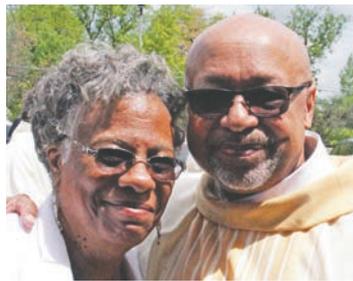


## Deacon of the diocese addresses civil unrest

As an African American and retired state highway patrolman, Deacon William Seibert calls for prayer, respect in this time of turmoil.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

June 12, 2020 • Vol. 63 No. 25

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## There's no room in the Church for racism



A man walks past an anti-racism mural by street artist Nath Murdoch in Peterborough, England, June 2, 2020.

— CNS photo/Joe Giddens, PA Images via Reuters

**Priests' homilies for Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity focus on unity, reconciliation**

**Racism called an affront to human dignity**

By Jay Nies

There's no place for racism in the Church or in any segment of civilized society.

All Catholics must guard against it in their hearts and work to dismantle the systems that perpetuate it.

Priests throughout the Jefferson City diocese preached variations of that message the weekend of June 6-7, as part of their homilies for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

"Any time we look at any person or group of people to be less than us because of the color of their skin, we are doing nothing more than following the Father of Lies and falling into the evil of racism," Father Philip Niekamp, pastor of St. Pius X parish in Moberly, proclaimed from the pulpit.

In a June 4 letter, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight urged the priests to read the U.S. Catholic bishops' pastoral letter on racism, "Open Wide Our Hearts," while preparing their homilies.

"The murder of George Floyd by a police officer has brought to light the ugly reality of racism still present in our society," the bishop wrote.

"Our people expect our preaching to address this issue in the light and hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he stated.

Many priests were planning on breaching the topic and appreciated the bishop's guidance.

"I've seen the hurt in people around

See UNITY, page 17

## Rev. Mr. Derek Hooper raised to order of deacon, hopes to be ordained to Priesthood next year

**Will assist the pastor in Hermann, Rhineland this summer before returning to complete his seminary studies**

By Jay Nies

Ministry in the Church is a gift that helps preserve all the faithful in their relationship with Jesus and with one another.

"Let us pray that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us in the celebration of these sacred mysteries may bind us together more firmly in charity," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight at the ordination of Rev. Mr. Derek Hooper, a seminarian for the Jefferson City diocese, to the diaconate.

About 80 people attended the Ordination Mass on May 30 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City, while several hundred more watched over livestream due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rev. Mr. Hooper hopes to be ordained a priest of the diocese next year, but he will also remain a deacon for the rest of his life.

As such, he will serve as "a pastoral bridge between the shepherds and their flocks with a special mission to remove the barriers and walls that might separate pastors from their flock," said Bishop McKnight.

"With your natural gifts and the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit," Bishop McKnight told Rev. Mr. Hooper in his homily, "you shall assist your bishop and his priests to help meet the pastoral obligations we have to those in our local Church.

"You will become a sacramental icon of Christ the Servant, Who came not to be served but to serve," the bishop

See ORDINATION, page 15

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## Pray for deceased priests

June 15 — **Fr. Lawrence E. Bray**, St. Peter, Marshall (1959);

**Fr. Henry W. Wiesmann**, St. Anthony, Rosati (1973)

June 17 — **Msgr. Patrick E. Gavan**, St. Brendan, Mexico (1964)

June 18 — **Fr. Philip M. Moriarity**, St. Mary of the Angels, Wien (2009)

June 19 — **Fr. Albert M. Brincat**, St. Theresa, Dixon (1994)

June 20 — **Fr. William D. Ludwig**, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Robert (1974); **Fr. Henry J. Reichert**, St. Andrew, Tipton; and Annunciation, California (2009)

June 21 — **Fr. Carlyle B. Green**, Assumption, Morrison (1963); **Fr. Ferdinand C. Bonn**, Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Ozark (2007)

June 26 — **Fr. Raphael J. O'Malley**, Church of the Resurrection, Wellsville (1987)

June 27 — **Msgr. Thomas J. McCartan**, St. Bonaventure, Marceline (1970)

## CCCNMO World Refugee Day online series “Hear My Story”

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) will be publishing an online series, “Hear My Story,” sharing the life journey of community members served

by the agency’s Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS) division.

