

## Still on pilgrimage and mission into retirement

Mark Saucier helped coordinate missions for the diocese for over 30 years. He believes each day should be a pilgrimage of discovery and encounter.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

May 29, 2020 • Vol. 63 No. 24

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## The journey to disaster recovery continues



Catholic Charities of Central Missouri's "Chariot of Charity," driven by John Doyle, parish social ministry coordinator, takes part in the Restoring Hope Care-A-Van of vehicles through Jefferson City on May 22 to mark the one-year anniversary of a destructive tornado through Eldon and the Capital City. Participants passed by nearly two dozen facilities and areas that were either hard hit by the tornado or provided services for recovery.

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

By Jay Nies

A strong and violent wind heralded a year of favor from the Lord.

It began with the Eldon and Jefferson City tornado of May 22, 2019, continued with a summer of flooding throughout central and northeastern Missouri, and spilled over into an unprecedented disruption from a viral pandemic.

Through people's skillful and loving, coordinated and sustained response to all of this, God has continued to make Himself known.

"We're here, in the shadow of loss and in the thick of recovery, presenting unflinching hope on behalf of God and His Church," said Dan Lester, executive director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO).

The powerful tornado destroyed homes, schools and businesses, forever altering the lives of thousands of residents, including some of the Capital City's least affluent neighborhoods.

Long after the havoc and destruction faded from national headlines, the charitable arm of the Diocese of Jefferson City continued working behind the scenes, entering strategic partnerships and making holy work of the ongoing recovery.

That work continues.

"A year has gone by and people think everyone has recovered from the tornado, but that isn't the case," said CCCNMO Director of Community Services Alissa Marlow.

"And now you have the fallout from COVID-19 that is affecting many of the people who were barely scraping by before the tornado," she said.

Although it's often said that disasters don't discriminate, they do tend to

See RECOVERY, page 17

## Pope clears way for beatification of Knights of Columbus founder

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis has approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, clearing the way for his beatification.

While the Vatican announced May 27 that Pope Francis had signed the decree, it did not announce a date for the beatification ceremony.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, previously scheduled beatification Masses have been postponed.

For beatification, the Vatican requires proof of a miracle attributed to the candidate's intercession, unless the candidate was martyred for his or her faith.

A statement from the Knights of Columbus said, "The

miracle recognized as coming through Fr. McGivney's intercession involved an unborn child in the United States who in 2015 was healed *in utero* of a life-threatening condition after prayers by his family to Fr. McGivney."

"A date will soon be set for the beatification Mass, which will take place in Connecticut," the statement said.

Meeting with the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus in early February, the statement noted, Pope Francis said the organization has been faithful "to the vision of your founder, Venerable Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need."

"Fr. McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action," said

See FR. MCGIVNEY, page 12

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## Pray for deceased priests

June 3 — **Msgr. Francis O'Duignan**, St. Patrick, Jonesburg (1991)

June 5 — **Fr. William J. Drimped**, St. Mary, Glasgow (1961); **Msgr. Francis G. Gillannon**, Annunciation, California (2004)

June 6 — **Msgr. Bernard S. Groner**, St. Anthony, Rosati (1971)

June 7 — **Fr. John C. Condit**, St. Francis Xavier, Taos (1994)

June 9 — **Fr. Patrick Mel Newman**, Queen of Peace, Ewing (1969); **Fr. Charles D. Pardee**, St. Peter, Jefferson City (2019)

June 10 — **Fr. Daniel S. Larkin**, Sacred Heart, Eldon (1957)

## Fr. Reichert makes point of visiting Conception Abbey cemetery

Benedictine Father Kenneth Reichert, a Brunswick native and priest of Conception Abbey who ministers in Nebraska, tries to visit the cemetery whenever he returns to the abbey in northwestern Missouri.

He recently noted that the first monk to die after his arrival for seminary formation in 1948 was Father Gregory Huegle on Jan. 14, 1951. He was the 66th monk of Conception to die

there since the abbey's founding.

The most recent death was Abbot Andrew Garber, 2nd Abbot at Benet Lake, on Nov. 12, 2019.

"He was the 175th monk of Conception to die," Fr. Reichert noted. "So you see, 109 monks have died since I came to Conception in 1948. I pray they are all in heaven and praying for me and all the monks at Conception today."

## Positions Available



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

**ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL SCHOOL**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:sallen@sjcsmo.org).

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

## Mailing address for diocesan offices

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

Please address all correspondence to the street ad-

dress 2207 W. Main, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914.

The Post Office 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.

## Links to livestreamed Masses, and praying for a Communion of Desire

People who are over 65 or have compromised immune systems or are otherwise at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 are encouraged for the time being to participate in your parish's Sunday Mass via livestream.

Visit [diojeffcity.org](http://diojeffcity.org) and click on the Livestream Mass Links button.

There is no substitute for attending Mass in person and receiving Holy Communion. People who cannot do so are encouraged to pray to receive a Communion of Desire.

### Prayer for a Communion of Desire

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

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, renew my heart now with the power of Your Spirit.

I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Unite me more closely to Your Body, the Church. And never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## Arranging for the spiritual adoption of people affected by COVID-19

The coronavirus has brought sickness, fear and isolation to people in communities throughout this diocese.

LeAnn Korsmeyer, diocesan director of parish and charitable services, is urging pastors, parish life collaborators and deacons to arrange for the spiritual adoption of people who are being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In these times of suffering, Christ calls out to us through the Scriptures to 'bear one an-

other's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ,'" she stated.

She advised parish leaders to contact people who are directly affected by the pandemic and seek permission to have people pray for them by name, asking for help and healing.

The names of those who agree to be prayed for should be sent to Mrs. Korsmeyer at [lkorsmeyer@diojeffcity.org](mailto:lkorsmeyer@diojeffcity.org).

Only first names of those affected by the virus will be shared.

At the same time, any individuals or prayer groups that would like to spiritually adopt an individual or family within the diocese who has been affected by the coronavirus should contact Erin Boeckmann at [eboeckmann@diojeffcity.org](mailto:eboeckmann@diojeffcity.org).

The following is a good

prayer to offer for them:

"Especially, Lord, we lift up \_\_\_\_\_. May s(he) feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation as they receive treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen."

### The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City  
Mailing address: 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Phone: (573) 635-9127

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

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight**  
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## Director of Religious Education



St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville is seeking a director of Religious Education to oversee the religious and spiritual formation of youth and adults. This will entail scheduling Parish School of Religion Classes, as well as sacramental preparation and events. For more information, to receive a complete job description and / or application please email [ststansec@socket.net](mailto:ststansec@socket.net).



# Reporting system for recording abuse complaints against bishops

By Dennis Sadowski  
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

A reporting system accepting sexual misconduct allegations against U.S. bishops and eparchs is in place.

Called the Catholic Bishops Abuse Reporting Service, or CBAR, the system became operational March 16.

The mechanism incorporates a website and a toll-free telephone number through which individuals can file reports regarding a bishop.

The website is **ReportBishopAbuse.org**. Calls can be placed at (800) 276-1562.

The nationwide system is being implemented by individual dioceses under the direction of each respective cardinal, archbishop or bishop.

The information gathered will be protected through enhanced encryption.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight had created a set of protocols in which any concerns regarding his management of sexual abuse by clergy or abuse of power would be investigated by Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis.

The new reporting system supersedes those directives, and Bishop McKnight welcomes

the national system.

“We have experienced terrible collateral damage because we haven’t been accountable,” he wrote when the bishops approved the reporting mechanism as a means to implement the papal directive. “People have left the Church or stopped participating in the sacramental life of our faith. They have lost trust in our ability to be good shepherds — to fulfill our responsibility to hold the Church together, in a right and good order. This is an important step in rebuilding that sacred trust.”

## How it works

Denver-based Convercent developed the reporting system under a two-year contract with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The company specializes in ethics and compliance management for businesses and organizations.

Under the system, the company gathers information and routes reports to the appropriate

Church authority consistent with Canon Law.

It does not conduct any investigation.

Approved by the U.S. bishops in June 2019 at their spring general assembly, the reporting mechanism meets the requirements established by Pope Francis in his *“motu proprio”* “*Vos Estis Lux Mundi*” (“You are the light of the world”) to have a way of receiving reports of sexual misconduct by a bishop.

“*Motu proprio*” is a Latin phrase that means “on one’s own initiative.” Popes use it to

signal a special personal interest in a subject.

The system works like this:

- Calls initially will come into a central phone bank, where trained personnel will ask for information about the allegation being made including the name of the person making the report and his or her contact information. People also will have the option of filing a report online if they do not want to call. People will not be required to give their name if they wish to remain anonymous.

- The information gathered will be forwarded to the appropriate metropolitan, or archbishop, responsible for each diocese in a province. Allegations against a metropolitan will be forwarded to the senior suffragan bishop in the appropriate province. The U.S. has 32 metropolitans. Each province has one archdiocese and several dioceses.

- The information also will be forwarded to a layperson designated to assist the bishop in receiving allegations.

- After review, the metropolitan or senior suffragan will send the report the apostolic nuncio in Washington.

- The nuncio is required to send the report and the metropolitan’s assessment to the Vatican, which has 30 days to determine if a formal investigation is warranted. If so, a bishop will be authorized to oversee an investigation.

- When an investigation is ordered, qualified experts — including laypeople — will conduct it. An investigation is expected to be completed within 90 days and forwarded to the Vatican.

- Vatican officials will review the findings of the investigation and determine the appropriate process leading to a final judgment.

As each case is filed, the person reporting an incident will be given a case number and password which can be used to follow progress of their particular case.

Individuals who file a report also will be encouraged to contact local law enforcement if they believe they have been a victim of a crime.

## Specific purpose

Anthony Picarello, USCCB associate general secretary, told the bishops during their fall general assembly in November the system is designed to filter complaints so that only those addressed in the *“motu proprio”* will be forwarded.

Under CBAR, people with complaints about any other actions of a bishop, such as diocesan assignments, church closings, liturgy or homily content, will be asked to contact the appropriate diocese or eparchy directly.

Allegations of sexual abuse by a priest, deacon, religious, diocesan staff member or volunteer, will be directed to the local diocesan or eparchial victim assistance coordinator under the process that has been in

See REPORT, page 22



**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Mo., speaks from the floor on the first day of the spring general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore June 11, 2019. — CNS photo/Bob Roller**



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**MAY**

*The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic:*

- May 30** Derek Hooper Transitional Diaconate Ordination Mass, 10 am, livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- May 31** Fr. Chris Cordes 25th Anniversary Mass, 3 pm, livestreamed from Our Lady of Lourdes, Columbia
- June 1** Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church Mass, 7 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, Laurie
- June 3** Catholic Rural Life Board video conference meeting, 2 pm, Catholic Center, Jefferson City
- June 8** Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Board video conference meeting, noon, Catholic Center, Jefferson City
- June 10** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board of Directors meeting noon, Catholic Center, Jefferson City
- June 11** Chair the Catholic Home Missions Subcommittee video conference meeting, noon, Catholic Center, Jefferson City

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**Bishop McKnight's June prayer intention for our Local Church**

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus transform all men, especially fathers, to trust in the model of St. Joseph to instill in them courageous leadership and devotion for those whom God has placed in their care.

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

**Intención del mes de junio del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local**

Que el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús transforme a todos los hombres, especialmente a los padres, para que confiando en el modelo de San José obtengan devoción y un liderazgo valiente por aquellos que el Señor ha encomendado a su cuidado.



## Pilgrim of the road receives Holy Communion in Owensville

A Catholic blogger who calls herself the Tin Can Pilgrim sold her home and gave away most of her possessions and now lives and traverses the country as a lay missionary in her Airstream mobile home, sharing her faith with people she meets along the way and chronicling her experiences in a blog.

"It's a very small apostolate because what (God has) asked me to do is simply live and work among people and get to know them. I'm not preaching at people or even preaching with words," she told the Arlington Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, in September 2019. "It's more just by actions, by trying to be helpful or doing something that touches their hearts."

She posted the following reflection on her [tincanpilgrim.com](http://tincanpilgrim.com) website after attending

Mass in Owensville and receiving Holy Communion for the



first time in many weeks.

She gave permission for it to be republished here:

Story and photos by Lynda Rozell

This morning delighted and refreshed me.

I participated in Mass in person for the first time in over seven weeks.

As I head west, I stop at

campgrounds or Harvest Host parking lots, depending on my need to replace water and empty tanks. Last night, I stayed near Owensville, Missouri.

This diocese had just started to partially reopen churches with rules to protect the health of Mass participants and celebrants.

My GPS and cell service failed me, but after a circuitous drive, I arrived at Im-

maculate Conception Catholic Church shortly before the 9 a.m. daily Mass began.

How wonderful! "To Jesus through Mary," as the saying goes.

I entered the church wearing my mask and read the instructions posted for safety.

Every other pew was closed with tape. Tape marked spaces six feet apart on the aisle. Near each entrance, a bottle of hand-sanitizer invited use.

A lovely example of Midwestern Catholic churches, Immaculate Conception displays wooden beams, decoratively painted walls, and a traditional sanctuary with a tabernacle centered on the wall behind the altar, beneath the crucifix.

Above the crucifix, a beautiful round stained-glass window



depicts Mary with angels. The morning sun filtered through the colorful window into the church.

Pale blue and gold carved stations of the cross caught

my attention.

These delicate and detailed carvings were recessed into the side walls, separated by narrow rectangular stained glass windows. Statues of Mary and Joseph carrying the child Jesus welcomed parishioners to the left and right of the sanctuary.

I felt at home.

I took a spot in the third pew to the left. Six other people prayed silently, scattered about the church in separate pews.

Father Wayne Boyer presided. During the homily, he described safety measures that he asked us to follow as a matter of charity. The Sign of Peace and distribution of the Precious Blood remained suspended.

We could remove our face masks while seated in the pews, but every time we left the pew, we needed to wear the mask.

To receive Holy Communion, we were to go up in single file, six feet apart, wearing a mask, then pull down the mask before extending our hands to receive the Eucharist.

That way, we would not be

fumbling with the mask while holding the consecrated host.

After receiving, we were to put the mask back on before starting to walk back to our pew.

Father Boyer explained that the bishop asked that everyone receive in the hand for now, rather

See PILGRIM, page 19







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# St. Thomas the Apostle parish at 150: From humble beginnings, “all things are possible with God”

## Festivities took place in 2019

By Juliana Crane

Strong seeds of Catholic Christianity, planted near the banks of the Osage River by a handful of immigrants in the 1830s, flourished to become the vibrant parish of St. Thomas the Apostle in St. Thomas.

This same strong faith and common goal was evidenced last fall when the parish celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Crowds of people with ties to the parish came to be with the locals in the spirit of a homecoming.

The celebration of the Eucharist on two occasions was the focal point.

At the first, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight said, “the humble beginnings of this parish underscore the point that with God, all things are possible.”

As early as 1838 with missionary visits of Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias, Mass was celebrated in some of the homes of the founding families.

As the area grew, a log church was built in 1844 by the settlers.

This began a long history of parishioners offering up their time, talent and treasure.

St. Thomas the Apostle parish was canonically recognized as an independent parish in 1869 by Archbishop Peter Richard Kenrick of St. Louis.

Father Aloysius Mayer served as the first pastor.

The parish had grown to 144 families by 1879.

Today, there are more than 230.

The present church, a soaring gothic edifice with colorful stained glass, was dedicated in October 1884.

## In it together

According to the parish’s 150th anniversary book, the early settlers, primarily from Germany, endured hardships and obstacles in moving here and setting up their homesteads.

Elders of today’s parishioners told of long rides to church in wagons on muddy roads, even

in the coldest winters.

Nieces took turns helping aunts when babies were born. Neighbors helped neighbors bring in crops or build barns.

When times were hard, crops and food were shared.

## Tapping the roots

To prepare for the sesquicentennial, parishioners spent three years lovingly poring over documents, visiting with older parishioners and working together to show not only the history of the parish, but the deep faith and sense of community that binds them together.

When asked where God is in all this, parishioner Janet Lueckehoff said: “God is in the very center, and we’re like family.”

Her husband, Bill, a member of the sesquicentennial committee and emcee of the sesquicentennial event, and pa-

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

rishioner Dale Herigon, both born and raised in St. Thomas, talked about the importance of the church bells.

Mr. Herigon has been keeping the bells ringing for over 30 years, providing maintenance

for them and the intricate but rugged clockwork that keeps them keep time.

“For the folks around town, the bells get to be their friends,” he said.

