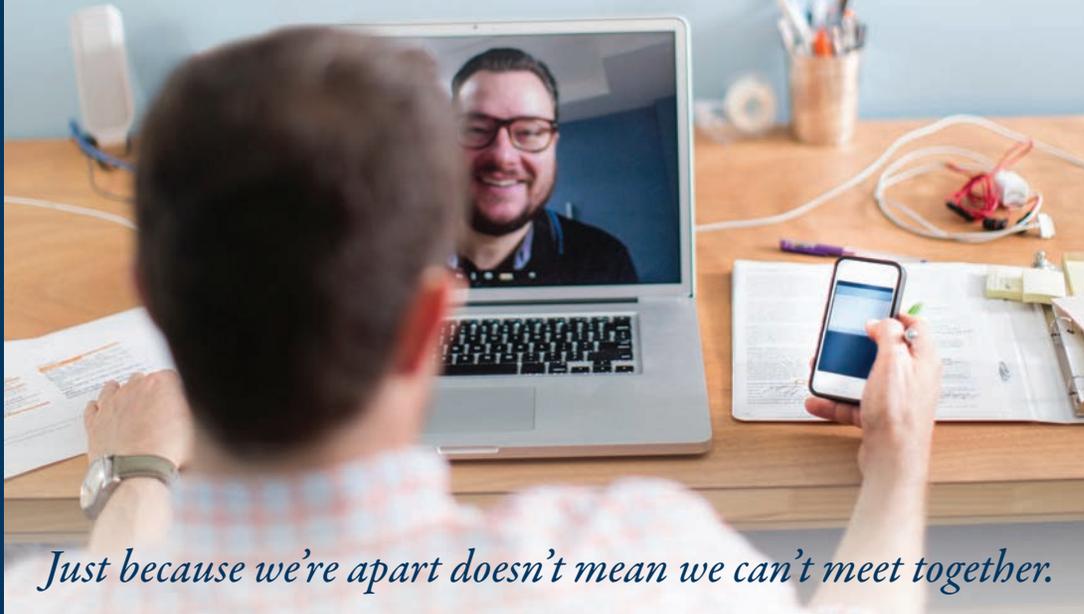
Technicolor welcome

Father Don Antweiler and members of Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City use pastel-colored chalk to create elaborate artwork and messages of welcome on the sidewalks leading up to all entrances of Immaculate Conception Church, in anticipation of Mother's Day and the first publicly celebrated weekend Mass in seven weeks.

— Photos by Michele Caywood



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“St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle!”

Student athletes' prayers, an angels' intercession and a token of both made a noticeable difference to a Jefferson City police officer,

according to Father Stephen Jones, current president of Helias Catholic High School.

Fr. Jones noted that the officer was recently shot twice from point-blank range during a confrontation with a suspect.

“Luckily he was wearing a ballistics vest and survived the shooting,” the priest stated in a Feb. 12 Facebook post.

Although one of the bullets, while not penetrating the protective vest, caused substantial tissue and muscle damage to the officer, the other bullet, just several inches away, caused hardly any damage at all.

“The difference between the two shots? The second one went through a St. Michael the Archangel medal the officer



had in his vest,” Fr. Jones stated.

It turns out that several years ago, the Helias Catholic varsity baseball team, under the direction of Coach

Christopher Wyrick, had purchased a large quantity of the medals, had them blessed, and gave them to all members of the police department.

“This officer, who is not Catholic, put the medal in his vest ... and it certainly made a difference on that fateful night,” Fr. Jones noted.

The priest pointed out that while Helias and other high schools may seem overly focused on sports, “there is indeed much more that happens in the formation of the athletes who participate in our sports programs.”

“I am thankful for all of our coaches who focus on spiritual and character development in their particular sports!” he stated.

KORSMEYER

From page 6

“We had some really great conversations,” Mrs. Korsmeyer recalled. “She helped me realize that God has a purpose for every single one of us, and sometimes He calls us to do things or go through times that make us uncomfortable so that we become stronger and more focused on Him and so we can help other people get to know Him.”

That’s also when she learned the value of “now” and of giving her full attention to whatever and whoever God places before her.

“When you look to Christ, He is the light in the darkness,” she said. “You learn to ask, ‘Where is Christ in this moment? Where is He leading me?’ And that’s the direction you move in.”

Healed by Christ

Mrs. Korsmeyer grew up in a household with five children.

Shortly after her father died when she was 10, her mother began taking her and her siblings to a small Baptist church every Sunday.

One day when she was about 13, young LeAnn made an altar call and gave her life to Christ.

“That was one of the defining moments in my life,” she stated. “I fell in love with God.”

She made some mistakes and turned away from God, but He kept calling her back until she realized that “God always makes it better.”

“I am only healed because of the love of Christ,” she insisted. “That’s what puts you back together.”

She became Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in 1983.

She and her husband Steve have been married for 38 years. They have two sons and a daughter and seven grandchildren.

Over time, she has developed a fondness for rustic antiques.

“I think they’re very symbolic,” she said. “They’re like the character of people and their woundedness and brokenness and glorified state of coming back to Christ and having Him purify them and accept them and renew them.”

She likens it to God’s on-

going renewal of the ordained and the laity in the midst of scandals and worldwide crises in the Church.

“I think it’s beautiful,” she said. “It’s the light of Christ shining through those little pieces that aren’t perfect.”

“Through the maze”

Mrs. Korsmeyer believes the Blessed Mother is the greatest role model for Christian women.

“She trusted Jesus and knows that He wants only what’s best for us,” said Mrs. Korsmeyer. “And what does she tell us? ‘Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.’”

“None of us is perfect, so we look to Him for answers,” she said. “We rely on His love and mercy and know that He is walking with us and guiding us through the maze.”

Focusing on the “big picture” has moved her to marvel at the complementarity between men and women in the Church.

“Everyone has an individual, God-given role,” she said. “There is no lesser or better role.”

“Whoever sits before me”

Mrs. Korsmeyer was pleased to take on an expanded role in the diocese’s ministry structure.

As a member of Bishop McKnight’s ministry team, she is working to help parishes grow in their capacity to govern themselves effectively, identify needs in their communities and find the most effective ways to help people in the name of Christ and His Church.

Toward that end, with help from her colleagues in ministry, she is serving as the bishop’s liaison to Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, the Samaritan Center and other avenues of Christian charity.

She is eager to help parishes cultivate leaders from among their members who will work with priests and deacons to foster collaboration with other religious and secular organizations.

She said the goal must always be to help lead people to Christ, assist people in need and pro-

mote what’s good for everyone.

As development of the diocesan pastoral plan continues through this summer and into the fall, her role is likely to continue evolving.

She’ll balance the demands of coordinating parish and charitable ministries and promoting and facilitating women’s ministry in the parishes.

She comes to work with no preconceived notion about what any given day will bring or require.

“Whoever sits before me, that’s where my attention will be,” she said.

She likened it to Jesus’s Parable of the Good Shepherd, who temporarily leaves the 99 sheep in order to help the one that is lost and in need.

“Any mother does that with her children,” she said. “She asks, ‘Who needs me right now?’ And tomorrow, the answer to that will be different, and it will be different the next day and the next.”

“There’s glory”

Mrs. Korsmeyer requests prayers for wisdom and right thinking in order to serve in whatever way God asks her to serve.

She’s convinced that everything happening right now is part of God’s training plan for what is still to come.

“We don’t know what is next,” she said. “We have to trust that we are ready and able, and we are putting that armor on every day.”

She noted that Jesus never promised an escape from suffering, only the reassurance that He is with us.

“He’s telling us, ‘We’ll do it together. And I’m gonna’ walk with you and suffer with you. In fact, I have suffering for you. I’ve suffered the most horrible pain for you. I’m not leaving you now,’” Mrs. Korsmeyer noted.

“So when we’re afraid or unsure,” she added, “whenever we’re suffering or discouraged by what is going on in our life, just close your eyes to hear Him say, ‘I am with you. We’re going to get through this. Because at the end, there will be glory. There will be a resurrection. Let it be done, according to My will.’”