This series is part of this year’s efforts to virtually celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20.

Each “Hear My Story” post can be found on the Catholic Charities website at [cccnmo.diojeffcity.org](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org).

Posts will also be shared on the CCCNMO’s Facebook page and Twitter, @CCCNMO, as well as @RISCCCNMO on Instagram.

Catholic Charities will be providing new posts up until World Refugee Day on June 20.

### OSAGE

### SENIOR CENTER

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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).

# Pope prays for United States calls racism a pro-life issue

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Observing with great concern the social unrest unfolding in the United States, Pope Francis said no one can claim to defend the sanctity of every human life while turning a blind eye to racism and exclusion.

Addressing all “dear brothers and sisters in the United States” during his livestreamed general audience June 3, the Pope said, “Today I join the Church in St. Paul and Minneapolis, and in the entire United States, in praying for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and of all those others who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism.”

“Let us pray for the consolation of their grieving families and friends and let us implore the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn,” he said in Italian.

The Pope said he has “witnessed with great concern the disturbing social unrest in your nation in these past days, following the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd,” a 46-year-old man, whose last moments of life were recorded on a widely-disseminated video showing a white police officer in Minneapolis pushing down on his neck with his knee May 25.

Floyd was later pronounced dead.

“My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that ‘the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost,’” he said, quoting Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Pope prayed for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, to assist “all those who work for peace and justice in your land and throughout the world. May God bless all of you and your families.”

### 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.



## Official Decree of Appointments

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

### MEDICAL LEAVE

**Reverend Christopher M. Aubuchon** shall continue medical leave for an indefinite time.

### DEACONS

**Deacon Derek J. Hooper**, newly ordained, to assist Msgr. Gregory L. Higley, pastor, in parochial ministry at St. George, Hermann, and Church of the Risen Savior, Rhineland

*This appointment is effective June 4 through August 15, 2020.*

**Deacon Michael S. Brooks**, from St. Patrick Parish, Rolla and Holy Cross Parish, Cuba, to Parish Life Collaborator of Visitation Parish, Vienna, Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Brinktown, and St. Aloysius

Parish, Argyle, with St. Boniface Chapel, Koeltztown.

**Deacon Chad R. Lewis**, from Visitation Parish, Vienna, to Holy Cross Parish, Cuba, while continuing to serve at St. Patrick Parish, Rolla.

**Deacon Stephen H. Schwartze**, from Our Lady of Snows, Mary’s Home, to Visitation Parish, Vienna, Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Brinktown, and St. Aloysius Parish, Argyle, with St. Boniface Chapel, Koeltztown.

*These appointments are effective July 1, 2020.*

**Given at the Chancery this 1st day of June 2020**

*W. Shawn McKnight*

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

*Constance Schepers*

**Mrs. Constance Schepers**  
Chancellor

### The Catholic Missourian

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

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# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Bishop McKnight

### Who, me?

It's summer, and for some it's a time of vacation and relaxation.

For our pastors and parish pastoral councils, it's a time to gather the discernment of parishioners and develop their parish pastoral plan.

All parishes will be submitting a pastoral plan to me by July 31.

These plans are being built from the input of parishioners, specifically from those who participated in the faith-sharing groups in the weeks leading up to Easter and Pentecost.

That process, known simply as "Better Together," focused on three ways our parishes can fulfill our Catholic Christian mission of witness and service to the Gospel: deepening their ability to engage in charity and mercy, embracing a stewardship spirituality, and empowering an understanding of the co-responsibility of laity and clergy in this effort.

As Pope Francis wrote in "Evangelii Gaudium," "The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant

adaptivity, it continues to be 'the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.'" (No. 28)

While all three of these pillars are necessary for a thriving parish, empowering an understanding of the co-responsibility of laity and clergy is perhaps the most challenging concept to understand.

Yet, we can recognize it if we see it.

John Cavadini, director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame, tells us the word "co-responsibility" was first used by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Dr. Cavadini writes that the phrase appears "in two scanty publicized speeches of Benedict XVI. He delivered the first on May 26, 2009, speaking as the local bishop in his cathedral, the Lateran Basilica of St. John, his address to the Pastoral Convention of the Diocese of Rome, entitled 'Co-responsible for the Church's Being and Action,' with the subtitle 'Church Membership and Pastoral Co-responsibility.' The second echoed this earlier speech. He delivered it in 2012 on the oc-

casation of the 6th Ordinary Assembly of the International Forum of Catholic Action."