The 150th anniversary book, with over 570 pages, is a treasure trove of pictures, history, human interest, and a testament to those who came before and to those who remain in St. Thomas.

## Shared ancestry

Luebbering, the surname of approximately 40 families in the parish, dates back to 1844, when Johannes Heinrich Luebbering and his family immigrated from Germany to settle in Westphalia.

Twenty years later, the Luebberings were in St. Thomas.

The 60-plus grandchildren of John and Catherine (Wankum) Luebbering, descendants of these early immigrants, have been having reunions for over 40 years.

With crowds of more than 100, these cousins and their families gather in St. Thomas for a meal to reminisce and celebrate their connections through family and faith.

Always in thanksgiving for those who endured before them and in the shadow of St. Thomas Church.

Brian Luebbering, one of these descendants, was chairman of the sesquicentennial committee.

## The ringing stopped

A devastating tornado struck St. Thomas in 1948.



**LEFT:** Sister Kathleen Donovan of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a former principal of St. Thomas the Apostle School, and Sister Rosemary Boessen of the Sisters of Mercy, a St. Thomas native, present the gifts of bread and wine to Father Leonard Mukiibi, administrator of St. Thomas the Apostle parish, during a Mass for the parish’s 150th anniversary. **RIGHT:** Members of the crowd take in the opening ceremonies for the parish sesquicentennial celebration on the parish grounds.

— Photos by Jay Nies



The storm did the greatest damage to the church grounds, bringing down the steeple with its four big bells and four-faced clock, according to an article in the *Jefferson City Daily Tribune* newspaper.

The main part of the church sustained some roof damage, but the luminous windows survived mostly unscathed.

“The St. Thomas church bells are silent for the first time in a 106-year period,” the article stated.

The rectory, convent and two-story school also sustained significant damage.

The tornado touched down shortly after the Our Lady of Perpetual Help devotions on a

Saturday evening.

Parishioners came to church the next morning to celebrate the Eucharist and praise God. Then they talked about what needed to be done.

Father Arthur Behrman, who was pastor at the time, is said to have told the parishioners “we need men, money and material to start rebuilding as rapidly as possible.”

As was their custom, parishioners came together with Fr. Behrman to restore their beloved St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

The next step for parishioners was to build a rectory,

See ST. THOMAS, page 19

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# Mark Saucier's 43-year career has been a missionary pilgrimage

**Retired since February, he continues writing reflections for *The Catholic Missourian***

By Jay Nies

A friend of Mark Saucier's is fond of pointing out that the Church doesn't have a mission.

The Church IS the mission.

"It's the mission of Jesus Christ — being His presence in the world," said Mr. Saucier, longtime mission director for the Jefferson City diocese and columnist for *The Catholic Missourian*.

"And because of that, we are not only concerned with our local community," he insisted. "Our concern has to extend to the edges of the world, so there is no place where we wouldn't be."

Mr. Saucier retired this spring after serving for 43-and-a-half years in various roles for the Jefferson City diocese.

He continues to write his column from home.

"Working for 43 years for one employer, especially these days, may show a real lack of initiative," he stated. "But I

was blessed to have a lot of different responsibilities. That kept it very interesting."

Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe, now deceased, hired him in 1976 to work half-time in the diocesan Religious Education Office and half-time in the Communications Office.

He served as communications director for over 30 years, worked with missions for 30 and began penning his column during Lent of 2000.

"I've done radio and video production," he said. "I was the coordinator for a huge diocesan renewal program, known as 'Our Journey in Faith,' back in the 1980s."

The diversity of activity helped him acquire an array of skills.

"And it exposed me to a lot of phenomenal people I would not have met if I were working in only one position," he said. "I have learned a tremendous amount from them."

## Never looked back

Mr. Saucier's passion for mission dates back to his growing-up in Taos in the 1960s.



**Mark and Carolyn Saucier and Father Dandi Bermejo help celebrate the completion of a new concrete floor, paid for by benefactors from the United States, in the Begonia Elementary School, during a 2020 mission trip to Fr. Bermejo's St. Joseph the Worker Mission on the island of Negros Occidental in the Philippines.**

— Photo from the Father Dandi's Connections Facebook page

His parents were very active in St. Francis Xavier parish and sent their eight children to the parish school.

Mr. Saucier met Father (later Monsignor) Raphael Keyes, now deceased, after he arrived from Ireland to serve as a priest of this diocese.

Their friendship continued through Msgr. Keyes's 35 years in the diocese's missions in the Peruvian Altiplano.

"Knowing him helped pull me toward the missions in Peru initially and then toward mission in general," said Mr. Saucier.

Twelve hours after graduating from Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, he and a classmate boarded a plane to Peru, to spend a summer working with the Jefferson City mission team in Caphichica.

"I lived with four priests, two sisters and four lay volunteers," Mr. Saucier recalled. "We ate, worked and prayed together. We spent our days building, teaching, healing and ministering."

At night, they'd sit together in the *sala*, reading and writing, sharing stories and sometimes arguing.

"We could disagree about many things," he recalled, "but when it came to serving the poor, we were of one heart, set afire by the Gospel."

"That experience sealed the deal for me," he said. "I never

looked back."

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in religious education from the University of Notre Dame.

That's where he met his wife, Carolyn, who would go on to work for the diocese's Religious Education Office for over 20 years.

## "Touched, redeemed, saved"

Shortly after joining the bishop's ministry team, Mr. Saucier helped develop the diocesan-wide leadership development program known as "Directions 80s."

He followed that up by leading the team that wrote and produced the diocese's four-year, parish-based spiritual renewal program known as "Our Journey in Faith."

"I was working with some really creative people, and we got a lot of feedback from the parishes," he said. "We tried to incorporate those suggestions and criticisms as we wrote the next sections. I think that was a big factor in how successful it was."

He began splitting his time between communications and the Mission Office in 1990.

"When I first came over to missions, it was already a very strong and viable operation under the direction of Father John Groner and Alice Walters," he recalled. "They and Lorna Tran and Alice Loethen were incredibly dedicated and

enriched my life in so many ways."

Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., now deceased, founding bishop of Jefferson City, had answered Pope St. John XXIII's call for missionary work in the Southern Hemisphere by creating a mission partnership with the bishops of Marcona and Nasca, Peru.

Over the next 40 years, up to 10 percent of the active priests of this diocese were serving in parishes in Peru.

This diocese's per-capita giving to these missionary endeavors ranked for decades among the highest in the nation.

Bishop John R. Gaydos, now retired, arrived in 1997. Throughout his 20-year episcopacy, the diocese's missions branched out into partnerships with Catholic organizations in Mexico, the Philippines, India and the slums of Lima, Peru.

"Countless lives have been touched, redeemed and saved," said Mr. Saucier. "We have brought food, water, housing and electricity to the poor who could only dream of it. We have provided health, education and liberation to entire communities. We have built roads, churches and schools."

Several parishes also formed relationships with dioceses overseas or undertook humanitarian projects as priests from several countries came to minister here.

All the while, a deeper understanding of mission — one more rooted in encounter and mutual giving — continued to unfold in the diocese and throughout the Church.

"The first thing we need to know about mission is that it's all about a relationship," said Mr. Saucier. "It's about giving and receiving. It's about listening and sharing and gaining insight from each other's experiences — how they think, how they feel, how they pray, how they celebrate."

When he first visited Peru, the most reliable way to communicate with people back in Missouri was over shortwave radio.

Technology has made it easier to stay in touch with people who are thousands of miles

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

See SAUCIER, page 27

# 50 years in, Eucharist remains at center of Fr. Quinn's Priesthood

By Jay Nies

Father Michael Quinn's parents received Holy Communion almost every day, usually before their children were awake.

Two of their English ancestors died in prison for harboring Catholic priests in 1581, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

The family's roots run back through St. Margaret of Scotland, a pious and charitable member of 11th-century royalty.

They all remained faithful in their love for the Most Blessed Sacrament, and so has Fr. Quinn.

"The highlight of my day as a priest has always been the Eucharist," he stated. "I've been imbued with a love for the Mass and what Jesus did for us by His Incarnation and His dying and rising."

Fr. Quinn, a Monroe City native and pastor of Holy Family parish in Hannibal, is noting his 50th priestly anniversary this year.

He plans to retire on July 1 from being a pastor but not from the Priesthood.

"Being a priest is basically about being a man who gives witness to Christ by his life, by his prayer, by his leading the people in the holy order, in the Mass, and by praying with them in the Sacrament of Reconciliation," he said.

"The priest is in the trenches with the People of God and encouraging and companioning with them on their journey of faith," he said.

## Family and friends

Fr. Quinn was the third of six children born to Ambrose and Pauline Quinn, who are now both deceased.

One of his three brothers was the late Father Patrick Quinn, a priest of the Jefferson City diocese, who died in 1999.

Their father had a trucking business. Fr. Quinn was driving into the fields to pick up hay before he was tall enough to see over the steering wheel.

"I had to sit on a bunch of pillows," he recalled.

The children went to Holy Rosary School in Monroe City.

Mrs. Quinn's devotion to and friendship with the Blessed

Mother rubbed off on her son.

"Mom was really my heroine, and because of her, I got close to the mother of Jesus," said Fr. Quinn.

In grade school, he joined the Junior Legion of Mary, attending weekly Rosary meetings and then visiting people who were elderly and homebound.

He had a lot of friends and was always bringing someone home for dinner.

An older parishioner once stopped him on the way to school and said he'd make a good priest.

His brother Patrick was already a seminarian at Cardinal Glennon College in St. Louis when young Michael decided to attend high school at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Hannibal.

From there, he continued on to Cardinal Glennon College, Kenrick Seminary and then the Saint Louis University School of Divinity.

Patrick and Michael, five years apart in age and formation, would drive to St. Louis together.

"He was my big brother and someone I admired," said Fr. Quinn. "I think he was part of my initial draw to the Priesthood."

## "I need You"

The Second Vatican Council was happening while Fr. Quinn was in college. He enjoyed taking part in discussions with laypeople about the documents the Council fathers were putting forth.

"It was a wonderful time!" he said. "The Church was becoming more and more a part of the people — not just a 'priest church,' but the People of God: the priest presiding over the ministries of the people, of all the baptized faithful."

Fr. Quinn spent a summer living in the Pruitt-Igoe public housing complex in a poor and dangerous part of St. Louis.

He and five fellow seminarians and a half-dozen young women from what is now Webster University worked at a neighborhood center sponsored by two Catholic parishes.

They assisted 200 to 300 children in sports, academics and other activities.

"It was a wonderful experience," Fr. Quinn recalled. "The people protected us. They felt like we were theirs."

He spent another summer in Hobart, Oklahoma, with a group of seminarians from Cardinal Glennon and postulants from the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville.

They worked with poor Hispanic immigrants and African-Americans to rehab a local community center. They also led Bible studies and children's activities.

"It was a world away from the hayfields I was used to working in over the summers!" he said.

After two years at Kenrick, he continued his theology studies at the School of Divinity at Saint Louis University.

"That was such a great experience," he recalled. "It was the first time I had been in a classroom of men and women, all of us studying Scripture and theology."

He served as a transitional deacon at St. Bonaventure parish in Marceline.

There, he gave religious instruction to young women who were preparing for marriage and to become Catholic.

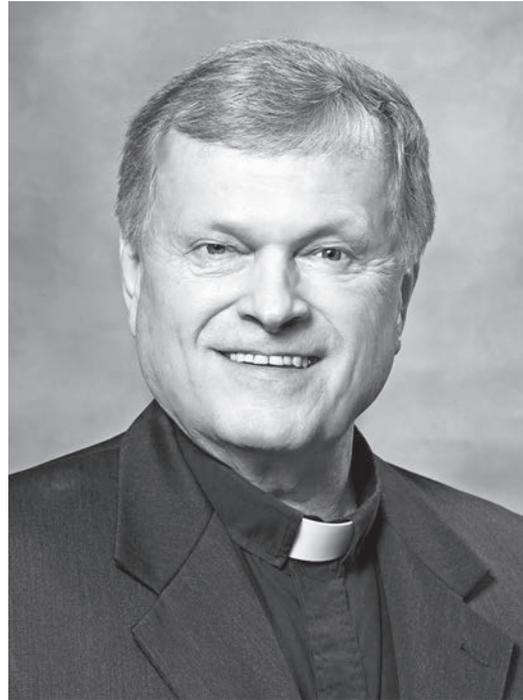
He also took up a census by visiting every home within the parish boundaries.

"I did a lot of it on foot," he recalled. "It was a very good experience."

On June 6, 1970, in Holy Rosary Church in Monroe City, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

The invitation to the Ordination Mass read: "I am being given to you by God so that together we might serve the Lord."

Moments before Fr. Quinn



Father Michael Quinn

started walking down the aisle, his mind filled with turmoil and concern.

"I can't do this without You!" he silently prayed. "I need You!"

## Teachable moment

Fr. Quinn has been assigned to only four parishes in 50 years.

The first was Immaculate Conception in Jefferson City, where he excelled at youth ministry and became leader of the parish youth group.

Incarnate Word Sisters Pat Kelly and Bertha Franco invited him to attend a Life in the Spirit Seminar of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

"I learned my prayer language and was baptized in the

Spirit," he said.

Fr. Quinn and several other members of his priest support group remain involved in Charismatic spirituality.

His heart sank when Bishop McAuliffe appointed him to the faculty of Helias Catholic High School.

"All through the seminary, I remember thinking, 'Just don't ask me to teach! I want to be a priest and work in a parish but I don't want to work in a high school,'" he recalled.

He obediently moved to Wardsville to assist the pastor of St. Stanislaus parish and

took up his teaching and counseling duties at Helias.

"It was fantastic!" he said.

The bishop gave him permission to work over the summers on a master's degree in theology from Incarnate Word University in San Antonio, Texas.

"I spent the next four summers there, reading and writing papers and doing classwork," he said.

He and a group of laypeople brought Engaged Encounter to this diocese to help Catholic couples prepare for marriage.

He attended his first Curcillo weekend in 1977 and became active in facilitating Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)

See FR. QUINN, page 21

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## QUESTION CORNER

## Pray to Mother Angelica? / Crimes pardoned by the Pope

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



**Q. I have always had great admiration for Mother Angelica. Would it be wrong of me to talk to her and ask her prayers if she has not yet been declared “blessed” by the Church? (Phoenix)**

A. Mother Angelica died in 2016 at the age of 92. In 1981, she founded the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and turned it into a vast religious media operation, which today transmits programs to more than 200 million homes in nearly 150 countries.

At her death, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, then-president of the U.S. bishops’ conference, praised Mother Angelica for spreading the Gospel of Jesus, saying that “like the best evangelists, she used the communications tools of her time to make this happen.”

There are many who share our writer’s confidence that Mother Angelica is now enjoying the peace of God’s presence; in fact, just three days after her death Pope Francis spoke to members of the EWTN staff in Rome and, pointing to the sky, said of Mother Angelica, “She is in heaven.”

So as to whether it’s OK for you to ask her prayers, I’d say that the answer is a resounding “Yes.” It strikes me, too, that if you could only pray to canonized saints, there might never be any saints — since it takes miracles, gained through the prayers of the faithful, for canonization to occur.

The vast majority of those who make it into heaven will never, of course, be formally canonized by the Church; but there are people we have all known — including family members — who have lived good lives and who, we are quite sure, now enjoy the company of the Lord in heaven.

I think about some of these people often, talk with them and pray for their help. But to be on the safe side, I continue to pray “for” them as well as “to” them — just in case they still need a boost!

**Q. When I was going through the RCIA program (to join the Catholic Church), the presenter said that there are some sins that can be absolved only by the Pope. I didn’t have the presence of mind at the time to ask, but now I am wondering: What sort of sins are they? (Little Rock, Arkansas)**

A. There are, in fact, certain sins that are also crimes in the Church — named specifically in the Church’s *Code of Canon Law* — that are so egregious they can be pardoned only by the Pope. Probably the reason you might not know what they are is that (thankfully) these offenses rarely, if ever, happen.

Some examples are: a person who throws away, or otherwise desecrates, the consecrated bread or wine of the Eucharist; a priest who breaks the seal of confession by revealing the nature of the sin and the identity of the person who confessed it; someone who uses physical force against the Pope; or, a priest who has sex with a penitent and then offers that penitent sacramental absolution for that very sin.

It should be noted that if a penitent were in danger of death, any priest could absolve that person from any sin, including those listed above. This would apply even if that priest had been deprived of his faculties to hear confessions.

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



## Papal Audience May 27, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now consider the prayer of the just.

In the Book of Genesis, the accounts of the fall of Adam and Eve and of the murder of Abel by his brother Cain, tell of the emergence and expansion of evil and sin across successive generations.