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BISHOP'S DECREE

From page 1

be reassigned by the leaders of their order's province to service outside this diocese.

Near and far

Father Benjamin E. Nwosu, pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Macon and the Sacred Heart mission in Bevier, will take on additional responsibilities as pastor of St. Mary parish in Shelbina and St. Patrick parish in Clarence.

Father Simeon A. Etonu, current administrator of the Shelbina and Clarence parishes, will become pastor of St. Joseph parish in Edina, St. Aloysius parish in Baring and St. John parish in Memphis and chaplain of the Kirksville Newman Center.

He will succeed **Father Colin P. Franklin**, who will move to Linn and Frankenstein to serve as pastor of St. George and Our Lady Help of Christians parishes.

Fr. Etonu and Fr. Franklin will also pursue further studies in Canon Law with the online program at the School of Canon Law at Catholic University of America.

Father **Daniel J. Merz SLD**, current pastor in Linn and Frankenstein, will succeed Fr. Litzau as pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia and will continue as chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

On the move

Father Christopher M. Aubuchon will move from his role as diocesan vocation director and part-time duties at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City and St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia, to become pastor of Visitation parish in Vienna, Holy Guardian Angels parish in Brinktown and St. Aloysius parish in Argyle.

He will continue as diocesan director of seminarians.

Father Paul J. Clark, currently part-time parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia, will become the diocesan vocation director.

He will move to St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia and serve as parochial vicar there.

He will continue as part-time chaplain at Fr. Tolton Re-

gional Catholic High School in C and will serve as diocesan moderator of youth and young adult ministry.

Fr. Aubuchon will succeed **Matthew J. Flatley**, who will serve in the place of retiring Fr. Quinn as pastor in Hannibal in addition to becoming pastor of St. Joseph parish in Palmyra.

Fr. Flatley will continue as diocesan moderator of spiritual formation.

Retiring Fr. Kaimann will live in the Palmyra rectory and will help out with Masses in St. Joseph Church.

The other two retiring priests will live in private residences; Fr. Quinn in Monroe City and Fr. Dowling in Holts Summit.

Father Kelechi M. Uzu-egbu, current administrator of the Palmyra parish, will succeed Fr. Kaimann as administrator of St. Bonaventure parish in Marceline, with sacramental duties at Immaculate Conception parish in Brookfield.

Father Jason T. Doke STL, diocesan moderator of the curia, will take on additional duties as administrator of St. Martin parish in St. Martins. This June, he will complete the Master of Science degree in Ecclesial Administration and Management at Catholic University of America.

Father Joshua J. Duncan, currently assistant vocation director with part-time duties at Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City, will relinquish those roles to become parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia and continue as the bishop's master of ceremonies.

Succeeding him as parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception in Jefferson City will be **Father Benedict F. Chagula**, a newly arrived priest from the Diocese of Geita in Tanzania.

Father James Finder, currently a retired priest in residence at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Rectory in Jefferson City, will become senior priest in residence at Annunciation parish in California and will continue serving in hospital ministry in Cole County.

For the many

Deacon John A. Schwartz will succeed **Deacon Ray-**

mond L. Purvis as diocesan director of deacon formation. Deacon Purvis will serve in the newly created role of director of deacon life and ministry.

Both will continue with their parish work in Jefferson City.

Bernadette Adams, secretary to the chancellor, will become vice chancellor for the diocese.

Fr. Francis W. Doyle, pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Columbia, will take on additional duties as diocesan moderator of marriage and family life.

Father Anthony J. Viviano, pastor of St. Joseph parish in Westphalia and St. Anthony of Padua parish in Folk, will take on additional duties as diocesan

moderator of pro-life ministry.

Fr. Franklin will succeed Fr. Flatley as diocesan moderator of Catholic rural life.

Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND,

a recently retired member of the diocesan administration, will serve as Bishop McKnight's delegate for religious sisters and brothers in the diocese.

As previously announced, **Father Stephen W. Jones**, will step down from his roles as president of Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City and administrator of St. Martin parish in

St. Martins, in order to become full-time diocesan director of stewardship and part-time chaplain at Helias Catholic High School.

Deacons

Deacon Mark J. Dobelmann,

who assists the pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Vandalia and the St. John mission in Ladonia, will also occasionally assist the pastor of St. Clement parish in St. Clement.

Deacon Philip M. Garcia, who assists the pastor of St. Peter parish in Jefferson City, will go on medical leave.



COMMUNION

From page 8

hurtful. Since then the lawgiver cannot have in view every single case, he shapes the law according to what happens most frequently, by directing his attention to the common good. Wherefore if a case arises wherein the observance of that law would be hurtful to the general welfare, it should not be observed.

"For instance, suppose that in a besieged city it be an established law that the gates of the city are to be kept closed, this is good for public welfare as a general rule: but, it were to happen that the enemy are in pursuit of certain citizens, who are defenders of the city, it would be a great loss to the city, if the gates were not opened to them: and so in that case the gates ought to be opened, contrary to the letter of the law, in order to maintain the common weal, which the lawgiver had in view.

"Nevertheless, it must be noted, that if the observance of the law according to the letter does not involve any sudden risk needing instant remedy, it is not competent for everyone to expound what is useful and what is not useful to the state: those alone can do this who are in authority, and who, on account of such like cases, have the power to dispense from the laws. If, however, the peril be so sudden as not to allow of the delay involved by referring the matter to authority, the mere necessity brings with it a dispensation, since necessity knows no law."

Therefore, the angelic doctor gives the rationale that for the common good, in extraordinary circumstances and in matters of urgency, rights can be regulated by those who have authority.

The bishops are acting within Catholic tradition and Canon Law. When the necessity ends, so will the authority of these restrictions on the reception of Holy Communion.

Bishop David D. Kagan of Bismarck, North Dakota, who is also a canonist, wrote: "The general principle of Church law, which includes liturgical law, is that Church law always admits exceptions unless the proper authority (Pope or

bishop) makes it explicit that there is no exception to it.

"Let us also keep in mind," Bishop Kagen continued, "those who are now making an issue of a certain form and discipline have missed what is essential altogether. It is not our physical posture that determines our moral and spiritual worthiness to receive Holy Communion, it is the state of our souls."

Canon 87 reflects this principle in giving the bishops the authority to dispense from universal and particular law, especially when there is imminent grave harm.

Now is not the time to fight unnecessary battles in the liturgical wars. We should rejoice at being able to assist at Mass again.

If someone in conscience feels he cannot receive Holy Communion in the hand, he can simply refrain from reception.

We are not obliged to receive Holy Communion every time we assist at Mass. Mass is more than the reception of Holy Communion.

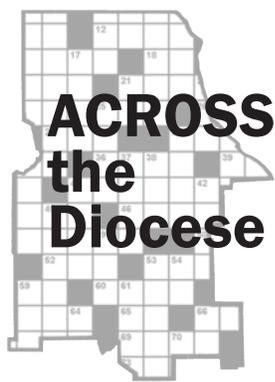
Instead of fighting, to the detriment of our Christian witness, let us unite together in the supreme worship of the Triune God and especially pray for an end to this pandemic.

Many are seeking God in this time of suffering, and we have an opportunity to introduce them to the Lord Jesus Christ, Who conquered death and offers the hope of eternal life.

Let's focus on that mission and obey the supreme law of the Church, which is the salvation of souls.

"Can a Bishop Restrict How We receive Holy Communion?" by Fr. James Goodwin, JCL from Our Sunday Visitor, May 8, 2020 © Our Sunday Visitor. 1-800-348-2440. Used by permission. No other use of this material is authorized. To subscribe visit www.osvnews.com.

Father James Goodwin writes from North Dakota.