While the word may be new, the concept is integral to Church teachings, especially the documents of renewal that were published in the 1960s by the Second Vatican Council.

The responsibility of the laity, alongside clergy, to participate in the "being and acting

With a plan — a vision for how the parish can be "the presence of Christ in a given territory" (Pope Francis) — parishioners can decide together how to get the right people, the best systems, sustainable funding and the structure to execute the plan — while monitoring progress and celebrating successes.

But what does this really look like?

Many of our parishes found themselves needing to pivot quickly after the pandemic required them to cease public

In other parishes, parish members have been providing food, transportation and health care products to families especially hard hit by COVID-19.

Sometimes, this means assessing where the resources are and matching them with the needs, such as one week when the California food pantry was overflowing with groceries, while a neighborhood in Marshall was in great need.

These efforts occurred under the pastor's headship, but the implementation required minimal "hands on" from Father. Rather, instead of micromanaging, he encourages these parishioners to accom-

plish these acts of solidarity in an organized and coordinated manner.

As a result, their efforts to help people remain "in communion," despite not being able to celebrate the Eucharist together, may very well be the most important reason why their communities will emerge from the pandemic as "the presence of Christ."

How do we recognize co-responsibility? Perhaps it starts by looking in the mirror.

Yes, it's me and you!



## DIOCESE OF Jefferson City

## BETTER TOGETHER

of the Church" (Pope Benedict) is found in the Scriptures and early Church teachings.

Both Pope Francis and Pope Benedict, along with others, tell us this understanding of Church runs counter to clericalism, which can be defined as an understanding that the clergy alone are the Church.

Or, as Pope Benedict writes, clericalism is the "tendency to identify the Church unilaterally with the hierarchy, forgetting the common responsibility, the common mission of the People of God, which, in Christ, we all share" (2009).

On the other hand, co-responsibility does not mean "everyone" is responsible for everything. Each person, according to their state in life and by virtue of their baptism, talents and position, has a unique role in the common mission of the Church.

Our parish leadership and management, especially the pastor and the pastoral and finance councils, have the responsibility of setting the culture for the parish and discerning its current state. This becomes defined in a parish's pastoral plan.

A pastoral plan answers four essential questions:

- Who are we together?
- Where are we going?
- Where are we not going?
- Have we got what we need to get there?

The pastoral plan provides a means for the parish to organize itself.

gatherings, including publicly celebrated Masses.

In some instances, parishioners came together (via video conferencing, of course!) to determine that the most important thing they could do was to reach out to fellow parishioners.

They did this for three reasons: to maintain a sense of community, to check if they needed anything, and to inquire if there were others in the community who could use help.



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

### JUNE

The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic:

- June 19** Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, Holy Hour with Vespers and Benediction for priests of the diocese, 5 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- June 21** Immaculate Heart of Mary Mass, 8 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City

**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.

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## Deacon Seibert on police brutality and civil unrest: “Now’s the time to drop down to our knees and pray”

By Jay Nies

Deacon William Seibert stands in the gap along one of the nation’s most volatile fault lines.

A 30-year veteran of law-enforcement, he retired as assistant superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

As an African American, he has had to deal with overt and subtle racial bias at the individual and systemic levels.

He draws on both experiences in observing the response to an African American man’s violent death by a white police officer in Minneapolis.

“What bothers me most when I see the conflict, the violent protestors, is that people want to focus on them instead of the peaceful protesters,” he said. “At the same time, people focus on the bad police and not the good police.”

As a Catholic and an ordained member of the clergy, he believes the best, first response to the escalating unrest is prayer.

“Now’s the time to drop down to our knees and pray,” he said. “The answers are always there. They’re in that book we call the Bible.”

He believes that if more people would pray and allow God to respond to them through Scripture, there would be a lot less conflict.

“Especially in really trou-

bling times like these, if you’re going to take a stance, I don’t think you can take a better one than doing God’s will and doing your best to practice Jesus’s teachings,” he stated.

Deacon Seibert learned measured restraint through decades of volatile situations when he was a highway patrolman and also while staring down racism directed at him and his family.

“What has helped me the most — and I’ve had to learn it over time — is making a choice to live in the will of God,” he said.