We too still experience the presence of wickedness in the world. Yet God’s will for His creatures is for the good, not for evil.

In the first pages of the Bible we also see another, less conspicuous story, with Abel, Seth, Enoch and Noah, who acted humbly and prayed to God with sincerity.

These just men of prayer were peacemakers who show that authentic prayer, freed from the tendency to violence, is a hope-filled gaze directed to God, which can cultivate new life in place of arid hatred.

Throughout history, righteous men and women of prayer — often misunderstood or marginalized — have ceaselessly offered up intercession for the world, invoking God’s power to bring about healing and growth. May we, like them, faithfully ask God to fulfil His work of transforming hearts of stone into hearts of flesh (cf. Ezek. 36:26).

I greet the English-speaking faithful joining us through the media. As we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, I invoke upon you and your families an abundance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. May God bless you!

## Sr. Francisca Eiken CCVI from Taos served radiology technician, archivist

Taos native Sister Francisca (Theresa) Eiken CCVI, 85, a Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word, died on May 15 at The Village at Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas.

She was born in Taos on October 29, 1934, to Vincent and Adela (Kerperin) Eiken.

Sr. Francisca attended St. Francis Xavier School in Taos and graduated from Fatima High School in Westphalia in 1953.

She worked for the Missouri Department of Social Services as a keypunch operator before entering the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in 1960.

She served in the congregation’s healthcare ministry as a radiology technician at Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio until 1993.

Following her retirement from healthcare ministry, she served as the archivist for the congregation.

For the past 10 years, she enjoyed serving in various ac-



**Sister Francisca Eiken CCVI  
(1934-2020)**

tivities.

Sr. Francisca accepted and enjoyed any situation.

She had insight into people’s needs and sought to help them.

Her family will miss her quiet and prayerful demeanor and her positive attitude.

Preceding her in death were her parents; three brothers, Alfred Eiken, Silver Eiken, and

Matthew Eiken; five sisters, Margaret (Paul) Forck, Mary (Clarence) Winkelman, Sister Adela (Edna Mary) Eiken CCVI, Frances Eiken and Susie Eiken; a sister-in-law, Pat Eiken; three nephews; and four nieces.

Surviving are a sister, Mathilda (Don) Meyer of Wentzville; two brothers, Joe Eiken of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, and Eddie (Mary) Eiken of Jefferson City; a sister-in-law, Clara Eiken of Taos; 30 nieces and nephews and many great- and great-great nieces and nephews.

Private services were to be held at The Village at Incarnate Word in San Antonio, with interment in the convent cemetery.

Those wishing to email tributes or condolences to the family may do so at [www.theangelusfuneralhome.com](http://www.theangelusfuneralhome.com).

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, 4503 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209.

## In all things, charity (even pandemics)

By Scott Hahn



You've probably had enough of advice from experts by now. The news is full of them. Your social media feed is full of them. And they're all full of statistics and certainty about what you should be doing

this week and next.

But please don't tune me out. I'm here because I have no expertise in anything related to the pandemic. I'm writing because I'm suffering what you're suffering.

Much of what I do has been affected by the virus. For a teacher, the day begins when you walk into a classroom. For much of this semester, the classrooms were empty.

Likewise, for grandparents, fulfillment arrives when the grandchild is in your lap or in your arms — and lately we've seen

our grandchildren only on screen.

I'm frustrated. I'm also full of opinions about how everything's been handled. What's more, I can show you the experts who share my opinions. If you disagree with me — as many people do — you're probably just as passionate, and you probably have experts just as big, if not bigger.

Which brings me to the greatest source of sorrow in the pandemic. An occasion that should be uniting us is dividing us. We're allowing our differences of opinion to drive us apart, even in the Church.

This is more than wrong. It's evil.

I understand that we're dealing with important matters here. When we talk about the disease, we're talking about bodily life and death. When we talk about the denial of the sacraments, we're talking about spiritual life and death.

But these are all prudential matters. There is room for difference of opinion. We are free to believe what we wish. We can disagree and belong to the same fam-

ily. The Catholic Church is spacious, and even canonized saints have differed sharply about important human matters.

What we must not do is have contempt for one another. What we must not do is allow resentment to enter our relations.

These are the deadliest poisons on earth, and they will kill love — in our homes, our parishes, our dioceses, and beyond — if we allow them to get anywhere near us.

It's OK for us to be disappointed, frustrated, and even angry. But the proving ground of our righteousness is not in the way we express these emotions to one another. It's in the way we express them to God.

If you're angry, tell your anger first to God. Tell him at length. He can take it. Tell him all about it before you express it to anyone else — and when you do tell it to others, know that God is with you and listening.

As much as I've hated this forced inactivity, I have to admit that God is bring-

ing much good out of it.

So many of our families have had their faith renewed in ways they hadn't thought possible. We've watched Mass together and prayed a family Rosary.

We've shared meals together and played board games. During Holy Week, we watched all eight episodes of "The Chosen," a marvelous series on the life of Jesus. We've talked about important matters and made new memories.

What were once households of transient lodgers have become domestic churches!

So many clergy have shown astonishing creativity in thinking up new ways to minister to their people. They've had live-streamed Masses, and socially-distanced Confessions. Our older priests learned new technology to make everything work. At my parish, St. Peter's, we now have a beautiful icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help of Steubenville hanging outside the church's entrance for public veneration.

See HAHN, page 22

## Consider the common good

By Effie Caldarola  
Catholic News Service



We are confronted by jarring images these days.

Who would have imagined in February that today we would see millions of Americans wearing face masks on routine trips to the grocery store? Who could have envisioned the sight of armed militants intimidating lawmakers in a state capitol?

These are troubled times, and it's a good moment to reflect on "the common good" and what a powerful message images can send about our commitment to it.

Government for the common good is a bedrock part of Catholic teaching with roots going back centuries.

The common good is the reason that the political authority exists, according to Catholic social teaching.

Here are some benefits of our commitment to the common good: free public libraries, public schools that serve all equally, fire departments that arrive despite your neighborhood's wealth, police, public transit, safe drinking water, access to voting rights. The list goes on and on.

We don't always agree on what best serves the common good. You may oppose a school bond if you think the project is frivolous or the budget hasn't been well thought out or the property taxes that will result are too much of a burden. Weighing the benefit to the common good, you vote against the bonds.

But if that bond issue passes, are you

free to decline to pay the increase in your property tax? Nope, because the electorate decided what was for the common good.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, quoting the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, defines the common good as "the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily" (No. 1906).

Some social conditions, like that bond issue, are decided by a vote of the people. Sometimes, as in the case of some restrictions surrounding behavior during COVID-19, our elected officials make the call. We have a right to disagree peacefully, but we also have the duty to consider what best serves the common good.

The *Catechism* says, "Public authorities are bound to respect the fundamental and inalienable rights of the human person" (No. 1907). That's why we Catholics endeavor to protect the lives of the unborn and work for just treatment of people at our border. It's why we decry injustice when the majority of people who have lost employment during this crisis are lower-paid workers, and when people of color contract COVID-19 out of proportion to their numbers in our population.

While the common good defends our individual rights, it constantly reminds us that we're in this together.

Images carry great weight. Intimidation by bringing weapons into a capitol building is wrong and sends a message about our nation: that we're lawless,

### REFLECTION

## A time to heal

By Mark Saucier

I miss church on Sundays.

I miss the sacrament, I miss the community, but I also miss how a celebrated Sunday separates our weeks and sheds its light in both directions.

One way I have been trying to compensate is with Scripture reading, particularly the gospels. This has reminded me of the special relationship that Jesus had with the sabbath.

A man of compassion and prayer, His attitude toward the seventh day was traditionally devout, but conditionally flexible.

We have instances of Jesus visiting a synagogue on the sabbath. However, in Luke, Jesus and His disciples were on a weekend walk through a field of grain. Some disciples plucked heads of grain, rubbed them between their palms, and ate the kernels.

"Harvesting on the sabbath!" the Pharisees cried.

"Hunger," responded the Lord.

The gospels identify seven sabbath miracles. Early in Mark, Jesus heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law, whom he found abed with fever. Jesus took her by the hand, lifted her, and her body cooled.

We are told that she immediately started serving them, though we assume that it was the Lord's concern and not the urging of a puckish Peter that prompted the cure.

In five of those sabbath signs, religious authorities questioned the legality of the act. A man born blind suddenly sees. A crippled woman walks. A withered hand is healed. People were restored to fullness, yet all that some could see was sabbath sin.

For 38 years, the man at the pool of Bethesda was chained to the ground, unable to pull himself into the healing waters. A stranger comes and says, "Take up your mat and walk." For the first time in four decades, he stands and begins to walk away. Then he is told, "It is the sabbath and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat."

These sabbath cures were the foundation of the case that led to Jesus's execution. So cold and petty, so desperate were His enemies that they twisted His actions on behalf of life into an argument for death.

I wonder about those Pharisees, if their hearts thawed, if a good for someone suffering ever triumphed over their own fear and loathing.

I wonder if those who were cured could ever forgive their spiteful neighbors or if they ever warmed to sabbath again.

I wonder how much of both is in me.

All I know is that observing the sabbath only takes a day. Making it holy takes all week.

See CALDAROLA, page 22

## Three Catholic grade schools in St. Louis archdiocese to close

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has announced the permanent closure of three Catholic elementary schools, due in part to results of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most Holy Trinity Catholic School and Academy in the city of St. Louis; Christ, Light of the Nations School in north St. Louis County; and St. Joseph School in the suburb of Manchester will close at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

The decision was made after conducting an analysis of the financial feasibility of the three schools following the impact of the COVID-19 health pandemic.

The archdiocese noted that while the situation at each school is unique, all three have received financial support from the archdiocese and its parishes, which have been affected by the suspension of public Mass and the loss of offertory and other contributions due to the pandemic.

A statement from the archdiocese noted that Catholic elementary schools represent much more than school buildings; “each is a community of families and organizational partners who are fully invested in the impact of a Catholic education.”

The three schools have already changed the educational trajectory of thousands of students and

alumni.

The archdiocese added that it and its community partners are fully committed to helping all affected families and students as they continue their educational journeys.

Parish leaders of the affected schools, in partnership with archdiocesan leadership, have been contacting families, staff and faculties with specifics regarding the support they will receive in making transitions to other faith-based schools within the archdiocese.

The archdiocese said it keeps all who are impacted by these difficult circumstances in prayer, and will continue to do everything possible to answer questions, address concerns and provide support for those who need it.

The pastors and school administrators likewise asked prayers for their students, teachers, staff and families.

“A sharp reminder to continue financially supporting your parish church and school, even though you aren’t physically throwing an envelope in a basket on Sunday,” a member of a parish in the Jefferson City diocese posted on social media in response to the news.

Father Thomas Pastorius, pastor of St. Joseph parish in Manchester, noted that the parish had been working toward returning its school to viability.

“Then, the coronavirus hit our parish hard, not

only spiritually but also financially,” he wrote to parishioners.

Sunday collections fell by about 35 percent while Masses were not being celebrated publicly, he stated.

At the same time, the parish also stopped receiving any income from its Early Childhood Learning Center.

The school’s alumni include two priests who served the Jefferson City diocese.

Father Alphonse V. Nicolas, ordained in 1904, was the longest-serving pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians parish in Frankenstein and oversaw the construction of its current church building in 1923. He later served as pastor in St. Thomas.

Father Norman J. Ahrens, a priest of this diocese, ordained in 1955, ministered in Jefferson City, Russellville, Glasgow, Freeburg, Montgomery City, Martinsburg and Wellsville.

In the 1960s, he served as diocesan youth director and master of ceremonies, and from 1963-69 as procurator for the diocese’s missions in Peru.

*The staff of the St. Louis Review, newspaper of the St. Louis archdiocese, contributed information to this article.*

## Pope marks ‘Laudato Si’ anniversary with call to prayer, action

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Commemorating the fifth anniversary of his encyclical on the environment, Pope Francis called on Christians to join in prayer and acts of care for the Earth and for the poor.

After reciting the “*Regina Coeli*” prayer May 24, the Pope encouraged Catholics to participate in the celebration of the “Special *Laudato Si* Anniversary Year,” a yearlong series of initiatives dedicated to putting the encyclical’s teaching into action.

“I invite all people of goodwill to join, to take care of our common home and of our most fragile brothers and sisters,” he said.

### ‘Laudato Si’ and questions of justice

May 24 marked the five-year anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical “*Laudato Si: On Care For Our Common Home*.”

Dan Lester, executive director of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, noted the tremendous impact this work has had on Catholic Charities, especially in placing natural disasters and response and recovery work in the context of Church teaching.

“Throughout ‘*Laudato Si*,’ Pope Francis reminds us that our brothers and sisters who are most vulnerable to climate change, and the natural disasters that are exacerbated by climate change, are the poor,” he stated.

Mr. Lester noted that he often returns to

one passage in particular: “A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor,” (no. 49).

“I think this really helps remind us that our work at Catholic Charities goes beyond just immediate and even long-term assistance, and really involves questions of justice as well,” he said.

“We had an affordable housing shortage in our community prior to the tornado — that’s a justice issue. We need to work to address these systemic issues just as much as we need to be there for the immediate response after a disaster.”

According to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the year-long celebration from May 24, 2020, to May 24, 2021, will emphasize “ecological conversion in action” through a series of events dedicated to environmental care, education and the economy.

The Pope also said that “it would be beautiful” for Catholics to recite the prayer dedicated to the anniversary celebration of the encyclical.

The prayer, which is available on the dicastery’s “*Laudato Si* Week” website, asks

God to “be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.”

“Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic. Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good,” the prayer states.

In a statement released by the Vatican press office May 16, the dicastery also detailed the rollout of a “seven-year journey toward integral ecol-

ogy” for families, dioceses, schools, universities, hospitals, businesses, farms and religious orders.

Among the events is the ecumenical “Season of Creation” initiative, which runs from the Sept. 1 Day of Prayer for Creation through the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4.

The initiative, explained at [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org) is “an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation” that will include an online prayer service, a webinar and conferences.

In a May 25 statement announcing the initiative, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development said that in light of the coronavirus pandemic, “the Season of Creation is especially relevant this year.”

The dicastery, it said, “is currently engaged in work to develop a comprehensive response to the pandemic, addressing both the immediate needs of those who suffer today and the long-term need to create more just societies.”

Throughout the anniversary year, Catholic dioceses, schools and institutions also will be encouraged to implement the use of clean renewable energy, as well as the sober use of resources and energy and updating educational curriculum “to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education.”

The dicastery also instituted the “*Laudato Si* Awards,” which will recognize individuals, educational institutions, dioceses and parishes for their efforts in encouraging and promoting the care of the environment.

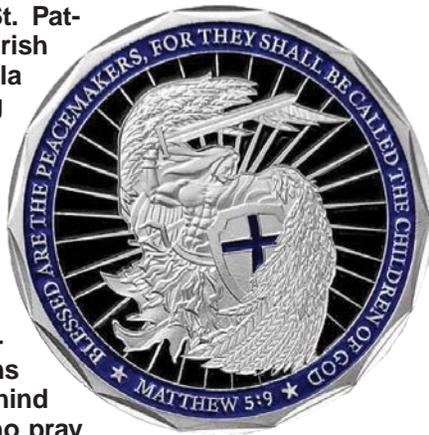


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# For all who protect and serve

Father Gregory Meystrik, pastor of St. Patrick parish in Rolla and Holy Cross parish in Cuba, blesses members of the Rolla Police Department on May 14, during National Law Enforcement Week. The priest also blessed the medallions that were to be given to police officers by a local organization known as Behind the Badge-Rolla. "While we know not everyone shares the same faith, we can all agree that our officers put their lives at risk every day," the organization stated. "We hope that these coins are a reminder of those who stand behind them — a reminder there are those who pray for their safe return home after each shift."



— Photos from the Behind the Badge-Rolla Facebook page

# Face to face can still be face to face.



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## Last full measure of devotion



Bruce and Melody Uhlmeier and Linda Boudreau help place U.S. flags at the burial places of each veteran in Shrine of St. Patrick Cemetery in St. Patrick. This is a time-honored parish tradition started long ago by Robert and Rita Kirchner and continues to this day.

— Photo from the St. Patrick, Missouri Facebook page



Parishioners join Monsignor David Cox, pastor of Mary Immaculate parish in Kirksville and the St. Rose of Lima mission in Novinger, for Mass on Memorial Day in Mary Immaculate Cemetery.