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

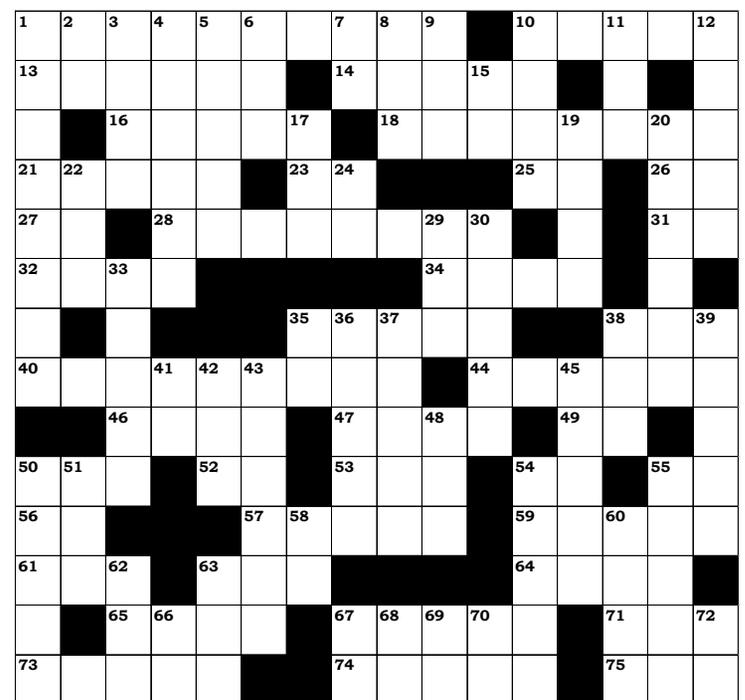
1. In 1926, the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City began inviting _____ agriculture students to participate in a National Livestock Judging Contest. In 1928, this led to the establishment of the Future Farmers of America (FFA).
10. Insurance giant serving 39 million customers.
13. 7th planet from the sun.
14. _____ of approval came from the crowd (2 wds.).
16. At that _____ Nat. Convention in Kansas City in 1928, the FFA began with 33 students from 18 states, including CA and NJ.
18. In Mo., it's a long-standing tradition for FFA students to celebrate FFA Week by driving their _____ to school.
21. By cheating _____, _____ lost not only their respect for me, but my respect for myself (2 wds.).
23. Prefix for cede or peat.
25. That's a laugh!
26. Letters for Executive Order; directive by the U.S. President.
27. Letters for Unitarian Universalism, a liberal non-doctrinal Church characterized by its support for a search for truth.
28. At that beginning Nat. Convention in KC in 1928, they set the dues for each member at 10 cents _____.
31. Abbr. for pages.
32. _____ estate.
34. Longest measured portions of geological time; eras are the second longest.
35. Though Louisiana is known for them, Mo. also has one of our own. Mo. Conservation Dept.'s Wolf _____ in Pemiscot Co. near Hayti, Mo. is a mile-long backwater lake parallel to the Mississippi, probably a souvenir of the famous 1812 earthquake. It features good fishing, alligator snapping turtles, swamp rabbits, herons, etc.

38. Her car was sideswiped by a _____-and-run driver.
40. There is a large FFA plaque, bench and wall _____ in KC at 920 Baltimore Ave. marking the site of the old Baltimore Hotel where the FFA began.
44. "It's not nice to fool Mother _____"; a pop culture catch phrase from a Chiffon margarine TV ad in the 1970s.
46. Child born of Adam & Eve who was considered a gift to fill the emptiness left from the murder of Abel by Cain (Genesis 4:25).
47. I've got a bigger car for you for the same price. You get more _____ for your buck.
49. Extended time period to play off a tie.
50. Lower digit.
52. Letters for the Australian Open, the first of the four annual Grand Slam events in tennis, preceding the French Open, Wimbledon & the US Open.
53. Abbr. for #37 DOWN.
54. Letters for Nuclear Transfer, the science of cloning.
55. Letters preceding the parishes and towns of Clement (Pike Co.) and Robert (Pulaski Co.).
56. Border State of Mo.
57. "*Ite _____ est*" ("Go, you are sent"); sending forth words in the old Latin Mass.
59. Las Vegas, NV is the site of a natural _____ creating something of a grassy meadow (thus las vegas by Spanish explorers). But the creation of the Hoover Dam & Lake Mead is what has enabled Las Vegas to expand as it has.
61. Old record label.
63. In 1934, FFA _____ was expanded to FFA Week, celebrating the week of George Washington's birthday.
64. In 1934, the FFA adopted their signature _____ corduroy jacket as their uniform to be worn for most leadership activities.
65. In a relatively short time after it was founded, the FFA had 2,000 chapters and nearly 100,000 members. Today there are 8,600 chapters in all 50 states and over 700,000 members from _____ 12-21.
67. In 1903, the 30th governor of Mo., Alexander Dockery, signed into law the first _____ legislation licensing automobiles. It included a speed limit in Mo. of 9

- miles per hour, the first such law in the nation.
71. Halloween is a contraction of All Hallows' _____ (i.e., the day before All Hallows' Day or All Saints Day).
73. Country from which Columbus sailed on route to the Americas.
74. Doubletree or Courtyard.
75. Officially spelled out 26th letter of the British English alphabet.

DOWN

1. "Wherever the corpse is, there the _____ will gather." (Matthew 24:28).
2. Decide! Are you in _____ out?
3. Lambert's _____ in Sikeston, Mo. is famous as the "home of throwed rolls."
4. FFA members are our future leaders in crop and _____ production, but also are future veterinarians, biologists, chemists and engineers.
5. The Shroud of _____ is a linen cloth bearing the negative image of a man said by some to be the burial cloth of the crucified Jesus. The Church has neither formally endorsed nor rejected the claim.
6. The International Space Station (_____) is a low altitude (250 m. above earth) space environment and science lab, a joint project begun in 1998 by the U.S., Russia, Japan, Europe and Canada.
7. Chemical symbol for sodium.
8. "Agriculture is more than planting and harvesting — it's a science, a business and an _____" —FFA mission statement.
9. In the military, letters for Letter of Reprimand.
10. St. Louis has a big one!
11. Uncle in Barcelona.
12. Man of fables.
15. 12-step group.
17. Author Truman Capote to his friends.
19. Burial place of Fr. Ferdinand Helias, Apostle of Central Mo., inside St. Francis Xavier Church.
20. "He called the priests and Levites and said to them... collect money from all Israel that you may _____ the house of your God." (2 Chronicles 24:5).
22. Shade of color.
24. Abbr. for each.
29. Pope _____ XIII famously wrote the foundational en-



- cyclical "*Rerum Novarum*" in 1892. It articulated the social justice principles of the Catholic Church regarding capitalism and labor (e.g., dignity of work, just wages, private ownership of property, and more).
30. FFA prepares _____ leaders for personal growth and success through agricultural education, sponsored in schools under the aegis of the U.S. Dept. of Ed.
33. "At times you were publicly exposed to _____ and affliction," (Hebrews 10:33).
35. Letters for Baylor Univ., a Baptist Christian univ. in Waco, TX; has 14,000 students. Chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas, it is the oldest continuously operating univ. in Texas; its 1,000-acre campus is the physically largest Baptist univ. in the world.
36. Restaurant chain known for its roast beef sandwiches and the slogan "We have the meats."
37. The FFA held their annual conventions in KC for 70 _____, from 1928-1998.
38. Pizza _____ was founded in 1958 in Wichita, KS. It is now part of Yum! Brands, Inc., the world's largest restaurant company.
39. "Lord, it is good that we are here. I will make three _____ here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," (Matthew 17:4).
41. Letters for Luxury Edition, a designation for a high-end automobile.
42. Parent/school org.
43. St. _____ More Newman Center parish in Columbia began as the Newman Cen-

- ter for MU students and evolved into a full-time parish with MU student ministry as its special mission.
45. The FFA in Mo. is nearly 26,000 members strong, the 4th highest _____ of all the states, after TX, CA and GA.
48. U.S. code-breaking agency (abbr.).
50. In baseball, what ground crews might use to cover the infield during a rain delay.
51. A member of the brutal race serving evil in Catholic writer J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.
54. The _____ Peace Prize was established by a wealthy arms manufacturer.
55. Mesh strainer.
58. Text letters meaning including you.
60. Opened in 1869, the _____ Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through Egypt. It is often used to define the border between Africa and Asia.
62. Car club (abbr.).
63. Contrary to expectations, Daniel seemed to get along well with the inhabitants of the lions' _____ (Daniel chapter 6).
66. WW II soldier.
67. Letters for Sacred Heart, the name of parishes in Columbia, Eldon, Rich Fountain and Vandalia.
68. Heavens _____ Betsy!
69. "Thank God almighty we are free _____ last," —from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.
70. "*Adore _____ devote*"; Eucharistic hymn by St. Thomas Aquinas.
72. Asner or Bradley.