— Photo from the Mary Immaculate Catholic Church Facebook page

## A stitch and a moment in time



Members of the St. Margaret of Antioch Quilting Group from Osage Bend and Donald Stokes of Cathedral of St. Joseph parish in Jefferson City gather around the quilt they created to mark the 200th-anniversary of the founding of Cole County. The quilters and embroiderer displayed their handiwork at a brief ceremony May 20 to kick off the bicentennial observance at historical Lohman's Landing near the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City. Cole County Presiding Commissioner Samuel Bushman summoned the quilters in February 2019 to design and execute the history- and patriotism-themed quilt after seeing a similar work they created for a parish fund raiser. The county was formed on Nov. 16, 1820 — several months before Missouri became a state. Cathy Braun and the late Charlotte Braun designed the quilt, which they and fellow quilters spent hundreds of hours piecing together and hand quilting. Mr. Stokes embroidered the image of the Courthouse and the county seal. The bicentennial committee will present the quilt to the county commission for permanent display in the courthouse at the end of this year's festivities. "It's a masterpiece," stated Deacon Fred Schmitz, St. Margaret of Antioch parish life collaborator. The official kickoff will begin with tours at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 5, at the Marion Access, off Highway 179 in Marion. A gallery of photos of the quilt and ceremony will be posted online. Visit [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com) and click on the "Multimedia" tab. — Photo by Jay Nies

## FR. MCGIVNEY

From page 1

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. "He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church. Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s."

For canonization — the declaration that the candidate is a saint — a miracle must take place after the beatification ceremony; it is seen as God's final seal of approval on the Church's proclamation that the candidate is in heaven with God.

Fr. McGivney was born Aug. 12, 1852, the eldest of 13 children born to Patrick and Mary Lynch McGivney in Waterbury, Connecticut. Emigrating from separate towns in Ireland's County Cavan, the couple met and married in the United States. Only seven of their children lived past childhood.

Young Michael attended school in Waterbury's working-class neighborhood, but he left school at 13 to work in the spoon-making department of a brass factory.

At 16, he left the factory to begin seminary studies at the French-run College of St. Hyacinthe in Quebec. He also studied at Our Lady of Angels Seminary, attached to Niagara Uni-

versity in Niagara Falls, New York, and at the Jesuit-run St. Mary's College in Montreal.

He went home to Waterbury when his father died in 1873 and stayed there for a time out of concern for his family and because he lacked funds. At the request of Hartford's bishop, he enrolled in St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, where he completed his priestly studies.

In 1877, he was ordained in Baltimore by Archbishop James Gibbons for the then-Diocese of Hartford. A few days after his ordination, he said his first Mass in the presence of his widowed mother at Immaculate Conception Church in Waterbury.

Fr. McGivney served as an assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish in New Haven, 1877-1884.

He founded the Knights of Columbus with a small group of Catholic laymen, in order to strengthen religious faith and to help families overwhelmed by the illness or death of their breadwinner.

In 1884, he was named pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, a factory town about 10 miles from Waterbury.

He fell ill during an influenza epidemic and died Aug. 14, 1890, probably from complications of pneumonia and tuberculosis.

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# Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

Issue II, May 2020

## Five years of *Laudato Si'*: Our Catholic Connection to Conservation



Calvary Cemetery Prairie in the Archdiocese of St. Louis  
Photo by Lisa Johnston, St. Louis Review

In June, we celebrate the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. Pope Francis issued the encyclical in 2015, calling upon all of humanity to be better caretakers of our common home. "*Laudato si', mi' Signore*" – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs."

In the five years since the release of this document, Catholics and others around the world have worked together to better care for creation. This has been done in many ways, and on scales large and small. Care for creation, our communities, and each other is an outward expression of our recognition of the gift the earth is to us, and of the dignity of each human person as a child of God. When we work to preserve our environment and to serve one another, we work for the benefit of something greater than ourselves.

In this issue of *Messenger*, we take a look at the many ways different organizations are working to care for our common home. One such organization is the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), whose headquarters are located in Jefferson City, but whose efforts spread to every corner of our state. Since 1936, the department has worked with landowners and citizens to safeguard our state's natural habitats and the creatures that live within them. Thanks to those cooperative relationships, the state is a leader in conservation efforts, and has created hundreds of conservation areas—nature centers, shooting ranges, parks and private land programs—across Missouri. To share more about this organization's efforts, we sat down with MDC Deputy Director Aaron Jeffries for a Q&A.

During our chat, Jeffries said that one way Catholic organizations can answer the call of *Laudato Si'* is to use school and church grounds as a focal point and location for conservation efforts and education. Across all four dioceses, Missouri Catholic parishes and schools have answered this call, many of them collaborating with MDC to make use of church and school grounds for such efforts. We've highlighted one such program from each diocese in the pages of this *Messenger*. Keep reading to find inspiration on how you can care for our common home!

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### Timeline: The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)

*A few major achievements of the MDC since its formation*

**1936** — Missouri voters approved a state constitutional amendment creating the Conservation Commission. This new agency included a Forestry Division, an innovative idea at the time.

**1938** — The first issue of MDC's nature magazine *Missouri Conservationist* (which is still in wide circulation in the state today) was published

**1976** — Missouri voters passed a constitutional amendment that provides a 1/8 of 1 percent sales tax that funds the Missouri Department of Conservation

**2014** — MDC launches conservation app for hunters, anglers, and trappers

**2020** — MDC launches "Nature Boost" podcast to better connect with Missourians

#### MDC Deputy Director Aaron Jeffries on MDC's most notable accomplishments

*I would say the formation of the commission, but also the sales tax. The restoration of deer, turkey, [and] bear. Some of the hatchery programs that we have with hellbenders [salamanders] and paddlefish are research projects that have been extremely beneficial. Most important is the citizen interest and support in conservation. Nine out of ten Missourians tell us that they have an interest in fish, forests, and wildlife. Seventy-six percent say they trust the department. And in today's political climate that's a pretty darn good number.*

*With conservation, you're not planning year to year, you're planning 10 to 50 years down the road. And so in 1976, voters passed the conservation sales tax, which is the 1/8th of 1% sales and use tax. So that provided us with a steady funding stream that makes up 60% of the agency's revenue... we have the dedicated funding, which has led to a variety of restoration projects, research, our nature centers, shooting ranges, private land programs, educational programs; the list goes on and on.*

# Q&A

with MDC Deputy Director Aaron Jeffries

Missouri Department of Conservation Deputy Director Aaron Jeffries sat down with us to share information about the history of the MDC, and how Missourians can get involved in the future of the department.

## Would you describe Missouri as a leader in conservation efforts?

Definitely a leader, especially when you look at the research and some of the hatchery innovations; most recently we were one of the first ones to breed hellbenders in captivity, [and] to help with the restoration, we came up with how to spawn paddlefish—that had never been done before. A lot of our research is state of the art; other states look to us for their research needs and what they should be doing in their states. We have the only conservation department in the nation that has a commission with a constitutional responsibility. And we're only one of three that have a dedicated tax for conservation purposes. I travel to other states and folks are jealous of what we have, what we're able to do. You look at other states that may only have one or two staffed shooting ranges and have very few public land areas for people to access. They have no nature centers. We have 15 nature centers here in the state, so that is pretty special.

**What changes did Missouri see after MDC was put into place?** Prior to 1936, the department was a political agency. Deer numbers and turkey numbers were at all time lows, forests had been completely cut over, the Ozarks were a mess, and the streams in north Missouri had erosion problems. So this is where the Conservation Federation comes in. They had a meeting up in Columbia, worked to put a ballot initiative together, and it passed overwhelmingly. That formed the Conservation Commission in 1937. That constitutional amendment gave the commission constitutional authority to manage fish, forests and wildlife here in the state of Missouri. So from the 30s through 60s, the restoration of deer and turkey and other wildlife species started. We had our first deer season in 1946. A few hundred deer were harvested by hunters, and now today a million deer hunters are harvesting 280-300 thousand deer each year.

**What challenges does MDC face today?** You have a society as a whole that is disconnected from nature. Some of us are two to three generations removed from being on a farm. A recent survey indicated more than half the people aren't getting outside at any time during the year to enjoy nature. So you think about the health perspective, the impact on the economy—outdoor recreation has a 12 billion dollar impact on our state's economy, deer hunting has a billion dollar impact. Having healthy fish, forests, and wildlife means we have healthy people and we have a healthy economy. Some of the big challenges we have now are obviously invasive species, such as feral hogs, which are being introduced to the state by people who want to hunt them. Invasive plants and diseases create challenges; Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is one that we've found here that we're spending a lot of staff time and resources to control. Other states have done nothing to control CWD and they have a prevalence rate of over 50%, which is starting to have a detriment to their deer herds, and that's what we're trying to stop. We're an 80+ year-old agency, [we're trying to maintain] infrastructure, doing an inventory of what we have and making sure we're taking care of what we have across the state. [We're also] trying to connect with a very diverse society. How do we reach out to communities that we haven't before? How can we show them that conservation is important to them?

**How can the average Missourian become an advocate for conservation?** From a private land side, you can do habitat work on your own property. It could be as simple as just doing stuff in your own backyard. To take that up a step or two, we encourage folks to volunteer at our nature centers, or to be a hunter-ed instructor, master naturalist, part of a stream team, there's a variety of ways [to be involved]. We have

an army of volunteers, probably 25-30 thousand folks. You can be an advocate for conservation, too; join the conservation federation, get the *Conservationist* magazine, get the *Xplor* magazine for kids.

**What can the church do to help conservation in Missouri?** I think the educational programs and some of the pollinator plots would be interesting... we have some grant programs for establishing pollinator plots for butterflies and... hummingbirds. If you've got a vacant area on the grounds that's being mowed, why not consider putting in a pollinator plot? And also doing some conservation-friendly practices around the church itself. Nearly all of our Catholic churches have a school; the MDC Discover Nature Schools program has educational units for teachers, offers field trips and archery programs in the schools which is extremely popular within the diocese [of Jefferson City].



To learn more about the Missouri Department of Conservation or to apply for one of the many grant programs, please visit [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov).



## Care for our common home: How are Missouri dioceses showing care for creation?

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis urges the church and her people to commit to caring for our common home. Across the globe, Catholic churches are responding in incredible ways—big and small. Here are just a few examples of how Catholic churches and schools are making environmental efforts in our home state.



### Archdiocese of St. Louis: Calvary Cemetery prairie restoration

The restoration of the last prairie remnant in the city of St. Louis was underway well before Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si'*. In 2005, St. Louis Archdiocese's Calvary Cemetery partnered with MDC to bring back to life this piece of nature's history. The prairie stretches on for 24 acres, blooming with native plants and grasses. Its appearance closely mirrors what the first European settlers would have seen as they crossed through the Midwest. The project began when a type of grass — Big bluestem, a hybrid of Little bluestem and Indiangrass — that hadn't been seen naturally occurring in the metro area for decades was discovered on the property. In the years since, the prairie has been ridden of invasive species, a process that took nearly five years. Like any natural prairie, the land is home to a number of species; bees, deer, and fox are often spotted roaming the acreage.

*Left: Erin Shank, an Urban Wildlife Biologist for MDC stands in the Calvary Cemetery prairie. Photo by Lisa Johnston, St. Louis Review*

### Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph: St. James Parish communal garden

Nearly a decade ago, parishioners at St. James parish in Kansas City, Mo., sewed the first seeds in their communal garden. Today, the garden has grown in size and variety, allowing parish members to reap the fresh benefits of each season's crop: in the Spring, lettuce, kale, onions and garlic. Summer brings tomatoes, squash, and more. After each Sunday Mass, produce is available to parishioners in the back of the church, free of charge. The vibrant immigrant population who make up this parish have helped diversify the garden by planting various herbs and produce, such as Taro, which usually grows in warm, tropical climates. Coordinators Toni and Sarah say this project has been an enormous benefit to their parish in many ways, maybe most especially, connecting young parishioners with nature and the food system.

*Right: A group of St. James parishioners who volunteer their time to tend the garden pose for a photo in front of the raised beds. Photo courtesy of St. James Parish*



### Diocese of Jefferson City: Sacred Heart Solar Panel Array

Through a private donation from parishioners Steve and Karen Ellebract, construction began on a solar panel field at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia in the Spring of 2019. The entire project is funded by this donation alongside grant money received by the school. The solar field provides energy for the school, and also an added education piece for students, as they learn about how the panels function. According to a *Catholic Missourian* article, Sacred Heart School will save up to \$15,000 each year on electricity costs, and as an added bonus, the array provides shaded parking in one of the school's lots. The solar array has been set up on a net meter basis with Kansas City Power and Light (KCP&L), which provides electric service in Sedalia. When the energy provided by the panels is more than what the school needs, the power flows back into the KCP&L power grid, for which the school then receives credit. Other Catholic institutions, such as Rockhurst University in Kansas City, have also implemented the use of solar panels to source energy.



*Above: The solar panel array at Sacred Heart school in Sedalia provides energy and shade. Photo by Liz Suter-Van Leer, Catholic Missourian*

### Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau: Butterfly Garden at St. Mary's School in Joplin

At St. Mary's Catholic School in Joplin, a butterfly garden is blooming. Originally planted in 2011, the garden, along with the school, was destroyed in the 2011 Joplin tornado. After several years of rebuilding, the garden, too, had a rebirth. Teacher Debi Staton spearheaded the project, which is funded by a grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Students at the school planted the garden and continue to help tend it. Native plants, such as Milkweed and Wild Iris, bloom in the spring and fall, giving the students more than one chance to appreciate the beauty, and the opportunity to get in touch with nature. Ms. Staton says she's hopeful that this project will help students connect with nature, and especially help the second graders, who study metamorphosis of butterflies as part of their curriculum. Through the Missouri Department of Conservation grant, the school was partnered with an education coordinator to guide planting and growing, making the project easy to tackle. Her advice to schools looking to plant a butterfly garden? Don't be afraid—just dive right in.



*A monarch butterfly feeds in the St. Mary's school butterfly garden. Fourth grade teacher Debi Staton worked with MDC to establish this garden to provide educational opportunities to students at her school, and to use the land to benefit Missouri's environment.*

*Photo by Debi Staton*

### Catholic Climate Covenant

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) helped form Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC) in 2006. Inspired by the USCCB's 2001 statement on climate change, and supported by 18 national partners (which include the USCCB, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, the Catholic Health Association, congregations of religious men and women, and other national organizations), Catholic Climate Covenant helps US Catholics respond to the Church's call to care for creation and care for the poor, led by church teaching on creation, ecology, and the poor.

#### St. Francis Pledge

Upon the release of *Laudato Si'*, CCC released the St. Francis Pledge as a way for Catholics to commit to caring for creation and the poor. Five years later, they call for a recommitment to the pledge.

"I pledge to pray, live, and advocate *Laudato Si'*"

*Take the St. Francis/Laudato Si' Pledge to mark the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. By taking the pledge, you (re)commit to living out the vision of the encyclical and our Catholic faith through prayer, concrete action, and advocacy.*

Visit Catholic Climate Covenant online at [catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://catholicclimatecovenant.org) to learn more about their efforts and take the pledge for yourself today!

#### MDC Discover Nature Teacher Portal

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) provides educational resources for schools and other organization on its website through the Discover Nature Schools (DNS) program, a conservation science education program created with the input from teachers and education consultants.

Designed for pre-K through high school students, DNS emphasizes hands-on learning, teaches problem-solving, and provides authentic and local contexts for learning. Through DNS, students will learn about Missouri's native plants, animals, and habitats.

Key elements of the program include the following:

- full-color, illustrated student book
- student science notebook
- comprehensive teacher guides with outdoor activities and lesson plans
- student-centered, collaborative, and experiential learning approach
- free professional development and support from MDC Education Consultants
- grants for field trips and exploration equipment

Though we hope students will be able to return to in-person classrooms in the fall, this portal provides online resources for teachers to use for both in-person and virtual classrooms. Find these resources at [nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/teacher-portal](http://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/teacher-portal).

# MOCAN

The Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network



### Interested in learning more about policy issues from a Catholic perspective? Join the Missouri Catholic Advocacy Network! (MOCAN)

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

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

## RECOVERY

From page 1

have lasting effects on the people who are most vulnerable.

“The people who are barely living paycheck-to-paycheck — they don’t have the means or the resources to recover,” said Mrs. Marlow. “That’s why the work we do with them is so important.”

### A symphony of caring

Catholic Charities joined other agencies in providing immediate and intermediate disaster response to the tornado and concurrent flooding.

CCCNMO personnel joined secular and faith-based agencies and organizations in connecting with survivors, providing immediate financial assistance and determining long-term needs.

“We were instrumental in helping to develop and implement both short- and long-term recovery committees, to ensure that the long process of recovery was organized and efficient,” stated Cristal Backer, CCCNMO’s new director of development and outreach.

“We took on the challenge of managing the donated goods warehouse and continue to deliver items to survivors in need,” she said.

Five hundred fifty-nine households made up of more than 1,600 individuals have received disaster services from Catholic Charities in the past year.

The agency has provided more than \$61,000 in direct aid to disaster survivors.

Catholic Charities staff members have devoted over 5,700 hours of direct service time to disaster response and recovery.

“We certainly have not done this alone,” Mr. Lester pointed out. “We are grateful to Catholic Charities USA, the United Way of Central Missouri, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and all of our individual donors who make this work possible.”

Catholic Charities stepped up to the role in which it specializes: long-term case management for people who are struggling to recover from the disasters.

More than 100 families have received long-term disaster case management services, with more than 40 active cases still enrolled at the one-year mark.

Many of the clients are people “whose needs extend beyond just a damaged home or a lost job, and include homelessness, mental illness, substance-use and extreme poverty,” said Mrs. Backer.

“They might come because they’ve been impacted by a disaster and their home has been destroyed,” said Mrs. Marlow. “But maybe they also need food or were already behind on their bills before the disaster.

Maybe they lost their job. We want to help with that.”

### Road to recovery

People affected by the tornado are still signing up for long-term case management.

“We are providing financial assistance, help with other needs, referring to other sources of assistance, and drawing upon other community resources to

help,” said Mrs. Marlow.

Clients meet with a case manager to assess their immediate needs and develop a long-term recovery plan.

“We do our best to help,” said Mrs. Marlow. “I can’t guarantee that we’ll be able to solve all of their problems, but we will be able to help.”

Catholic Charities is committed to providing a “step up,” rather just a handout.

“Maybe you’ve lost your home and all of your household furniture,” she said. “Maybe you need help finding a job to pay rent or put down a deposit.

“Maybe you have past debt that you need help reducing, or you need help with budgeting from our housing and financial

counselor,” she stated. “Maybe you qualify for other assistance such as food stamps or help from a local food pantry.

“Maybe you’re feeling some post-traumatic stress,” she said. “We can get you connected for counseling. And maybe we can help you be more prepared for another disaster.”

The goal is to help individuals, regardless of their

as well as COVID relief efforts.

The caravan traveled through parts of Jefferson City that were devastated by the tornado, as well as locations where first responders, relief organizations and businesses have played a key role in the response, recovery and rebuilding.

People standing at a proper distance to help avoid the spread of COVID-19 greeted the first responders and other personnel as they passed by.

The Care-A-Van concluded at one of four sites where Habitat for Humanity is building a new home in place of one that was devastated by the tornado.

It was a celebration of hope, gratitude and renewed dedication.

“We are so proud of the caring community we live in,” stated Ann Bax, president and CPO of United Way of Central Missouri. “But there is still work to be done, and we understand that disaster survivors are still healing.”

### Faith, hope and charity

Mrs. Marlow said God continues to make Himself known through the people affected by the trifecta of disasters and through the help they have been able to receive.

“I pray each day and night for the patience and the wisdom to help the people who are most in need,” she stated.

She said people can help with the ongoing recovery by donating money and time to Catholic Charities and other local service agencies, as well as advocating for long-term needs such as affordable housing and public transit.

“The work of Restoring Hope is far from over,” Mrs. Backer noted, “but we have made tremendous strides in the past year. Catholic Charities is here for our community for the long haul, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our neighbors in need.”

*To support the disaster relief efforts of Catholic Charities, checks may be mailed to P.O. Box 104626, Jefferson City, MO 65110, or donate online at [cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/givel](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/givel).*

## Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri

*Providing Care ... Creating Hope*

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

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

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

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

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

He who taught us to “love one another, as I have loved you”  
took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows  
to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your 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.

# Msgr. Higley speaks of friendship with Jesus, power of prayer, on what would have been Pilgrimage Day in Starkenburg

By Jay Nies

Monsignor Gregory L. Higley reminded the congregation that “Jesus’s farewell message to the Apostles 2,000 years ago was, ‘I’ll never leave you orphaned. I’ll always be with you, because I am your best friend.’”

“And that’s all He asks of us in return: to be a true friend to Him.”

Msgr. Higley wore a face-mask while offering Mass and preaching the homily in the Romanesque chapel of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg May 17.

About 30 people, keeping proper social distance, attended.

“This, of course, would ordinarily be the day of Maifest in Hermann and of our May Pilgrimage to this shrine,” he noted. “Much of the activities had to be postponed until next year, but I wanted to have Mass if at all possible.”

## “Sum total of the Gospel”

Msgr. Higley noted that for the past several weeks, the Gospel readings had come from the 12th, 13th and 14th chapters of the Gospel Ac-

ording to St. John.

“This is Jesus’s last discourse, His final farewell message,” said Msgr. Higley. “Now, His Apostles don’t know that it’s His farewell message ... but He knows it. And that’s why He has to cover a lot of ground.”

The priest asserted that those three chapters present a compact summary of all of Jesus’s teaching.

“That’s the sum total of the Gospel,” he said. “After that, Jesus and the apostles go to the Kindron Valley, which of course, is represented here on the shrine grounds down below where the creek is.

“And He is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, depicted there at our Mount Olivet Grotto,” he added.

## Best friend

Through His last discourse, Jesus wants His apostles and those they would minister to, to see God not as a punitive judge but a loving Father.

“And it’s not just meant to be a metaphor,” said Msgr. Higley. “It’s a true relationship.”



**Monsignor Gregory L. Higley, pastor of St. George parish in Hermann and Church of the Risen Savior parish in Rhineland, elevates the Most Blessed Sacrament during Mass on May 17 in the chapel of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg. The Spring Pilgrimage to the shrine had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

— Photo by Jay Nies

Jesus also speaks of the Holy Spirit — the Paraclete, the Counselor, the Advocate.

“The Holy Spirit is our helper,” he said.

And Jesus, the Savior and Redeemer, presents Himself as a friend.

He deals honestly but lovingly with His people. He always has their best interest in

mind.

That friendship continues to deepen and grow, even when the friends don’t see each other every day.

“That’s a true friend,” Msgr. Higley stated. “That’s the relationship Jesus wants to have with us.

“He is a true friend, in fact He is our best friend,” he said.

“Jesus is a true friend that we don’t always see but we know He’s here.

“And that’s why we come here as Catholics, to enter into communion with our best friend,” he said.

The calling of Catholic Christians is to be a best friend back to Jesus, which requires spending time with Him in prayer.

“And not just when we come here for worship,” said Msgr. Higley, “but especially through the other six days of the week.”

## “Ask your mother”

Msgr. Higley acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic is “downright scary.”

“This microscopic virus is wreaking havoc upon every aspect of our daily activities,” he said.

He urged everyone to spend what would have been Pilgrimage Day calling upon the Blessed Mother to intercede before the throne of her Son, on behalf of all of God’s people.

“We do this time and time again for family members who ask for prayers or whom we know need our prayers,” the priest stated. “We do this all the time when situations in our lives plague us with worry and anxiety, so we give them up to our Blessed Mother.”

Having herself experienced unfathomable suffering in her role as “Our Lady of Sorrows,” especially in witnessing her Son’s passion and death, Mary understands other people’s fears, worries, anxieties and sorrows.

“That is why we turn to her,” said Msgr. Higley. “That is why her shrine in Starkenburg is such a gift to our community and to every person that makes a visit here.”

He encouraged everyone to pray a Rosary “for the victims of COVID-19, the healthcare professionals providing care, the millions of people who are out of work, the millions who have had to close up their businesses, the millions of children unable to



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## ST. THOMAS

From page 5

convent, and school, all still in use today.

Over the years, there were additions to the school to add more classrooms and a gymnasium.

### Moving mountains

The parish's spirit of community was highlighted by Bishop McKnight during the celebration of the Eucharist for the sesquicentennial.

"A parish is not a church building, but primarily the people of its territory who are living stones that form a Temple of the Holy Spirit," he said. "It is your activity as members of the parish, the raising of families, the education and moral formation of our youth."

St. Thomas the Apostle School and the parish's School of Religion are a testament to that.

The early settlers started the tradition of a Catholic school by constructing a one-room, log schoolhouse in 1874.

Members of the School Sis-

ters of Notre Dame (SSND) congregation staffed the school for a total of 74 years.

A young Sister DeLellis Brucker SSND came to teach in 1944 and inspired some of her young students to enter the religious life.

She left another interesting legacy. As money was scarce due to World War II, Sr. DeLellis showed students how to take brown paper from feed sacks to make paper mountains.

These were used as decorations with the Nativity crib in church at Christmas.

The students also brought mountains home to put under their Christmas trees.

The mountain tradition continues to this day to be a part of Christmas adornment in the church and in nearby homes.

### Good set of pipes

Another legacy in St. Thomas church is the pipe organ, installed in 1897 in the loft of

the church.

It was constructed by J.G. Pfeffer & Sons Company of St. Louis, a prominent organ builder.

The instrument made the journey to St. Thomas on a steam-powered paddleboat.

After decades of use, the original organ slipped into the background of the parish.

During the pastorate of Fr. Jeremy Secrist, a concerted effort was made to rehabilitate the organ.

An anonymous benefactor made a generous bequest specifically for that purpose.

Parishioners and the larger community gave additional money and the organ was restored to its earlier grandeur.

According to the sesquicentennial book, the "organ is one of those rare examples of 19th century organ building in the Midwest. Fewer than 50 are known to exist anywhere."

The organ with its 450 pipes was relatively unscathed in the



1948 tornado.

### Out on mission

Father Leonard Mukiibi, current administrator of St. Thomas parish, spoke in his homily at the sesquicentennial about "celebrating our history ... the strength and determination of the settlers to start a life in a new world."

He asked parishioners to be missionaries in their homes and communities encouraging vocations, and "then go out into the world to be missionaries of the Word of God."

St. Thomas parish fostered and nurtured 21 women religious vocations, including Sister Anne Boessen SSND, who lives in Wardsville.

Three priestly vocations include: Monsignor Bernard

Boessen, Father Bernard Luebbing, and Monsignor Felix Sommerhauser, all deceased.

St. Thomas parish has a number of activities that promote a spirit of community.

The St. Ann's Sewing Circle's members donate hours of time and talent to quilting for the benefit of the parish.

The vibrant Knights of Columbus Council 2149 is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

A Catholic Youth Organization, an active 4-H Club and a number of athletic events for all ages keep the young people engaged in the parish.

Mrs. Lueckenhoff said "people see the St. Thomas parish as a center of mercy and charity," highlighted by food drives, collections for Birthright, the Pregnancy Help Center, Vitae Foundation and others.

Parishioners talk about visiting those who are elderly, infirm and homebound, bringing comfort and support and offering prayers for them.

The legacy of the early immigrants and those who followed ensures that acts of kindness will continue for years to come in St. Thomas.

*Mrs. Crane, a member of St. Thomas the Apostle parish, is a former associate editor of The Catholic Missourian.*

## PILGRIM

From page 4

than on the tongue. Kindly, he demonstrated how to hold our hands, as apparently many people in that parish normally receive on the tongue.

It was a good reminder for me to cradle one hand in the other and wait for the priest to place Jesus in my palm.

Through the entire Mass, I couldn't stop breaking into a smile, because I was so happy to be there.

Tears gathered in my eyes at the time of consecration, knowing that I soon would receive my Lord Whom I love and adore.

While I have grown to appreciate receiving a Communion of Desire, Catholic Christianity is a physical religion that unites us with Jesus.

He humbly becomes our food so that we may become part of Him as He becomes part of us.

At each Mass, Christ is truly present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the representation of His redemptive



sacrifice on the cross.

The Sacred Body and Precious Blood are not symbols hiding under the appearance of bread and wine. Rather, during Mass, Jesus' redemptive sacrifice on the cross transcends time and space.

He becomes present sacramentally on the altar. All time unites with the one unique and sufficient moment of Christ's sacrifice, as it was at the first Mass, the Last Supper.

As we pray and receive Him, all the angels and saints rejoice there with us.

Also, at each Mass, we become united with every person participating in any Mass anywhere and with all Masses ever.

We receive the actual Body and Blood Jesus sacrificed for our salvation, so kindly hidden in the outer appearance of bread (and wine, when the Precious Blood is shared with those receiving Holy Communion).

This incredible miracle happens at Mass, because God longs to be with us and for us to be with Him.

The intimacy of receiving the Eucharistic Lord is something I hope I never take for granted again.

Truly, God generously blessed me with the timing of my trip to allow me to be present at the Mass at Immaculate Conception.

I pray that you, too, will be able to join this eternal celebration very soon.



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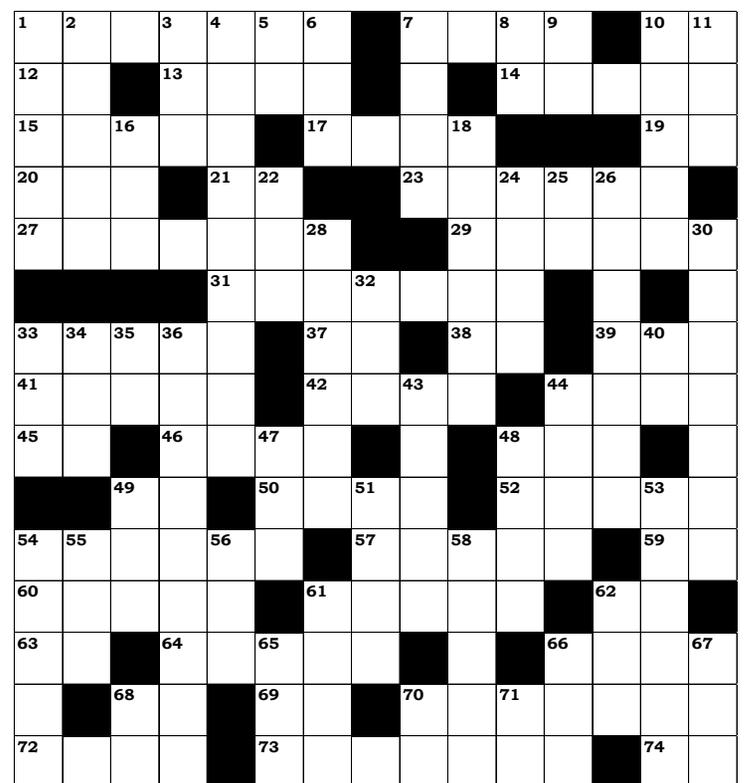
1. The Mo. Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MOAFS) is a scientific & professional org. dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and restoration of \_\_\_\_ resources in Mo.
7. Mo. was terribly divided leading up to the Civil War. In the election of 1860, there were \_\_\_\_ candidates for U.S. President. Mo. was the only State in the union where each of these candidates got at least 10% of the popular vote.
10. Short for the parishes in Owensville and St. James.
12. Abbr. for the 8th book of the Bible.
13. \_\_\_\_ Soda Co. was founded in 1916 in St. Louis. Though it has a manufacturing facility in Sikeston, Mo., it formerly had bottling plants in N. Carolina, Louisiana, Indiana, & Cincinnati, OH. It is now made and primarily distributed in the St. Louis area and in some parts of Canada.
14. Paralysis, esp. with involuntary tremors.
15. He and his brother Aaron led the chosen people out of Egypt to the promised land.
17. Ayatollah Khomeini's land.
19. \_\_\_\_ and behold!
20. Letters in an airport perhaps.
21. "Children, have you caught anything \_\_\_\_ eat?" (John 21:5)
23. MOAFS has provided specialized fishing \_\_\_\_ to disabled anglers for nearly 30 years.
27. MOAFS helped fight the \_\_\_\_ of the Meramec River.
29. "Knowledge is knowing a \_\_\_\_ is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad," —Miles Kington.
31. Ariel, the Little \_\_\_\_.
33. This State is the source of

37. Original 12-step program.
38. Contraction for have (e.g., "we have" becomes "we \_\_\_\_").
39. I didn't have time to think. It was just a \_\_\_\_ reaction.
41. Between Mo. and Illinois, there are \_\_\_\_ locks and dams on the Mississippi River. All are upriver from St. Louis.
42. "Israel is a luxuriant \_\_\_\_ whose fruit matches its growth," (Hosea 10:1).
44. A denizen of the Beetle Bailey comic strip.
45. 24th State to join the Union.
46. Biblical city often paired with Sidon (Matthew 11:22).
48. A classic ballet dance step.
49. *Adoro* \_\_\_\_ *devote*...
50. Odor in Madrid.
52. "Hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath \_\_\_\_ his ox . . . and lead it out for watering?" (Luke 13:15)
54. The Bellerive Country Club golf \_\_\_\_ in St. Louis county hosted the 1965 U.S. Open and the 1992 and 2018 PGA championships and is considered well positioned to become a major venue.
57. A San Diego baseball player.
59. No in Hebrew.
60. Cars.
61. Passion or enthusiasm.
62. Winnebago, for ex.
63. Ivy league Yale Univ. is located in New Haven in this State (abbr.).
64. MOAFS's longest running fishing \_\_\_\_ has been held in Rolla for 18 yrs. with nearly 100 participants last year.
66. The smallest \_\_\_\_ in the army is the squad consisting of 7-14 soldiers led by a sergeant.
68. Jupiter moon.
69. "Peace \_\_\_\_ with you," (John 20:19).
70. One showing no appreciation or gratitude.
72. A quartz-like mineral usually with dark and light bands of various colors, though solid black is the favorite color as a gemstone. For many decades, attempts were made to mine this mineral in Mo. but its texture and color here were not consistent enough to make it commercially successful.
73. MOAFS helps educate

- Missourians about \_\_\_\_ hand-fishing (catfish noodling) due to potential harm to fisheries and for noodler safety and because of accessories left in the water. For ex., the Mo. Dept. of Conser. one time just from Truman Lake pulled out 140 left-behind noodling containers (including specifically modified water-heaters, tractor tires and plastic barrels).
74. 14th letter of the alphabet.