REJOICING

From page 12

was her first time at Mass since March 16.

"It was wonderful today to be able to receive the Body of Christ," she said.

She hopes the time of separation from communal participation in the sacraments has created in many a deeper appreciation for what was being missed.

"You just can't match the joy of being in the Real Presence of God and sharing that with your fellow parishioners, receiving the Body of Christ in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass," she said.

"It needs to be like, 'Oh wow! It's great! Let's go to church!'" she said.

Mary Jane Bexten, a lifelong Rich Fountain parishioner, went to Mass early the previous morning in Sacred Heart Church.

"To receive the Eucharist was like reuniting with a loved one after a long absence, desiring some time to just be in His true presence," she said.

"And to think, all this time He was waiting for us!"

Priests of the diocese offered Mass privately each day during the suspension of public Masses.

Fr. Debo said having people in church again felt like a homecoming, with the exception of being able to greet them before Mass and shake hands with them afterward.

"I still miss that," he said.

Signed and sealed

"It is so good to be with people once again!" Bishop McKnight proclaimed on May 7.

He was in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation for the first time since the pandemic began.

"It's especially in times like these that we need the gift of the Holy Spirit, to continue to proclaim and witness the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ," he said.

He commended everyone present for observing proper social distancing and wearing face masks "so that we can continue as Church."

He urged the 53 young people who were about to be

sealed with the Holy Spirit to be vessels of God's mercy.

"When you go forth from this church, the one thing I want you to remember is your obligation, personally, to help the whole Church fulfill that mission of Jesus Christ that has been given to us: to bring glad tidings to the poor," he said.

"You are called to help the Catholic Church to be recognized as an institution that is here for the poor and for those who are most in need," he stated. "And I hope to God that you do not limit that to people who are materially poor!"

He reassured them that the gifts of the Holy Spirit, poured out in Confirmation, will give them strength to help and sustain one another "in good times and bad, in sickness and health."

Lights, action

At the Saturday Vigil Mass in Glasgow, Fr. Hartley marveled at St. Peter's description of God as "Him Who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light," (1 Peter 2:9).

"What wonderful words of encouragement at this time, when we are at last able to gather together again as God's people, in this church, to give praise and thanksgiving to Our Heavenly Father!" Fr. Hartley stated.

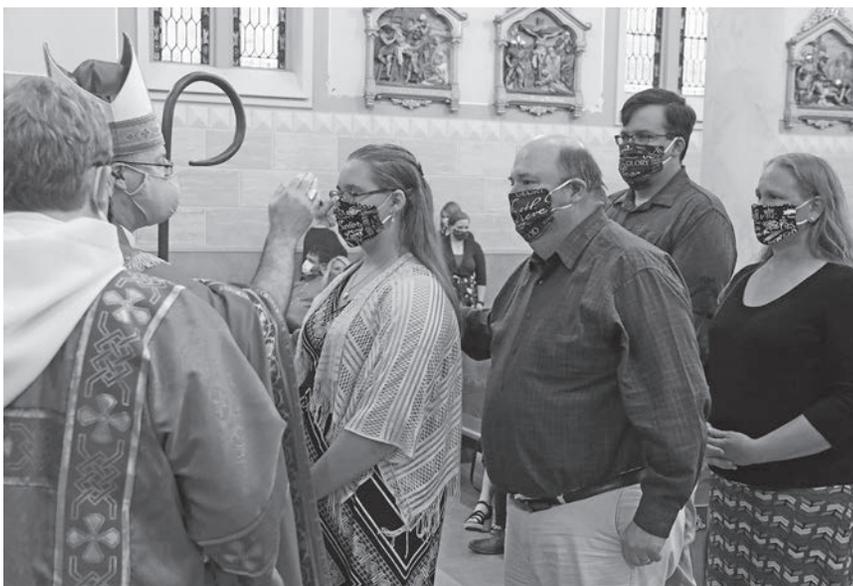
He said that as followers of Christ, "we are united to each other, relying on each other to help us accomplish all that He asks of us, so that the world might be brought to a knowledge of the salvation that He has gained for us."

Everyone has something to contribute to building-up God's kingdom.

"We have the responsibility to meet the spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ," the priest declared. "In this way, the Body of Christ continues to grow as person by person, the faith is shared."

"He is here!"

Glasgow parishioner Brett



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight administers the Sacrament of Confirmation to one of 53 candidates on May 7 in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City.

Witte said he has been praying throughout the pandemic for God to bring healing to all who are suffering, grieving or afraid, and to cleanse, purify, sanctify and restore the Church and the entire world.

"Suffering is the path to peace," Mr. Witte stated. "And now we get to suffer together as a world."

He hopes God will sanctify people's time away from many of the things that consume so much of their energy, in order to bring healing to marriages and families and help restore the Lord's Day to its rightful prominence.

Mr. Witte said he loves being tied to Christ through the Church He founded.

"He is here! He lives here all the time," said Mr. Witte. "I can come and see Him any time I want to, and spend time with Him person-to-person."

"Who God is"

For weeks, the marquee sign outside Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City proclaimed, "Our prayers are not postponed."

"It's true that anytime you have Mass, the place is full of angels and the entire Body of Christ is present," Father Donald Antweiler, the pastor, noted. "But it's so good to be able to see you!"

About 30 people attended the Saturday Vigil Mass on May 9. Between 30 and 60 attended each of the Sunday Masses the next day.

Elaborate chalk illustra-

said.

Toward fulfilling His role as "the way to the Father," Jesus offers His Body and Blood in the Eucharist and bestows the Holy Spirit for the power to forgive sins.

"Keep your eye on things that are eternal," said Fr. Antweiler. "Focus on Jesus. He is the One Who brings everything together, all of us together, in communion with the Father."

"In front of the altar"

Lifelong Immaculate Conception parishioner Michele Caywood said it "meant everything" to

her to be back in sacramental communion with her fellow parishioners at Mass.

"It really affirms the purpose and meaning of Christ in our lives," she said. "He leads us toward making a fuller impact on the world."

Parishioner Dennis Lueckenotte said he had enjoyed staying connected with the Mass through livestream but missed receiving the Eucharist and "the feeling of God's presence in our midst."

"The Lord hears our prayers from wherever we are," he noted, "but sitting in front of the altar feels like a stronger connection."

Fr. Antweiler said he's been very impressed with people's hunger for the Eucharist, but he also admires the sacrificial prudence of those who stay at home for good reasons.

"Safety is important," he said.

tions on the sidewalks and steps welcomed people back to Mass.

Ushers wearing face masks wiped down the pews with disinfectant and helped people find socially distant seating.

Fr. Antweiler preached about Jesus's appeal to His friends to "have faith" and "not let your hearts be troubled," (John 14:1-2).

"The core of life, of happiness, of everything is to put Jesus at the center and trust in Him Who goes ahead of us so He can prepare a place for us," said Fr. Antweiler.

That "place" is an eternal home.

"And 'home,'" said Fr. Antweiler, "is characterized by who is there — people you know and care about, who you know you're safe with, who you can depend on, who you can trust."

"That's Who God is!" he



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Pandemic inspires artist to create icon of Christ as healer

By Michelle Martin

Catholic News Service Chicago

When word came that Illinois residents were being asked to stay home and the Archdiocese of Chicago suspended public Masses in mid-March, Chicago-based iconographer Joseph Malham was at loose ends, like so many others.