### DOWN

1. Graduating from Columbia's Hickman High Sch. in 1974, Marcella Ng would become in 1979 the first African-Am. woman to become a pilot in the U.S. \_\_\_\_ forces. "When I started praying, that's when my career and life began to change for the better."
2. The salespeople were stressed at the high \_\_\_\_ of sales they were required to fill each week.
3. "\_\_\_\_ Maria" (Hail Mary), was composed by Franz Schubert in 1825, part of his Opus 52. As one of his most popular compositions, it has been, and continues to be, sung by many different singers.
4. For more than half a century the Mo. Chap. of Am. Fisheries Soc. has provided expert \_\_\_\_ at the capitol and provided scientific position papers and information to the public about our State's water resources.
5. "Lord, you are the just one who was and who \_\_\_\_," (Revelations 16:5).
6. Forensic TV series.
7. Neither Christopher Columbus or any educated person of the 1400's believed the earth was \_\_\_\_.
8. My favorite cake is pineapple \_\_\_\_side down cake.
9. Letters for rheumatoid arthritis, a chronic inflammatory disorder.
10. A small island.
11. A Catholic youth group.
16. American uncle.
18. MOAFS helps educate Missourians about threats posed by non-\_\_\_\_ fish



- and plant species in our rivers, lakes, ponds and streams.
22. The Church has 4 distinctive characteristics: it is \_\_\_\_, holy, catholic and apostolic (see *Catechism of Cath. Ch.* #811 or see Nicene Creed).
24. Morse, for ex.
25. Abbr. for kilometer.
26. 50 yrs. ago, MOAFS co-sponsored the first Mo. Natural Resource Conf., which is now the \_\_\_\_ such annual gathering in Mo.
28. MOAFS promotes better sand and \_\_\_\_ removal practices along Mo.'s streams.
30. The month of the Rosary.
32. \_\_\_\_ Tai, a rum based cocktail.
33. Suffix for alcohol or sex.
34. \_\_\_\_ *gratias*.
35. Standard medical abbr. for atrioventricular, referring to the upper and lower chambers of the heart.
36. As opposed to orthodox.
40. Abraham's ancestral homeland.
43. Letters for North American Aerospace Defense Command, the U.S./Canada defense org. founded in 1958 for air protection for all of North Am. Headquartered near the Cheyenne Mountain Complex near Colo. Springs, CO.
44. \_\_\_\_ Grey (1872-1939), author of 90 novels idealizing the old West. His stories were adapted into 112 films and a TV series.
47. Sturgeon eggs.
48. Sound of a contented cat.
49. Boy pharaoh who ruled for 9 yrs. (d. 1325 BC); discovery of his intact tomb in 1922 with 5,000 artifacts renewed worldwide interest in ancient Egypt.
51. With a seating capacity of 4,400, the weekly broadcast of the "Grand Ole \_\_\_\_" in Nashville, is considered the largest broadcasting studio in the world.
53. "Rather, when you hold a banquet, \_\_\_\_ the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind..." (Luke 14:13).
54. The bean from whence comes ... CHOCOLATE!
55. An ump's call.
56. Dir. from St. Jude Thaddeus parish in Mokane to Holy Cross parish in Cuba.
58. "\_\_\_\_ what you say you are going to do is a very attractive quality," —Alissa Finerman, *Positively Positive*.
61. Cain murdered him.
62. Genetic transporter.
65. In baseball, a hitter's stat.
66. Letters for Uniform Resource Locator (i.e., a web address).
67. "...seven, eight — lay them straight; nine, \_\_\_\_ — a big fat hen," —nursery rhyme.
68. Generation \_\_\_\_; a term coined by author Tim Elmore in his book by the same name, which refers to Millennials.
70. Ending for bog or cut.
71. Peachtree State (abbr.).

## FR. QUINN

From page 7

weekends for young people.

“The renewal movements in the Church have been very important to me,” he said. “It’s so amazing to see people in our Church growing in faith, getting involved and seeking healing and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

### Living the dream

Fr. Quinn had always dreamed of ministering to college students at the Catholic Newman Center in Columbia.

“And guess what! That’s exactly what I got to do!” he said.

He went there as a chaplain and campus minister in 1977. Three years later, he was appointed pastor of what became St. Thomas More Newman Center parish.

“That was off-the-wall wonderful!” he said. “I just can’t believe how much of a life-giving experience working with college students was!

“The Mass was so creative, so prayerful, so alive!” he said.

He served as part of a ministry team consisting of priests, a sister, lay adults and college students.

He helped establish the St. Francis Catholic Worker community, including the St. Francis House for men and the Lois Bryant House for women and children without a home.

For 14 years, he and a Protestant minister served as chaplains of the Mizzou Tigers football team.

“To go to the games and minister to the players — that was an absolute dream!” he said.

### Resurrection

In 1998, Fr. Quinn went from living his dream to thinking he was going to die — when Bishop John R. Gaydos, now retired, appointed him pastor of Holy Family parish in Hannibal.

“I remember just thinking, ‘God, where are You in all of this?’” he said.

“And of course, God always has a much better plan that I do — thank You Jesus!” Fr. Quinn exclaimed. “It wound up being absolutely fantastic here.”

The move brought him much closer to his family.

And while he had gotten to

be friends with hundreds of students and faculty members during his 22 years at Newman, “they’d usually eventually move on,” he said.

“Here, a lot of the people I got to know way back in 1998 are still part of the parish,” he stated. “It’s like a family — a holy family! The people are so warm and friendly and active.”

His brother and priestly role model died in 1999, following a car accident.

“I wanted to grow old with him,” the younger priest stated. “I had a hard time getting used to the fact that that just wasn’t going to happen.”

Fr. Quinn got to spend most of his Sunday evenings and Mondays with his mother until she died last year, six weeks shy of her 100th birthday.

### Wherever God is

Fr. Quinn describes himself as “a man in love with the Lord, being fed by the Word of God and the Body of Christ, and being called to serve.”

“Being Catholic is certainly about belief and Word and Sacrament and the Creed that I love very much,” he said. “But it’s also about wanting to embrace all. It’s belief in the fullness of what our God intended for all of us to receive through His Son.”

Fr. Quinn has always been passionate about the Social Gospel, namely, “bringing glad tidings to the poor.”

“It’s simply a matter of following Christ,” he said.

He believes an important aspect of the Priesthood is “empowering the people to live out their call to be holy, to sacrifice for others and care for others.”

Above all else, a priest is entrusted with offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, “to be

*in persona Christi* and to speak the words of Christ,” said Fr. Quinn.

“It’s not me. It’s Him — ‘This is My Body. This is My Blood.’”

### “Change is good”

On July 1, Fr. Quinn will move to a home he’s building in Monroe City.

He plans to offer daily Mass in his chapel there and become a member of Holy Rosary parish.

He hopes in retirement to spend more time praying, reading, leading pilgrimages and visiting his extended family.

He plans to continue meeting regularly with his priest support group who have been an important part of his life during the past 43 years of the group’s existence.

He prays the “*Memorare*” and the Jesus Prayer — “Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner” — numerous times a day.

Through the decades, he’s been encouraging people to make the Eucharist the center of their lives and put their gratitude to God into practice.

“I want them keep living the faith and keep caring about people who are struggling,” he said. “And never to give up on the Lord God. Stay close to the sacraments and keep that love affair with Christ going!”

He believes God is always calling His Church to become holier and more focused on the people most in need of being led to Him.

“Change is good in a lot of ways,” said Fr. Quinn. “And



Father Michael Quinn prepares to celebrate a wedding Mass in Holy Family Church in Hannibal, circa 2017.

— Photo from the Holy Family Catholic Church Hannibal Facebook page

### “Trust in the Lord”

Fr. Quinn is thankful to God for calling him to Priesthood and for filling these five decades with wonderful people and fruitful ministry.

“It hasn’t all been easy, but it has made me so happy,” he said. “God has always been here to guide me. I have always felt His love and support and the love of His people.”

He asks for prayers for openness to whatever God has in mind for him in retirement — “that I will continue to keep strong in my prayer walk, that I keep trusting the Lord and letting Him guide me in the final years of my life, wherever He leads me.”

To anyone considering a call to the Priesthood, he suggests persistent prayer and

active listening.

“Trust in the Lord and don’t be afraid,” he said. “Let Him take you by the hand and lead you.”

the Church is always in need of coming closer to Christ, in its priests, in its leadership, in its people.”

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## 'Things To Do' returns — health regulations must be observed

Although the statewide stay-at-home order expired on Monday, May 4, important safety measures are still in place to help protect individuals from infection and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Parishes are expected to comply with the instructions and decrees promulgated by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, which restricts the type of public gatherings in the 95 parishes of the diocese ([diojeffcity.org/public-health](http://diojeffcity.org/public-health)).

The diocesan decrees and instructions give the faithful a means to continue the life of the Church in all its facets — the celebration of the sacra-

ments, works of charity and mercy, and formation — while assisting civic officials in promoting the health and well-being of all.

As restrictions are slowly loosened, some parishes and other Catholic organizations and groups are finding creative ways to plan events in compliance with local or state regulations.

Organizers of events on church property (whether indoors or outdoors) must abide by the county health director's or other legitimate state authority's guidance, especially advising participants of the social distancing requirements.

More information may be found

at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) and with your local county health department.

All in-person meetings or gatherings greater than the number of people allowed by the county health director or legitimate state authorities are strictly prohibited, whether indoors or outdoors.

Social distancing regulations must always be followed.

*The Catholic Missourian* will continue to do our best to inform the public of these events on our "Things To Do" page and through the diocesan event calendar.

It is suggested that you check web-

sites, Facebook and other social media of the organizing group for the most recent information, or contact them via phone or email.

Please notify *The Catholic Missourian* of any event changes or cancellations. New events can be sent via the event listing request form at [diojeffcity.org/event-listing](http://diojeffcity.org/event-listing).

For questions or information about posting events to the diocesan website calendar or the Things To Do listing in *The Catholic Missourian*, contact Kelly Martin, Advertising Coordinator at 573-635-9127 or [advertize@diojeffcity.org](mailto:advertize@diojeffcity.org).

### Fundraisers & Social Events

Jun. 6

(Virtual) "Hope Through Connection" Meaning in a Time of Pandemic," online benefit concert with Carrie Newcomer, sponsored by Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, 7-9 pm, for info and to register visit [mercycenterstl.org](http://mercycenterstl.org)

Jun. 14

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception parish BBQ fundraiser, with curbside orders to go, 11 am-6 pm

Jun. 22

Jefferson City, Louis H. Rackers Memorial Pro-Life Golf Classic, sponsored by Vitae Foundation, 11:30 am, Jefferson City Country Club, for info visit [vitaefoundation.org/Jefferson-city-golf-registration](http://vitaefoundation.org/Jefferson-city-golf-registration)

Jun. 26

Eugene, Wardsville/Osage Bend K of C golf tournament, 1 pm shotgun start, Redfield Golf Course

### Liturgical

May 30

Jefferson City, Ordination to the Diaconate of Derek Hooper, LIVESTREAMED at 10 am at [diojeffcity.org/ordination](http://diojeffcity.org/ordination)

### Youth & Young Adults

Jun. 28-Jul. 3

St. Robert, Camp Maccabee for high school boys (grades 9-12), St. Robert Bellarmine parish, for info visit [campmacabee.com](http://campmacabee.com)

Jul. 19-Jul. 23

Laurie, Camp Siena for high school girls (grades 9-12), St.

Patrick parish, for info visit [campsiena.com](http://campsiena.com)

Jul. 26-Jul. 31

St. Robert, Camp Maccabee for high school boys (grades 9-12), St. Robert Bellarmine parish, for info visit [campmacabee.com](http://campmacabee.com)

### CALDAROLA

From page 9

prone to violence, have no respect for just authority and no concern for the common good. It's the opposite of legitimate protest.

Wearing a face mask also makes a statement. It says you care about the elderly, those most threatened and the grocery clerk who must work to support her family.

Wear your face mask. Wear it even if your employer or governor or mayor or neighborhood grocery hasn't required it. Wear the mask because you want to send a message to those who won't, who think they're above the law or don't care about the common good.

Catholicism is not our private Sunday morning religion. It's our public way of life. In the encyclical "*Caritas in Veritate*," Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, "The more we strive to secure a common good corresponding to the real needs of our neighbors, the more effectively we love them."

### HAHN

From page 9

Our Bishop has even called for Eucharistic Adoration to open at Franciscan University, as well as the gradual — and safe — restart of daily Masses, leading up to the Feast of Pentecost.

We've also seen the Catholic internet explode with rich content — video, audio, podcasts, memes, and texts. Some sites report that their traffic has increased more than a hundredfold. Indeed, much of that content is produced right here in our diocese.

"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him," (Romans 8:28).

Be keen to see the good (Philippians 4:8). Be keen to show Him your love — by loving His Church and His children, even when they disagree

with you. Even if they're wrong.

*Scott Hahn is the Father Scanlan Professor of Biblical Theology and the New Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville, and the founder and president of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. Married to Kimberly for 40 years, together they have 6 children and 19 grandchildren. Two of their sons are currently seminarians studying for the priesthood in the Steubenville Diocese. A former Presbyterian pastor, Hahn entered the Catholic Church in 1986. The author or editor of more than 40 books, his most recent title is Hope to Die: The Christian Meaning of Death and the Resurrection of the Body (Emmaus Road, 2020).*

*Originally published in The Steubenville Register.*

### STARKENBURG

From page 18

attend their local schools, in our own country and all over the world."

He said praying alone or with others is the best thing most people can do to help end the pandemic.

"This is not only a time for the power of medicine, this is also a time for the power of faith!" he said.

"Very holy ground"

Nearby Valentine Hall,

which on Pilgrimage Day would normally be filled with people gathering for a meal and fellowship, was empty except for a handmade quilt marked, "To be raffled off at the May 17 Pilgrimage."

From the hundreds of chances that were sold, young Gus VanBooven, pulled out the winning ticket from Bayville, New Jersey.

Msgr. Higley thanked everyone for their support of the shrine.

"And hopefully, it will be here for another 100 years, because of people like yourselves who are benefactors of this very holy place and this very holy ground."

The Fall Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13.

La Salette Father Denis Meyer, a Jefferson City native who is celebrating his 50th priestly anniversary this year, plans to lead the pilgrimage.

### REPORT

From page 3

place under the 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

#### After broad consultation

Pope Francis released his "*motu proprio*" last May, following a worldwide meeting of bishops' conference leaders at the Vatican early in 2019 to discuss the Church's response to clergy sexual abuse.

The document specifically

addresses allegations of sexual misconduct and other accusations of actions or omissions intended to interfere with or avoid civil or Church investigations of such misconduct by clergy.

The "*motu proprio*" requires dioceses and eparchies worldwide to establish "one or more public, stable and easily accessible systems for submission of reports" by May 31.

## Anniversaries

### Argyle, St. Aloysius

Fred & Eileen Luebbert, 51 years  
 Leroy & Leigh Ann Falter, 37 years  
 Leonard & Debbie Reinkemeyer, 31 years  
 Ralph & Cathy Wilde, 31 years  
 Travis & Stephanie Hoffman, 20 years  
 Kevin & Kelly Schwartze, 16 years

### Baring, St. Aloysius

John & Leah Flynn, 60 years  
 Gary & Suzanna Downing, 42 years

### Brookfield, Immaculate Conception

Donald & Martha Couch, 44 years  
 John & Jolene Christy, 42 years  
 Randy & Doris Holloway, 41 years  
 John & Carol Robison, 34 years  
 Chuck & Cheri York, 32 years  
 Bret & Kathy Seckington, 26 years  
 David & Janice Moore, 20 years  
 Aaron & Amber Huber, 16 years  
 Josh & Megan Shoemaker, 13 years

### Camdenton, St. Anthony

Bob & Charlene Nielsen, 50 years

### Eldon, Sacred Heart

Bernard & Elizabeth Evers, 66 years

### Fayette, St. Joseph

Charles & Susan Flaspohler, 44 years  
 Jim & Becky Kurtz, 39 years  
 David & Elaine Smith, 39 years  
 Harold & Beth Lammers, 36 years  
 David & Sheila Wallace, 31 years  
 Dean & Brenda Fuemmeler, 14 years

### Freeburg, Holy Family

Roy & Carol Plassmeyer, 60 years  
 Harold & Judy Falter, 54 years  
 Gerhard & Virginia Bax, 52 years  
 Dan & Janice Plemmons, 42 years  
 Jeff & Joan Plassmeyer, 35 years  
 Albert & Brenda Dudenhoeffer, 33 years  
 Jeff & Ruth Falter, 29 years  
 Glen & Sheri Streumph, 21 years  
 Doug & Bev Streumph, 20 years

### Hannibal, Holy Family

Kenny & Dorlene Lawson, 65 years  
 Ron & Cindy Craven, 45 years  
 Ken & Lynn Zielinski, 30 years

### Holts Summit, St. Andrew

Martin & Terry Schwartze, 40 years

### Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph

Kevin & Joy Stock, 10 years

### Jefferson City,

### Immaculate Conception

Deacon Mark & Millie Aulbur, 46 years

### Jefferson City, St. Peter

Stephen & Marcia Slaughter, 50 years

### Linn, St. George

Larry & Bonnie Tschappler, 50 years

### Marceline, St. Bonaventure

Laroy & Mary Catherine Quinn, 65 years  
 John & Diane McCauslin, 47 years  
 Tim & Debra Nolan, 41 years  
 Michael & Sara Garvey, 36 years  
 David & Beth Marek, 36 years  
 Jerry & Tina Kelly, 34 years  
 Mark & Katrina Burstert, 34 years  
 Kenny & Lisa Ewigman, 32 years  
 Brian & Jody Chrisman, 31 years  
 Russell & Lisa Linebaugh, 28 years  
 Cary & Tricia Sayre, 27 years  
 Matt & Laurie Cupp, 26 years  
 Chris & Lori Rollison, 23 years  
 Shane & Alicia Edgar, 22 years  
 Lloyd & Virginia Slaughter, 22 years  
 Terry & Sheryl Cooper, 20 years  
 Jeffrey & Darcy Quinn, 18 years  
 Ryan & Brooke Ladder, 17 years  
 Jeffrey & Dawn Lichtenberg, 17 years  
 Brian & Sandra Ewigman, 15 years  
 Willie & Jennifer Ewigman, 15 years  
 Joseph & Opal Shermuly, 14 years  
 Jamie & Toni Sportsman, 12 years  
 Glenn & Laquetta Ewigman, 12 years  
 Jason & Toni Scott, 10 years  
 Luke & Alyssa Niemeier, 10 years

### Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows

Jerry & Mary Kempker, 45 years  
 Calvin & Rhonda Goose, 25 years  
 Todd & Susan Hoffmann, 15 years

### Meta, St. Cecilia

Lawrence & JoAnn Wansing, 59 years

### Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart

Tom & Elsie Grellner, 63 years  
 Allen & Rose Ann Scheulen, 52 years  
 Ken & Carol Krieg, 40 years  
 Pat & Joyce Neuner, 40 years  
 Allen & Marlene Kleffner, 39 years  
 Charlie & Theresa Fick, 36 years  
 Steve & Amy Kramer, 32 years  
 Terry & Karen Mebruer, 30 years  
 Larry & Lori Woehr, 29 years  
 Brian & Sheila Luebbert, 25 years  
 John & Theresa Mengwasser, 20 years  
 Dennis & Dianna Neier, 20 years  
 Matt & Michelle Neuner, 19 years  
 Harold & Amanda Stratman, 16 years  
 Matt & Ashley Starke, 14 years  
 David & Patty Bexten, 11 years

### Russellville, St. Michael

Kenneth & Marilyn Davis, 50 years  
 Dennis & Pam Markway, 40 years  
 Ron & Lori Brockman, 33 years  
 Todd & Sheri Koestner, 29 years  
 Mitch & Andrea Koetting, 20 years  
 Scott & Karen Distler, 17 years  
 CJ & Danielle McKinney, 10 years

### St. Clement, St. Clement

Frank & Shirley Deters, 63 years

### St. Martins, St. Martin

Joseph & Margaret Schulte, 68 years  
 Bernard & Gladys Lehman, 65 years  
 Alfred & Clara Schulte, 65 years

### Taos, St. Francis Xavier

Bill & Barb Grothoff, 50 years  
 Roger & Dinah Hagner, 50 years

### Vandalia, Sacred Heart

Leo & Carolyn McBride, 68 years  
 Charles & Kathy Hoover, 52 years  
 John & Sandy Scherder, 46 years  
 Mark & Terri Udelhoven, 29 years  
 Michael & Kim Trainor, 25 years  
 Curtis & Holly Delgman, 12 years

### Vienna, Visitation

Marvin & LaVaughn Zimmer, 60 years  
 Dan & Rita Schwartze, 45 years  
 David & Terry Schwartze, 39 years  
 John & Sheila Allen, 26 years

### Wardsville, St. Stanislaus

Leonard & Marilyn Kempker, 60 years

### Westphalia, St. Joseph

Wilfred & Regina Kempker, 64 years  
 Kirby & Joan Keth, 28 years  
 Gerard & Bridget Dickneite 18 years

## Deaths

**Sister Mary Brendan Block C.P.P.S.**, 101 — a Sister of the Most Precious Blood who taught primary grades for 55 years, including the former St. Anthony of Padua School in Folk & the former St. Joseph School in Rhineland — on May 3.

Bevier, Sacred Heart — **Del Newton**

California, Annunciation — **Kenneth D. Fischer, Ronald Swillum**

Cuba, Holy Cross — **Terry Lager, Jason Voss**

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians — **Jerry Thoenen**

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Albert H. Haller, Francis H. Wildhaber**

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Dawn Vincent**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Delphine A. Yancey, Eugene J. Westhues**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Stephen J. Lutz**

Jonesburg, St. Patrick — **Henry Horstdaniel**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Mary C. Scarff**

Laurie, St. Patrick — **Rosemary Stoltz**

Linn, St. George — **Jody L. Hoelscher, Clarence R. Shelley**

Pilot Grove — **Doris "Dotsy" A. Twenter**

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Jim Plassmeyer, Ruth Ann Rudroff**

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Crescentia "Cency" M. Luetkemeyer**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Rita A. Schaefer**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Rosemary Hall, Patricia Kempf, Lillian Rehmer**

## Baptisms

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Ian Alexander Stuecken**, son of Colby & Lauren Stuecken

Fulton, St. Peter — **Magnolia Diane Galeski**, daughter of Gary & Susan Galeski

Indian Creek, St. Stephen — **Sydney Breann Hetheriton**, daughter of Karlie Orf & Dalton Hetheriton

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Francis Dale Crider**, son of Jacob & Elizabeth Crider; **Hunter Wade Gann**, son of Michael & Amber Gann

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Everleigh Dawn** and **Everett Joseph Apperson**, children of Dalton Apperson & Alexis Binkley

## Birthdays

Fayette, St. Joseph — **Ed Griffin Sr.**, his 92nd on April 29

Osage Bend, St. Margaret of Antioch — **Evelyn Bode**, her 94th on June 4

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Marie Rustemeyer**, her 93rd on June 8

Vandalia, Sacred Heart — **Kathleen Lowe**, her 91st on June 4

## Marriages

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Emily Bauer & John Ruesch**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Emily Pestka & Daniel Arsenault**

## Initiations

Fulton, St. Peter — **Crystal Atterberry, Pandora Walker**, and **Daniel Witt**, who received sacraments of initiation on May 23

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Garrett Wade Martin**, who received sacraments of initiation on May 13

## Names for the People Page

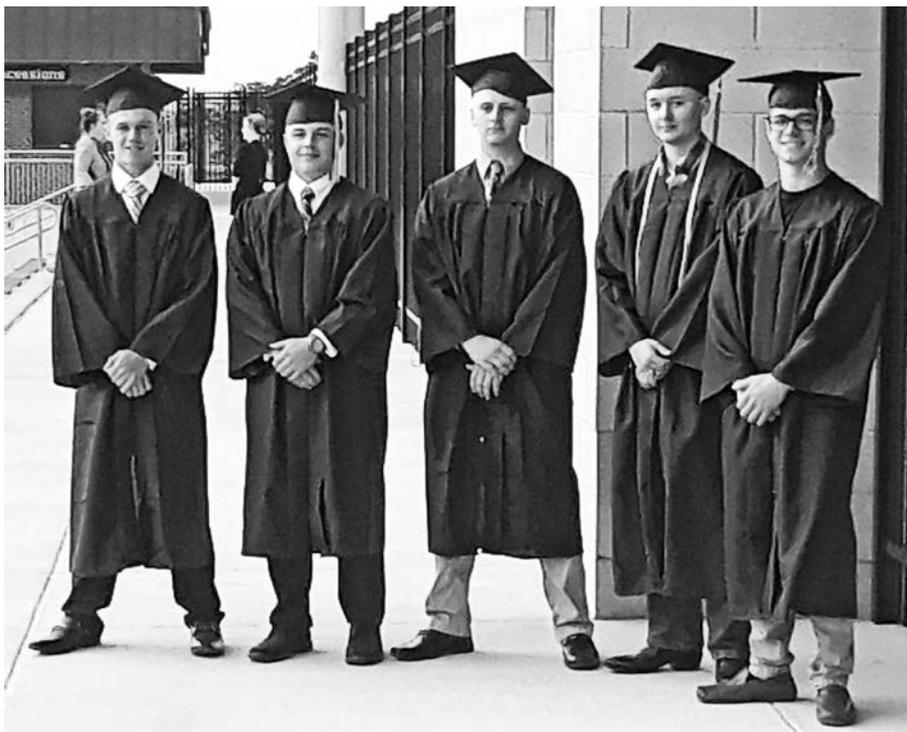
Information for the People Page comes from parish correspondents and individual parishioners, as well as bulletins and newspapers. Submissions for anniversaries (10 years or more), birthdays (90 years or more), and baptisms, deaths, marriages and initiations of local parishioners may be e-mailed to [editor@diojeffcity.org](mailto:editor@diojeffcity.org);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



## Crossword puzzle answers

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

## Off to serve their country



**LEFT: Helias Catholic High School Class of 2020 members Jacob Andrews, Drew Hoelscher, Curtis Rockers, Matthew Roussin and Ben Pierle, who are entering military service, await the beginning of a special graduation ceremony for them on May 21 in the Crusader Athletic Complex. RIGHT: The five young men stand at attention during their graduating ceremony.**

— Photo by Jay Nies

By Jay Nies

Five members of Helias Catholic High School's graduating Class of 2020 are entering U.S. Military service.

Three of them will report for duty before the school's delayed graduation ceremonies, which are scheduled to take place on June 19.

The school held a special ceremony in the Crusader Ath-

letic Complex May 21 to honor five and present the three their diplomas. Family members as well as fellow seniors were invited to attend and observe proper social distancing.

Jacob Andrews is entering the U.S. Army; Drew Hoelscher and Ben Pierle are entering the U.S. Marine Corps; Curtis Rockers is entering the Missouri National Guard; and

Matthew Roussin is entering the U.S. Air Force.

"Tonight was to be our original graduation date, but we modified for COVID-19 and wanted to honor these graduates who are not only serving our country, but who will also miss the postponed graduation ceremony," said Kenya Fuemmeler, Helias principal. "We are so proud of their willing-

ness to serve, their bravery and their love of country."

"Good and gracious God, look down this evening upon our gathered community, as we come together to celebrate graduation for those young men who are entering the Armed Forces," Father Stephen Jones, the school's president, prayed. "Guide, strengthen, give hearts to serve and protect these young men in danger. Bless them with Your presence, let them always know of Your love, and may they always rely on You in times of challenge, in times of danger, in good times and in bad."

Helias faculty member Mark Ordway, who has also served in the Missouri National Guard and was deployed to Iraq in 2004, was the featured speaker.

Mr. Ordway spoke about overcoming challenges, learning from mistakes and remaining strong and persistent through adversity.

"Nobody really likes to look at this this way, but when you signed your name on that enlistment sheet, you signed a blank check to give your life in defense of everything that is the United States, according to the Constitution," he said. "That's a challenge. A challenge not to be taken lightly."

He urged them to embrace the challenges that will be put before them in training and throughout their time of military service.

"I thank you for your service," he said. "I hope you live a long life. I hope you prosper. And at all times, turn to God when the challenge gets too great for you. As He has been there for me, may God go with you."

The Central Missouri Blue Star Mothers recognized these five by presenting them a red, white and blue honor cord to wear with their gown and mortarboard.

"It symbolizes our sincerest gratitude for your intentions in serving our country," said Ms. Fuemmeler. "We congratulate you on your graduation from Helias Catholic High School and commend you on making the brave choice to serve our country."

Mr. Hoelscher, Mr. Pierle and Mr. Roussin then accepted their diplomas and threw their mortarboards into the air.

Faculty members stayed seated in chairs on the running track to greet the seniors from a safe distance.

The lights were turned on and the scoreboard set to 20:20 at 8:20 p.m. for fellow students and well-wishers to drive around the stadium.

## Learn from Pope St. John Paul, Pope Francis tells young people

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Young men and women today can learn from the example of St. John Paul II, who proved that life's difficulties are not an obstacle to holiness and happiness.

Despite losing his mother, father and brother at a young age and experiencing the atrocities of Nazism and atheistic communism, St. John Paul passed the "test of maturity and faith" and chose to rely "on the power of Christ, Who died and rose again," the Pope said in a May 18 video message to young people in Poland.

The message, which was sent to mark the 100th anniversary of St. John Paul's birth, was addressed to young people of the Archdiocese of Krakow, where then-Cardinal Wojtyla served as archbishop from 1964 until his election to the papacy in 1978.

The centennial celebration, the Pope said, was a "beautiful opportunity" to address young people whom St. John Paul "loved very much."

"St. John Paul II was an extraordinary gift of God to the Church and to Poland, your homeland," he said. "His earthly pilgrimage, which began on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice and ended 15 years ago in Rome, was marked by a passion for life and a fascination for the mystery of God, the world and man."

Recalling St. John Paul's 1980 encyclical "*Dives in Misericordia*" ("Rich in Mercy"), as well as his canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska and his institution of Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis said he remembered his predecessor "as a great one of mercy."

"In the light of God's merciful love, he grasped the specificity and beauty of the vocation of women and men; he understood the needs of children, young people and adults, taking into consideration cultural and social conditions," he said.

Pope Francis called on young people to use today's technology to learn about St. John Paul, his life and his teachings, and he expressed his hope that, like the Polish saint, they may "enter into Christ with your whole life."

# The apostles receive the Holy Spirit

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

After Jesus had ascended into heaven, the apostles stayed in Jerusalem and waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Twelve were gathered in one place when the time of the Jewish feast of Pentecost had ended. Suddenly, they heard a loud sound that filled the entire house that they were in. Even though they were indoors, the noise reminded them of a great rush of wind coming from the sky.

Then they saw tongues of fire, which separated and rested upon each one of them.

The Holy Spirit had come.

Then something even more incredible happened.

After the Twelve had received the Holy Spirit, they suddenly could speak other languages, which was something they could not do before.



There were many people who were visiting Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost, and a large crowd had heard the loud sound of rushing wind. They came to the apostles' house to find out what was going on. When they heard the apostles

speaking in foreign languages, they were amazed. These visiting Jews had come to Jerusalem from many different countries, and each was hearing his own

language being spoken.