He decided to use the time to create, and the result is a 3-foot-by-4-foot icon of Christ the Healer, an image he completed in just about three weeks.

"Like the rest of the world, I thought, 'I can sit around listening to my own fears and anxieties and uncertainties or I can do something creative,'" said Malham, whose studio is at St. Gregory parish in Chicago. "That's when I came up with doing this for the sufferers of COVID-19."

The icon is intended to comfort not just those who are ill or who have loved ones who are ill or have died. It's also for all those suffering financially or emotionally, those isolated from



This is an icon of "Christ the Healer" by Joe Malham.

— CNS photo/courtesy Joe Malham via Chicago Catholic

friends and family members and those who put their own health at risk to care for those who are sick, Malham said.

He counts himself among that number, as the work he does creating icons for parishes and other institutions has dried up and the art restoration jobs are all gone.

"Then I think about the parishes, and whether they'll have the wherewithal to commission something when they come out of this," Malham said.

At the same time, it's become impossible to get some of the materials he usually uses, so everything in the icon comes from supplies he had on hand. The board that forms the base is a piece of oak he found while cleaning out the parish garage. Because he could not get the gesso he usually uses, he coated the board in plain white paint. Since he had no gold leaf, the icon is highlighted with gold paint.

"I'm not striving for anything that is perfect or beautiful in a technical sense," Mal-

ham said. "I think it's the most genuine icon I've ever done."

Its message, he said, is a plea for help, but a plea made to Jesus in hope rather than fear. That's also the tone of a prayer that accompanies the icon that was composed by Auxiliary Bishop Mark A. Bartosic of Chicago.

The first half of the prayer

calls on Jesus who sees what we cannot.

"It's the idea that Christ sees to the bottom of everything," Bishop Bartosic said. "Something that seems so opaque and dark to us is not opaque and dark to Jesus. It's to trust that we don't have to see to the bottom of it because he does. Day

by day, we have to do what they tell us: Wash our hands, maintain social distance, take care of the poor and the sick. But we have to trust in Christ to see the bigger picture."

Martin is a staff writer for the Chicago Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

A letter from a Helias freshman

Dear COVID-19,

No one saw you coming. No one thought you would ever shut our world down. No one thought you would be a heartbreaker of your own. You have impacted our whole universe, not only physically, but mentally and emotionally. Seniors may never walk across the stage to graduate as a class, have their last senior prom, walk the halls with their friends, say their last goodbye, or have senior night on the court.

People are losing jobs left and right. Doctors are working very hard to keep patients alive. There are also people out there who may never say goodbye to their loved ones, all because of you. Because of you, our world has been shattered, people have been ripped from their loved ones.

I have never felt closer with God. This virus has shown me and others how to overcome hardships and become stronger individuals. I used to say, "Can we just have a break, and never return?" or "Can someone just burn our school down, so we don't ever have to return." When Helias first sent out the message to our parents that we were leaving for two weeks, I was so happy. Although it literally felt like a dream come true, I never thought I would be saying how much I miss school. I miss the everyday "normal."

I miss getting up in the morning getting ready for the day, driving into school, and walking into Helias Catholic High School. I miss seeing all of my friends. I miss seeing my teachers waiting outside of their doors before the first bell and wishing for us students to have the best day, especially our amazing principal. They gave us all positive vibes and made my day great even when I didn't want to be there. I miss the prayer before every school day. I used to think



This image of a refractive ring around the sun was captured in Osage County by a member of St. Martin parish in St. Martins, on May 1. "A wonderful coincidence with the rededication of our country to Mary, Mother of the Church, that day," she stated.

— Photo by Kathy Stegeman

the teachers were there to torture us, but in reality they are there to help and guide us for our future. Ultimately, all they want is to see us succeed. I have never felt more appreciative.

I don't know how many times I have sat down and prayed while tears have fallen from my eyes because I miss things the "old" way. I have sat in my room and thought to myself, "Why do bad things like these happen to people who don't deserve it?" I got so upset at one point that I started blaming it on God, because I have been putting all of my trust, hope, and life into him and he turns and backstabs us. I went to bed thinking that, and the next morning I woke up and thought, "I regret saying that." This is not God's fault, nor mine or yours. It's Satan. He does evil things. After realizing that it wasn't anyone's fault, I continued to pray.

I am getting through this all because of the people who have helped me. My teachers, parents, siblings and the number one person is God. God has a plan for each and everyone of us. I am

a huge believer that everything happens for a reason. Everything will get better eventually. It may not be the way we want it, but that is what makes us stronger individuals. Even through tough times like these God is not going to leave our side. We may think everything is gone or that it's falling apart, but He is there. He is there in every moment, and we have to put our trust in Him. There is light at the end of the tunnel. We just have to live day by day, hoping for the best but planning for the worst.

During this time let's spend time with our loved ones, write letters to those we can't see, tell our families we love them, thanking them for everything they have done. Pause and pick up the phone and call your parents or siblings and tell them you love them, say a prayer with them. Don't let this virus rip everything away from you, keep fighting, never give up. We will get through this together. It may not be the way we want, but we need to be there for one another, we need to fight for those we love. This is not the end for everyone, it is just a new beginning!

Anyone who lives through COVID-19 will be stronger, and I don't mean lifting weights stronger. I mean once this is all over and we walk out into the "normal world" again, we will never take for granted what we have. We will be stronger because we believed in ourselves.

So COVID-19, you may think you've won, but at the end of the day we will overcome the challenges that you have thrown at us. Humanity will get through this. We are tough as individuals, but together we become unstoppable.

Sincerely, Keiara Jaegers,
Helias Catholic High
School Class of 2023

DOYLE

From page 8

saints.

Later, reflecting on his experience, Augustine made this keen observation: "You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." Thank you for your question, and I will pray

for you on your journey back to prayer and Catholic practice.

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


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Ken & Cecilia Rademan, 49 years
Sylvester & JoAnn Schwartze, 45 years
Michael & Becky Wieberg, 44 years
Marvin & Barb Wieberg, 36 years
Philip & Mary Lynn Wieberg, 27 years
Chad & Brenda Schwartze, 19 years
Joe & Jessica Hoeller, 18 years
Leon & Elaine Deeken, 17 years
Matt & Stacey Schaben, 17 years

Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels

Ron & Sylvia Johnson, 42 years

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception

Dennis & Vickie Lueckenotte, 36 years

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate

Ronald & Cartalene Ruddell, 62 years
Don & Carol McCoy, 56 years
David & Brenda Moore, 51 years
Dale & Kocoa Vandike, 49 years
Kenneth & Teresa Ziegler, 44 years
Lavern & Joyce Schmitz, 43 years
Damian & Bebe Schulte, 40 years
Russell & Arletta Nelson, 38 years
Warren & Mary Wells, 37 years
Bob & Marie Delaney, 36 years
Dale & Sharon Schenewerk, 36 years
Lance & Krista Llewellyn, 30 years

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake

Dennis & Janis Lucido, 53 years

Linn, St. George

Henry & Betty Reinkemeyer, 64 years

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception

Herb & Joan Backes, 50 years
Tom & Dana Baker, 21 years

Marceline, St. Bonaventure

Carl & Paula Wright, 29 years
Michael & Sue Ewigman, 26 years
Chester & Eva Chiolero, 24 years
Tony & Livia McCauslin, 21 years
Richard & Florence Groffland, 20 years
Bill & Rhonda Stallo, 16 years
Adam & Julie Ewigman, 13 years
Todd & Jessica Field, 11 years
Jeremy & Karie Mast, 11 years

Meta, St. Cecilia

Harold & Norma Jean Libbert, 53 years
Larry & Debra Rowe, 35 years

Mexico, St. Brendan

Ed & Claire Lowry, 60 years

Unionville, St. Mary

Richard & Cecilia Savage, 42 years

Vienna, Visitation

Clifford & Mary Wagner, 41 years
Bruce & Mechele Struempf, 31 years
Tim & Rolanda Backues, 30 years
William & Julie Meier, 28 years
Jason & Tami Curtis, 10 years