"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?" they asked each other in wonder. "Yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

Others in the crowd made fun of the apostles, saying they had been drinking too much wine.

Then Peter stood up to address the crowd. He gave a great speech, telling everyone that the words of the prophets had come to pass: God had poured out His Spirit upon mankind, and Jesus, Who had been crucified, was indeed the Messiah that had been foretold.

The people in the crowd wanted to know what they

should do.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Peter told them.

Those who heard Peter's speech and believed what he said were baptized that day. In all, about 3,000 people became followers of Jesus on the day the Holy Spirit came to the apostles.

### Read more about it...

#### Acts 2

1. What sound did the apostles hear in the house?

2. Who came to the apostles' house to find the source of the sound?

## Bible Accent

There is another place in the Bible that talks about people suddenly being able to speak foreign languages. But instead of this ability being a gift, it was a consequence from God.

In Genesis 11, we learn that at one time, all the people on earth spoke the same language. They settled in a land called Shinar and decided to build a great city, with a tower that reached to heaven. They

thought this would show how powerful they were. What it really showed was that they believed they no longer needed God.

God saw what was going on and decided to confuse their language so the people couldn't understand one another. When God did this, the people stopped their building and went to live in different places.

That is why the city was

called Babel. The word sounds like the Hebrew word "balal," which means to confuse. It also sounds like the English word "babble," which means to make sounds that make no sense.

## Saint Spotlight



St. Joan of Arc was born in France in 1412. When she was young, France was fighting a civil war and also was trying to stop the English king from taking the French throne. At age 14, Joan began to hear the voices of St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret. In 1428, they told her to help the king of France reconquer his kingdom. It took a little while, but Joan convinced the king that she had received a mission from God to help him. Joan was given soldiers to command, and she won many battles. She was eventually captured and handed over to the English, who burned her at the stake for being a heretic. Many years later, Pope Callixtus III reopened her case and found that she was not a heretic. Joan was canonized in 1920, and we honor her May 30.

## Puzzle

Put a T next to the sentences that are true, and an F next to the ones that are false. Hints are provided.



1. God was happy that the people were building such a fine city and tower. (Genesis 11:6)
2. Peter admitted that the apostles had been drinking too much new wine. (Acts 2:15)
3. The people were amazed to hear their own languages being spoken. (Acts 2:7)
4. After Peter spoke, 1,247 people were baptized. (Acts 2:41)

## Trivia

What does the Jewish feast of Pentecost celebrate today?

Answer: God giving the law to the Israelites.

Supplying ice for parish picnics, weddings and any occasion you might have.

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



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## In Arkansas family, all hands put to work to design children's missalette

By Aprille Hanson  
Catholic News Service  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Grace Dickinson is blunt in her 12-year-old wisdom — the Catholic missalette is boring. But not because of the Scriptures, which are filled with exciting stories of our faith, but the presentation itself.

“It doesn't appeal to kids,” she said. “It only has color on the front page.”

And in a family of eight — parents Kevin and Tiffany Dickinson, both 37, and six children 14 and younger — staying focused at Mass can be a challenge.

“It's trial and error,” Tiffany said, with Kevin adding, “Bribes,” of doughnuts after either 9 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, or the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Raphael in Springdale, Arkansas.



Kevin and Tiffany Dickinson of Fayetteville, Ark., pose for a photo with their six children April 4. The family of eight is raising money to publish its children's missalette “Diary of a God Man.”

— CNS photo/Travis McAfee, *Arkansas Catholic*

To make the Scriptures come alive, the family is creating *Diary of a God Man*, a comic-book-style missalette to not only keep children engaged in the liturgy, but to give them an understanding of the Bible on their level.

Their team includes mom Tiffany as the spiritual director and dad Kevin as supervisor. Tiffany is a graduate student, working on her doctorate as a nurse practitioner, and her husband is a small-business owner of Preferred Office Technologies in Fayetteville.

But the creative geniuses making it relatable are the children, who attend St. Joseph School, and each of them has a job — Gabbi, 14, treasurer; Grace, 12, head of sales; Joseph, 11, illustrations; Ann Marie, 9, digital marketing; Eli, 7, creative; and Catherine, 4, moral support. And the titles are not just honorary —

from Gabbi creating profit/loss statements to Ann Marie handling emails and the website to Grace leading the promotions, they're growing spiritually.

“The whole point of this is because we wanted kids to be engaged in the Mass and really get something out of the Scriptures; not just sit still and be quiet at Mass and be good, but to leave Mass learning something,” Tiffany Dickinson told the *Arkansas Catholic*, newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock.

The family offered the Easter season readings and illustrations for free on their website,

*diaryofagodman.com*, while public Masses were canceled amid the COVID-19 threat.

“It's challenging enough for kids to pay attention at Church, let alone at home,” Kevin Dickinson said. “In these uncertain times having Mass streaming, we just wanted it to be a resource” for families.

To make this book a reality, the family has started a \$12,000 Kickstarter campaign. As of May 19, \$11,213 had been raised. The fundraiser ends June 9.

“If we don't raise the total amount, we don't get anything,” Kevin Dickinson said, explaining money is returned to donors if the set goal isn't achieved.

On Feb. 26, Grace Dickinson won \$1,000 in the IdeaFame Business Pitch Contest hosted by Startup Junkie in Fayetteville. She had 60 seconds to pitch their business plan, no notes in hand, and beat out 22 other contestants.

“When I was actually up there, I wasn't too nervous because I've been a dancer for a long time so I don't really have any stage fright. I was pretty comfortable being up there,” she said.

## Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Scoob! (PG)  
Trolls World Tour (PG)



Adults

Selah and the Spades (R)  
Slay the Dragon (PG-13)  
The Wretched (not rated)



Limited Adult Audience

Corpus Christi (not rated)



Morally Offensive

Capone (R)  
How to Build a Girl (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](http://www.usccb.org) for current reviews.

They invested in a Kickstarter video, an attorney and free online illustrations, created by close friend Travis McAfee, a parishioner at St. Raphael and owner of McAfee Studios.

“The unique thing about it is at its foundation, it's kid-led,” McAfee said. The illustrations are based in “modern kid culture,” which as a volunteer youth minister along with his wife, McAfee said it's important to connect it to a child's world. It's also fulfilling his childhood dream to be a cartoonist.

“I just see God working through it,” he said. “The kids are using their insights and gifts, I'm using mine and we're all using it to build-up the kingdom.”

All illustrations get theological approval from Msgr. David LeSieur, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Rogers, Arkansas.

“That's been very humbling and overwhelming that people really like this enough and believe in it enough and want to help encourage it to keep going,” Tiffany said.

Those who pledge money for the project receive incentives for different levels of pledges, ranging from \$5 for

an original digital proof of the book concept to \$250 or more, which includes gifts such as a signed hard copy, merchandise and a personalized character of the donor or someone of their choice to appear in a Bible reading of their choice.

The plan is for the first missal to be completed by November. It will be for Year A — the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar follows a three-year cycle, A, B and C. It will be 232 pages, for 52 Sundays and six holy days and will include the Sunday liturgy first reading, responsorial psalm, second reading and Gospel illustrations in full color.

Sales from the first book will be invested in books for years B and C and later on in merchandise, coloring books and publications in multiple languages. The family also will put 10% of the book proceeds toward St. Joseph School and the Church building fund.

They're currently setting up meetings with publishers.

To learn more about the missalette project or to donate, visit [diaryofagodman.com](http://diaryofagodman.com).

Hanson is associate editor of *Arkansas Catholic*, newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock.

### On air

**Mustard Seed**  
Sunday Scripture readings  
and reflections

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

**EWTN and other**  
Catholic programming  
Covenant Radio Network  
broadcasts

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KBKC 90.1 FM, Moberly  
KEFL 91.5 FM, Kirksville  
94.7 FM, Columbia  
103.3 FM, Fulton  
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

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## SAUCIER

From page 6

away and develop sustained relationships with them.

“And from that, we gain a broader, more complete image of the Body of Christ,” he said.

### Words and images

When Mr. Saucier began his tenure as communications director, most of his energy went into producing radio and video programs and helping the bishop, pastors and the various Chancery offices with their communications needs.

He produced “Where Land Is Life,” a documentary video about land reform in Peru, focusing on this diocese’s mission parish in Capachica, which aired on the national Catholic television network.

Another documentary, “Caught in the Loop,” examining the Missouri correctional system’s failed efforts to address the problem of drug addiction in the state’s prisons, was broadcast on the PBS stations in Missouri.

He hosted a weekly radio program that was heard every Sunday in central Missouri.

As diocesan spokesman, he brought steadiness and candor to the diocese’s response to the 2002 revelations of sexual abuse of minors that had been committed by members of the clergy.

On the eve of the Church’s worldwide Jubilee celebration in 2000, a pastor in northern Missouri asked him to write a series of short spiritual reflections to be published in a local newspaper.

The editor of *The Catholic Missourian* asked for permission to republish those articles, and Mr. Saucier continued writing them.

They quickly became a popular feature in the paper.

He has written more than 800 of them, none more than 400 words in length.

“Doing the columns has changed me,” he stated. “It has made me much more introspective. It’s made me pay closer attention to the significance of



**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, Carolyn Saucier, Mark Saucier and Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND display the certificate that accompanied the papal Benemerenti Medal Bishop McKnight presented Mr. Saucier on behalf of Pope Francis during Mr. Saucier’s retirement reception on March 13.**  
— Photo by Jay Nies

people and events in my life.

“Then, when you sit down to write about it, you have to take it as deep as it will let you and try to express it in ways everyone can relate to,” he said.

The columns that generate the strongest feedback focus on such experiences as the birth of a grandchild, the sickness of a parent or the death of a friend.

“Most people, as least those of a certain age, can relate to those kinds of experiences,” he said. “So it’s not about me, it’s about people seeing these kinds of things in their own lives.”

He wants to keep writing as long as the columns are of some benefit to the readers.

“But I want to know if it gets dry or stale or mediocre, because that’s when it’s time to quit,” he said.

### “Good merit”

Mr. Saucier helped plan and execute the diocese’s Catholic Stewardship Appeal for four years.

He continued working through aggressive treatment for cancer, reaching remission about a year ago.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, upon arriving in early 2018, asked him to stay on for a while, at least through the bishop’s transition.

Mr. Saucier did so until shortly after his 70th birthday.

“We are so grateful for his ministry, keeping the needs of the Church throughout the world before our minds,” Bish-

op McKnight said at Mr. Saucier’s retirement reception.

On behalf of Pope Francis, Bishop McKnight presented Mr. Saucier a Benemerenti Medal.

The papal honor, instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832, is conferred to people “who have shown an active fidelity to and love for the Church,” for distinguished service to Catholic principles, the Church and society.

“Benemerenti” is Latin for “good merit.”

Mr. Saucier thanked Bishop McKnight and Bishop Emeritus Gaydos for their support and enthusiasm for the missions.

“I think it’s a great time to be moving on and passing the torch,” he stated. “One thing I really appreciate is seeing all the young faces here — people who are the same age or a bit older than I was when I started here. I think that bodes well for our Church.”

### On pilgrimage

Mr. Saucier said that through the years, he has encountered many paths to similar destinations.

“I have found different ways of prayer, different ways of thinking, different ways of being that change over the course of time as new challenges present themselves,” he said.

He insisted that compassion and change are nonnegotiable.

“It’s taken me a long time to learn this,” he said, “to have it go from intellectual concepts and

## Daily Readings

**Sunday, May 31**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
Acts 2:1-11  
Ps. 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34  
1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13  
Jn. 20:19-23

**Monday, June 1**  
**The Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of the Church**  
Gn. 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14  
Ps. 87:1-3, 5-7  
Jn. 19:25-34

**Tuesday, June 2**  
*Ss. Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs*  
2 Pt. 3:12-15a, 17-18  
Ps. 90:2-4, 10, 14, 16  
Mk. 12:13-17

**Wednesday, June 3**  
**St. Charles Lwanga and com-  
panions, martyrs**  
2 Tm. 1:1-3, 6-12  
Ps. 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef  
Mk. 12:18-27

**Thursday, June 4**  
2 Tm. 2:8-15  
Ps. 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14  
Mk. 12:28-34

**Friday, June 5**  
**St. Boniface, bishop and martyr**  
2 Tm. 3:10-17  
Ps. 119:157, 160-161, 165-166,  
168  
Mk. 12:35-37

**Saturday, June 6**  
*St. Norbert, bishop*  
2 Tm. 4:1-8  
Ps. 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22  
Mk. 12:38-44

### The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for June:

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

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**SSMHealth**  
St. Mary's Hospital  
JEFFERSON CITY

words to practice, to that creed of the heart.”

He had anticipated spending more time with his family and assisting with some of his local passions, including Healing House and New Beginnings, serving people coming out of the judicial system with an addiction history, and the Merida Foundation, providing food and eye glasses in Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula.

But the first three months of

his retirement coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving him to ramp-up his already prodigious reading regimen.

He feels like “a pilgrim on a quest.”

“It’s the pilgrimage itself that’s become important to me, and it’s become the definition of my life,” he said. “I’m learning more about myself, about my work, about my God every day.

“And it’s not just learning, it’s living and giving, as well.”



Connecting  
Communities  
in Christ

Half of your donations to the Catholic Communication Campaign remain in our diocese to help fund local communications projects, which include:

- A diocesan website which has become a primary communication channel
- Livestreaming of Masses, sharing of content on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter,
- A weekly scripture program, Mustard Seed, which airs in California and Moberly
- *The Catholic Missourian*, which is now provided to every registered household in the diocese.

**SUPPORT THE  
CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION COLLECTION**

**GIVE GENEROUSLY!**



Mail your donation to:  
Diocese of Jefferson City  
ATTN: Communication/Education Collection  
2207 West Main Street  
Jefferson City MO 65109-0914

The Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C., is the national university of the Catholic Church. Approximately 80% of the undergraduates are Catholic. Young adults, laity, priests and religious from our diocese have been able to pursue degrees from Catholic University, both on campus and through their robust online programs. Your contributions provide scholarships to those who seek a rigorously academic environment at a fully Catholic institution of higher learning.



**Crosses to bear**



One hundred fifty white crosses adorn the grounds of St. Patrick Church in Laurie during May and June. The parish's 10-member pro-life group set up the display each year for Mothers' and Fathers' Day and in October for Respect Life Month. The crosses remind people that abortions are taking place even as they go to church to pray. The group and the parish's Knights of Columbus council help support the Pregnancy Help Center in Camdenton. — Photo by Robert O'Bryan

Wardsville/Osage Bend Knights of Columbus Home Association



**RESCHEDULED**

Friday, June 26

Redfield Golf Course, Eugene Mo.  
1 PM Shotgun Start

36 team limit - \$400/team - \$100/person  
Cash prizes awarded for each flight  
Hole sponsors \$100/hole  
Lunch provided

For registration  
or info  
contact  
Jeff Ahlers  
573-694-0291



**LOUIS H. RACKERS  
MEMORIAL  
Pro-Life Golf Classic**

To Benefit Vitae Foundation  
Jefferson City Country Club  
**Monday, June 22, 2020**

For Player Safety, Staggered Tee Times Between 8:00 AM and 1:20 PM.

4-Person Scramble for Men and Women; Senior Tees for Golfers Age 65 and Older

**Registration: \$150 per golfer**

All Registrations include Lunch, Beverages, Premium Item, Prizes & Awards

We are monitoring this ever-evolving situation of COVID-19 and the safety of our supporters is most important to us. In addition to staggered tee times, lunch and refreshments will be served on the course instead of clubhouse and players can choose to ride single in a cart.

Register Online:

**AdsForLife.org/events**

Or Call: **573.230.4103**



1731 Southridge Dr., Suite D ♦ Jefferson City, MO 65109 ♦ 573-634-4316 ♦ Fax: 573-635-1383



Immaculate Conception Parish

**BBQ**

FUNDRAISER

**SUNDAY  
JUNE 14**

Serving 11 am-6 pm

**LOOSE CREEK**

Curbside Orders To-Go

Following guidelines and  
recommendations by the  
Department of Health and CDC.

Plates include  
buttered  
potatoes, baked  
beans & coleslaw

Pork Steak  
Plate ..... \$10

Pork Steak  
Only ..... \$7

Cheeseburger  
Plate ..... \$7

Cheeseburger  
Only ..... \$4

**PRIZE DRAWINGS!**



Watch for more info on Facebook!