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus

Ken & Bernie Otke, 61 years

Birthdays

Camdenton, St. Anthony's — **John "Jack" Kennebec**, his 90th on May 15

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary — **Irene Schollmeyer**, her 90th on May 5

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Ina Essner**, her 90th in April

Hermann, St. George — **Rita Weiser**, her 90th

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Belle Fennessey**, her 90th on May 16

Koeltztown, St. Boniface — **Norbert Juergensmeyer**, his 96th on May 7

Rolla, St. Patrick — **Eleanor Sutton**, her 100th on May 17

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Lorene Meissen**, her 97th birthday on May 9

Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Bristol Anne Snodgrass**, daughter of Jamie & Melanie Snodgrass

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Louise Ruthie Jean Bisges**, daughter of Adam & Caroline Bisges

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Leo Alexander Carder**, son of Cody & Amy Carder; **Cadon Richey** and **Rowan Tillman Garber**, sons of Casey Garber; **Evelyn Marie Korsmeyer**, daughter of Justin & Melissa Korsmeyer; **Trenton Robert Rackers**, son of Ben & Allyson Rackers; **Elsi Fay Skahan**, daughter of Chris & Miranda Skahan; **Dane Joseph Spencer**, son of Jacob & Allison Spencer

Marriages

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Victoria Stuecken & Matthew Jansen**

St. Anthony, St. Anthony of Padua — **Jenna Welschmeyer & Troy Wieberg**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Lindsey Dahler & Kevin Schlottach**, Courtney Hilke & Jacob Galloway



Church leaders in Germany recall end of WWII, urge commitment to lasting peace

Catholic News Service

Berlin

In a joint service marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, Christian churches in Germany issued a call for a commitment to work for peace, reported the German Catholic news agency, KNA.

At the May 8 service in the Berlin cathedral, Limburg Bishop Georg Batzing, president of the German bishops' conference, and Bishop Heinrich Bed-

ford-Strohm, council president of the Protestant Church in Germany, spoke against demands made for ending commemorations of Germany's past.

During the service, Avitall Gerstetter, a female cantor from the Jewish community, read passages from the Bible and sang a song in Hebrew, KNA reported.

The Berlin cathedral is the largest Protestant church in Germany and the burial site for many Prussian rulers and

Deaths

Hermann, St. George — **Al Fehlings**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Leona M. Buersmeyer**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Linda Scheuler**

Linn, St. George — **Fredrick H. Nilges, William Kirsch**

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception — **Cheryl A. Wilbers**

St. Martin, St. Martins — **Patrick M. M. Brauner**

Steelville, St. Michael — **La-Verne McQuillan**

Vienna, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary — **Sylvester Buschmann**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Pauline H. Markway**

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Marilyn F. Bexten**

Departure

Father Nathaniel Gentizon, a student of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome who lived in the Our Lady of Lourdes Rectory in Columbia and helped out with ministry while studying for a semester at the University of Missouri

FR. REID

From page 2

facility and only Level 1 Trauma Center.

"It is a hospital setting that is also dealing with COVID-19 patients," Fr. Reid noted.

Although the specifics are subject to change from day-to-day, he has been told that he will be carrying-out patient visitation over the phone instead of face-to-face.

It will make the experience all the more memorable.

"This period of pandemic has asked us to do many things differently in our daily routines and especially with the sacraments," Fr. Reid noted.

Even his 12-day drive, undertaken with proper social distancing, has been an adventure.

"Alaska has been an amazing backdrop for an assignment," he posed on Facebook, "and I'm stoked about going to the tiny state of Texas for the next go!"

"It is all an adventure and the Lord is in charge," he told *The Catholic Missourian*. "All will be well."

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*, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914.

Crossword puzzle answers

D	E	Z	T	E	J	O	H	N	I	V	d	S
E	A	E	L	L	S	S	G	V	A	d		
E	E	T	R	B	A	V	D	C	R			
S	I	S	O	V	S	S	I	M	R			
J	S	J	N	S	R	X	O	V	E	O	L	O
N	J	O	G	N	V	B	H	J	E	S		
E	U	J	N	E	U	L	d	T	U	C	S	O
J	I	H	U	O	X	V	R	B	R	E		
V	S	N	O	T	V	E	R					
d	d	O	X	T	V	U	N	N	V	U		
O	V	H	E	E	I	M	E	H	L			
S	R	O	C	V	R	J	L	S	R	I	E	T
E	I	R	O	R	V	S	U	N	V	E		
V	N	L	E	V	N	O	I	L	V	C	O	A

Monroe City siblings spend time wisely during COVID-19 pandemic

By Mandi Kindhart-White
Monroe City

In recent weeks, Mary Lou Dawson, like many of us, has found herself feeling a little more lonely than before.

Mary Lou's husband passed away Feb 2, 2014, and since then, she has taken care of her yardwork alone — expressing how she loves to mow, but “just can't get in there and rake much anymore.”

She recently found herself elated with the help of neighboring children who warmed her heart with their generosity.

The children of David and Julie Hays told their parents they wanted to help their neighbor by doing her yard work.

The children took advantage of the mandatory shutdown of their school and took to using learning tools of the yard variety to help spread good cheer.

Kyle, Megan and Cole Hays were all smiles as they worked off some steam from all the social distancing they have been doing.

The children enjoy playing basketball and walking with their parents, but raking out



Mary Lou Dawson stands six feet from her cheerful neighbor children Megan, Kyle and Cole Hays as they pause for a break from cleaning flower beds and helping with yardwork.

— Photo by Mandi Kindhart-White

flower beds in front of Mary Lou's house was on the schedule for this day.

The children and Mary Lou enjoyed talking of her late husband Dave's treasures they would find under the trees in her yard.

Arrowheads, geodes and even Arkansas blue glass that Dave had collected over the years in his gravel travel and creek explorations emerged from beneath the fallen leaves.

With her hand on her chest, Mary Lou expressed her deep thanks and gratitude for the help.

“They just don't know how

much this warms my heart, I don't have family close and this just has been the best surprise,” she said.

All while social distancing, the children shared stories with Mary Lou and the four St. Stephen, Indian Creek parishioners created memories for a lifetime.

The Hays siblings are spending their time wisely learning priceless life skills by helping out a neighbor and sharing good-hearted friendship with one another.

While Mary Lou is ready for the COVID-19 scare to be over, she will not soon forget the gift of kindness the Hays kids delivered when they arrived to rake, load up and haul off the darkness of this historical time in the lives of Monroe City, the State of Missouri, the country of the United States of America and the world.

Ms. Kindhart-White is editor of the Lake Gazette (www.lakegazette.net) in Monroe City, which published this article April 15. It is republished here with permission.

Making a clean cut

Henry Kehl, a son of Ted and Liz Kehl of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Sedalia, practiced his scissor skills by cutting out *The Catholic Missourian* logo from the top of a recent print edition.

— Photo by
Liz Kehl



Mary month of May



Abigail Seibert and Brendan McKeown, who are eighth-graders at St. Brendan School in Mexico, represent their class during a traditional May Crowning in St. Brendan Church. The vase holds a pink flower for each eighth-grade girl and a white flower for each eighth-grade boy. Crowning an image of the Blessed Mother is an ancient tradition for Catholics, mostly children, to show reverence for the Blessed Mother during May, which the Church designates as a month to honor her.

— Photo by Kathy Coulson

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The Virtual Youth Summit is now live

Even though the in-person Summit is cancelled, teens can still participate in their parish's pastoral planning process.

This video-based “virtual summit” allows parish delegations who registered to gather via web-conference, learn about Bishop W. Shawn McKnight's key priorities, and provide input for both their parish's and the diocese's pastoral

plan.

Visit diojeffcity.org/youth-summit-digital to get started.

If your parish did not originally register, but you would like to participate, contact the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and Religious Education at jdelaporte@diojeffcity.org or (573) 635-9127, ext. 233.

Jesus returns to His Father in heaven

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to His followers several times.

The first time was at the site of His empty tomb, when He appeared and spoke to Mary of Magdala and had her deliver a message to the apostles.

Afterward, He twice appeared to His friends in a locked room in Jerusalem. And He also walked with two of His followers on the road to Emmaus.

"He presented Himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God," Luke, the author of the Acts of the Apostles, said in describing these events to a person named Theophilus.



"While meeting with them, He enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for 'the promise of the Father about which you have heard Me speak; for John bap-

tized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Luke went on to explain that Jesus gathered with the apostles on Mount Olivet. The

apostles had a question for Jesus.

"Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" they wanted to know.

"It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by His own authority," Jesus replied. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When Jesus finished speaking, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him from the apostles' sight.

The apostles craned their necks toward the sky, trying to catch a glimpse of where Jesus went.

As they did so, two men dressed in white clothes suddenly appeared beside them.

"Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus Who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen Him going into heaven," the men said to the apostles.

Afterward, the apostles descended Mount Olivet and returned to Jerusalem, which was a day's journey away.

Read more about it... Acts 1

1. What was the promise of the Father of which Jesus spoke?

2. Who appeared to the apostles after Jesus was lifted up?

Bible Accent

In Acts 2, we can learn more about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

At the beginning of the chapter, we read that when the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, the apostles were together in one place in Jerusalem.

Suddenly, a noise came from the sky. It sounded like a driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which the apostles were staying.

Tongues of fire appeared. They parted and came to rest on each apostle.

The apostles were all filled with the Holy Spirit, which gave them the power to speak in different languages.

Since it was Pentecost, Jews from every nation under heaven were staying in Jerusalem. They heard all the noise at the apostles' house, so a large crowd went to investigate.

Each person in the crowd was amazed to be able to understand what the apostles were saying, because the apostles were speaking in each person's native language.

"Are not all these people

who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?" the people in the crowd wondered. "What does this mean?"

Others were skeptical and thought the apostles had consumed too much wine.

Peter told the crowd that he and the apostles were not drunk. He then talked about Jesus and explained that Jesus was the Messiah.

About 3,000 people who accepted Peter's message were baptized that day.

Puzzle

Unscramble the letters in each word and arrange them to form a quotation from the children's story.

Words:

rof risepom twai

rethFa het fo eth

Sentence:



Trivia

Who gave a speech after the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit?
(Hint: Acts 2:14)

Answer: Peter.



Saint Spotlight

St. Anthony of Padua was born in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195. In 1220, he entered the Franciscans and became a missionary in Morocco in Africa. Poor health eventually forced him to return to Europe. A gifted preacher, Anthony then worked in Italy and France. St. Francis appointed him as the order's first lector in theology. Anthony died in 1231, and we remember him on June 13.

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Answers: for, promise, wait, Father, the, of, the; Wait for the promise of the Father.

Volume on early Church offers fine beginning to historical series

The Early Church (33-313): St. Peter, the Apostles and Martyrs, by James L. Papandrea. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2019). 125 pp., \$16.95.

Reviewed by Eugene J. Fisher
Catholic News Service

The Early Church is the first in a series of books on "Reclaiming Catholic History."

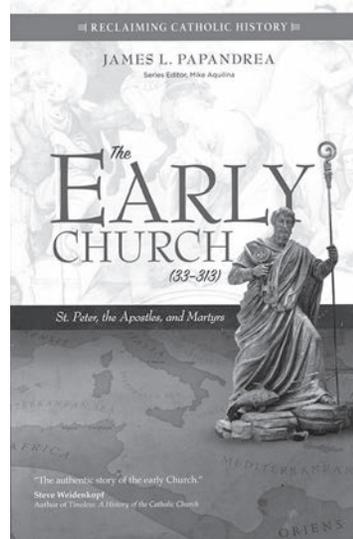
The seven books in the series will recreate for general readers the experiences and development of the Church through the periods of the Roman Empire, the Dark and Middle Ages, the Reformation, the Enlightenment and into modern times.

Judging from the quality and readability of this initial effort, the series should prove to be a great help to Catholics interested in understanding the development of Church doctrine, theology, philosophy and responses to changes in society throughout the centuries.

James Papandrea, a historian and biblical scholar, dispels common myths and misconceptions about the history of the Church over its first three centuries, replacing them with an objective understanding of the challenges faced by the Jesus movement as it evolved into the Church we know today.

In each chapter, beginning with the Apostles and their immediate successors, he centers his narrative on specific individuals, allowing for engrossing narratives with which the reader can personally relate.

St. Stephen and Pope Clement of Rome are featured in the first chapter. In each chapter, Papandrea asks questions of the reader under the rubric "you be the judge."



In Chapter 1, the first question is "Were Christian holidays originally pagan holidays?" The answer, of course, is no. They were originally Jewish holy days, reflecting the continuity between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, and between Judaism and its younger sibling, Christianity.

He also narrates the development of the Catholic doctrine that Jesus was/is both fully human and fully divine, pointing out the people who believed Jesus was one or the other but not both and the early theologians who worked to clarify the central doctrine of the Church, the Incarnation.

The Incarnation, I might add, is the one that distinguished the early Christian community from the Jewish community, since many Jews felt (and still do) that this doctrine blends the necessary distinction between humanity and divinity and might lead its believers into some form of idolatry (worshipping a human as if he or she is a god or goddess).

Chapter 2 presents Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna, asking readers

whether "all" sin is equal in the eyes of God. (Again, no).

The book then narrates the era of the apologists, centering on Justin Martyr and the martyrs of Lyons and Vienne in France, and the veneration of Christian martyrs and saints who serve as models for believers to this day. He is careful, as an historian, to distinguish between what we know about their lives and deaths and the myths and stories that developed around them.

Here, he asks readers to judge whether the Christian faith was "ruined" by being told in terms drawn from Greek philosophy (no) and whether when we die only our souls go to heaven (no, like the risen Jesus, we will be saved for all eternity, body and soul).

The concluding chapters, written in the same format, take up the eras of the theologians, the development of the sacraments as we know them, and the era of Roman persecution of Christian and Christian "tribulation," dispelling myths, for example, about the real use by Christians of the catacombs under Rome.

His final note, of course, is titled "Just the Beginning." And it is. Catholic readers will look forward to reading the rest of this series after such a fine beginning.

Fisher is a professor of theology at St. Leo University in Florida.

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Movie Ratings



Adults and
Adolescents

I Am Patrick (not rated)
I Still Believe (PG)
Trolls World Tour (PG)



Adults

Bloodshot (PG-13)
Emma (PG)
Impractical Jokers: The Movie (PG-13)
Onward (PG)
Selah and the Spades (R)
Slay the Dragon (PG-13)
The Way Back (R)
The Wretched (not rated)



Limited Adult
Audience

Corpus Christi (not rated)



Morally
Offensive

The Hunt (R)
Never Rarely Sometimes Always (PG-13)
True History of the Kelly Gang (R)
We Summon the Darkness (R)

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

Book highlights Americans conquering coronavirus with faith

In times of sacrifice, when everyday routines are interrupted and familiar rituals fall away, life continues and provides many opportunities to grow and even thrive.

This is the comforting message at the heart of *Conquering Coronavirus: How Faith Can Put Your Fears to Rest*, written by Teresa Tomeo and published by Sophia Institute Press.

A leading Christian author, speaker and media personality for over 30 years, Tomeo neither shies away from nor surrenders to the suffering that has visited everyone across the country and around the world.

Instead, she exhorts readers to recognize this as an unparalleled time to embrace faith over nihilism; hope over despair; and charity over selfishness.

Conquering Coronavirus offers scores of emotional stories and practical weapons against the virus, including creative ways to respond to limitations

the pandemic has placed on daily life; advice to help bear its many material and spiritual burdens; and time-tested traditional practices for living a healthier life both during and after the crisis.

Tomeo also shares inspiring, faith-filled stories of the heroic Americans — healthcare workers, public servants and clergymen — serving on the frontlines of the battle against this coronavirus. Furthermore, she highlights opportunities for smaller but equally necessary acts of service so that even those who must stay at home can ease their neighbors' burdens.

Throughout, Tomeo includes reflection questions for book clubs and small group study, allowing readers an opportunity for much-needed community and connection.

Conquering Coronavirus is scheduled for release in May. www.SophiaInstitute.com



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CHAPLAIN

From page 10

ment,” Fr. Eruo stated. “It’s very reassuring to know that there’s more to life than we see right now, that it’s not just this empty thing.”

He insists that Christians are always representing God, whether they realize it or not.

“How we relate to others tells them about our connection to God,” he said. “It doesn’t matter who we’re dealing with — someone we like or someone we don’t like — we are always projecting the image of Christ when we relate to them.”

“Give them a chance”

He hopes parishioners will keep showing international priests the kind of welcome and gratitude he experienced here.

“And be patient with him,” said Fr. Eruo. “Understand that he is making a lot of sacrifices to be here to work with you.”

Finally, he noted, no two priests are ever alike. “Every priest has his unique strengths and passions,” he said. “So appreciate each individual for who he is.”

He offered some advice to priests who come here from other countries to minister.

“First, be ready for anything and everything,” he said. “Second, the more you watch and listen and the less you say, the more you’ll learn.”

He said not to give up on someone if they’re unfriendly or belligerent.

“Someone might start out unfriendly but become friendly, so give them a chance and keep being positive,” he stated.

“You can work with anybody if you’re patient enough, if you are willing to meet them where they are,” he said.

He suggested speaking slowly if there’s a language barrier.

“In six months to a year, you’ll be used to

how they speak here, and they’ll be used to how you speak,” he said.

Lasting bonds

Fr. Eruo asks for prayers for deeper faith and wisdom to minister well to the airmen and their families.

He’s grateful to God for having allowed him to minister among the people of this diocese.

“I’ve learned so much and met so many wonderful people,” he said.

He’s thankful to everyone who helped him get acclimated and made him feel at home.

“This diocese is part of my family,” he said. “The people here have become a part of me.”

He’s especially grateful to the late Brent Crane and Juliana Crane and their family members, the people of the Boonville and Fayette parishes and some of his other friends, who helped raise money for a well that provides fresh water in his hometown.

“I am also grateful for friends from St. Joseph in Palmyra who have supported the training of seminarians in my home diocese in Nigeria,” he stated.

He said he’ll continue praying for the people of this diocese, especially for God to call more young men to the Priesthood — and for them to respond.

“Vocations are nurtured in families, so I will pray for families,” he said. “I will also pray for the priests here to live the kind of joy-filled life that will be a light, attracting young people to the Priesthood.”

His mailing address after Officer Training will be: Eruo, Basil, 527 Avenue I General Delivery, Sheppard AFB, TX 76311.

DEREK HOOPER

From page 5

radical conversion, Augustine became a saint and one of Christianity’s most articulate and influential evangelizers in history.

“He relied on God’s mercy,” Mr. Hooper noted. “God draws us to Himself all the time and He’s very patient with us. But we need to be continually moving in the direction of trying to figure out His will and growing in holiness in our lives.”

“I’m happy for you”

Bishop McKnight sent Mr. Hooper back to Mundelein for his third year of theology studies.

After he’s ordained a deacon, he will spend this summer assisting in a parish before continuing at Mundelein in anticipation of priestly orders.

“I’m just looking forward to serving God and His people,” he said.

He’s grateful for the generosity and love that has been shown to him since he became a part of this diocese.

He said his mother is “super excited” about him pursuing the Priesthood.

His late father was similarly pleased.

“One of the last things he said to me before he passed away was, ‘I’m happy for you. You’re going to do what you love. You’re going to be great and I can’t wait to hear you preach someday,’” Mr. Hooper recalled.

His friends are happy to see him persevere in searching for and following God’s will.

“I think that motivates them, as well, to strive to work

out God’s will in their life,” he said.

“Practice what you teach”

At the ordination, Father Mike Baldwin, who was his pastor in Pittsburg, Kansas, will help Mr. Hooper put on his deacon vestments during the Mass.

“He was always there through my later seminary discernment process,” said Mr. Hooper.

The readings and homily will emphasize the role of the deacon as a minister of charity and of the altar.

“The main theme will be service and to be there for people and proclaim God’s message to them,” he said.

“Whatever it takes”

Deacons have the authority

Daily Readings

Sunday, May 17

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Ps. 66:1-7, 16, 20
1 Pt. 3:15-18
Jn. 14:15-21

Monday, May 18

St. John I, Pope, martyr
Acts 16:11-15
Ps. 149:1b-6a, 9b
Jn. 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday, May 19

Acts 16:22-34
Ps. 138:1-3, 7c-8
Jn. 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 20

St. Bernardine of Siena, priest
Acts 17:15, 22—18:1
Ps. 148:1-2, 11-14
Jn. 16:12-15

Thursday, May 21

St. Christopher Magallanes, priest,
and companions, martyrs
Acts 18:1-8
Ps. 98:1, 2-4
Jn. 16:16-20

Friday, May 22

St. Rita of Cascia, religious
Acts 18:9-18
Ps. 47:2-7
Jn. 16:20-23

Saturday, May 23

Acts 18:23-28
Ps. 47:2-3, 8-10
Jn. 16:23b-28

Sunday, May 24

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Acts 1:1-11
Ps. 47:2-3, 6-9
Eph. 1:17-23
Mt. 28:16-20

Monday, May 25

St. Bede the Venerable, priest
and doctor of the Church; St.
Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary
Magdalene de’ Pazzi, virgin
Acts 19:1-8
Ps. 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab
Jn. 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 26

St. Philip Neri, priest
Acts 20:17-27
Ps. 68:10-11, 20-21
Jn. 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 27

St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop
Acts 20:28-38
Ps. 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab
Jn. 17:11b-19

Thursday, May 28

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Ps. 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
Jn. 17:20-26

Friday, May 29

St. Paul VI, Pope
Acts 25:13b-21
Ps. 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab
Jn. 21:15-19

Saturday, May 30

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Ps. 11:4, 5, 7
Jn. 21:20-25

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for May:

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

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to baptize, witness marriages, proclaim the Gospel and preach the homily at Mass, and preside at funeral services.

“I think I’m looking forward most to being able to do baptisms,” he said. “Just being able to bring people into the Church, into the sanctifying grace, and praying for them and being that first foundation stone of a life spent growing in holiness — that’s going to be one of the most exciting things

for me.”

Mr. Hooper will remain a deacon forever, even after he is ordained a priest.

As ordination draws near, he asks for prayers “for me to have a servant’s heart and love the people God has given me to shepherd.”

He said he’s eager to “do whatever it takes to help other people encounter God in a more meaningful and powerful way.”

Medicaid expansion supporters submit initiative signatures

On May 1, supporters of a proposed Constitutional amendment to expand Medicaid health coverage for low-income adults submitted nearly 350,000 signatures to the Missouri Secretary

of State to place the proposal on the November ballot.

A total of 160,199 valid signatures are required to place a petition on the ballot

The initiative would amend

the Missouri Constitution to require the state government to provide Medicaid for persons whose income is up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level (\$34,763 per year for a family of four) and who are not eligible for other state insurance coverage.

Missouri's Medicaid pro-

gram (MO HealthNet) currently provides that low-income able-bodied adults only qualify if they earn less than 22 percent of the federal poverty level (\$5,665 per year for a family of four), although there are higher thresholds for children, the elderly and the disabled.

Supporters have estimated that between 200,000 to 250,000 additional adults and children would enroll in MO HealthNet under the proposed expansion.

This proposal comes at a time when the Missouri Gen-

eral Assembly has sought to add work requirements to the MO HealthNet program, although it appeared near the end of this year's legislative session that they did not have the votes to pass such a proposal.

The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), public policy of the state's four Roman Catholic dioceses, has put together a resource page on the Medicaid program and the expansion initiative.

It can be found at: mocatatholic.org/resources/medicaid-resources

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II Corinthians 8:12 (Phillips)



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