“It starts with simply treating people better and loving your neighbor,” he stated. “I don’t know how you can go wrong with that.”

### Change from within

Mr. Seibert was born in England and spent his childhood in southeastern Washington, D.C., where the residents were predominantly black and the police were predominantly white.

Some of the interactions he saw between police and his friends helped make him want to go into law-enforcement.

“My belief was, if you want to help make change, the best way is to get involved in a place that you have a voice,” he said.

His family moved to east-



Deacon William and Rachelle Seibert stand outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City shortly after Deacon Seibert’s ordination on May 4, 2019. — Photo by Jay Nies

central Missouri around the time he started high school.

It was a culture shock, and young Bill learned some words he had never heard before.

He attended Columbia College and majored in interdisciplinary studies.

He and his wife Rachelle were married in Kansas City in 1976. He joined the State Highway Patrol a year later.

They now have three adult sons and a grandson.

While living in the St. Louis area, the Seiberts attended St. Alphonsus “Rock” Church, a mostly African American congregation.

What appealed most to him was the pastor’s eagerness to address contemporary issues and challenge the congregation to put Jesus’s teachings into practice.

It convinced him to complete his initiation into the Catholic Church there in 1995.

### Letting go

Deacon Seibert used to meet sleights and affronts against him and his family with anger.

“One day, I realized I can’t do that anymore,” he said. “I’ve spent enough time in my life being angry, and I’ve overcome that, and I’m not going to go back to it.”

When necessary, he prefers to talk to people in private, sparing their dignity.

The Seiberts moved to Jefferson City in 1997 and became members of Immaculate

Conception parish.

Deacon and Mrs. Seibert went through diaconal discernment and formation together, beginning in 2014.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight ordained him and 12 other permanent deacons last May.

Deacon Seibert said that aside from being a husband and father, becoming a deacon is the greatest thing that’s ever happened to him.

“I just love being in service mode,” he said. “It brings a calm, a charity, a worth, a real spiritual purpose, a daily challenge never to become complacent in your walk with Jesus.”

### It is enough

Deacon Seibert believes that if ever there was an appropriate time for properly channeled anger, it’s now.

“I think we’re finally to the point where people are saying, ‘enough is enough,’” he said.

He has noticed that the demonstrations seem to be younger and more diverse.

“There seems to be more people from all races that are saying it’s time to make some changes and that they’re willing to do the hard work of making that happen,” he said.

Hate remains a major stumbling block.

“The hate that’s displayed by some people in law enforcement and the hateful reactions to that are not going to solve anything,” he asserted.

“One thing people have to

learn on all sides is you cannot paint with a broad brush and just lump all people into the same category,” he said.

### “Too painful”

Deacon Seibert believes the perfect Bible passage to preach on in times like these is Mark 12:28-34, in which Jesus reveals the greatest of all of God’s commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength,” and “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

“If you believe that deep down and practice it, I don’t see how you can go wrong,” said Deacon Seibert. “When you don’t believe those things, that’s when you start to go astray.”

He said evil takes advantage of the opportunity whenever people turn away from God and His teachings.

Deacon Seibert said he recognizes God’s presence in the struggles that are taking place.

“I see Him on the side of love,” he stated. “I don’t see Him in any of the hate that’s been involved on either side.”

He can no longer watch the video footage of George Floyd gasping for air while a police officer kneels on his neck.

“To see that much hate and to see where a person is that powerless, it’s just too painful,” he said.

It also hurts him to think about retired St. Louis Police Capt. David Dorn, who was killed during a riot.

“I didn’t know him well, but I knew him,” said Deacon Seibert. “And the way he died at the hands of looters was just awful.”

“There is no purpose or justification for any of that,” he said.

### Totally dependent

He believes it will be impossible to improve relations among racial groups and between police and the people they are sworn to serve and protect, without help from God.

See DEACON, page 18

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# Fr. Aubuchon seeking prayers for successful heart transplant

See related note  
in the Official Decree on Page 2

By Jay Nies

Father Christopher Aubuchon needs a new heart.

Fourteen months after venerating the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, the 32-year-old priest of the Jefferson City diocese is on a waiting list for a heart transplant.

"The Lord has a plan. He knows what he's doing," said Fr. Aubuchon. "I trust Him very much, and He's been strengthening that trust through all of this — taking care of me in lots of hidden ways I could never have expected."

Fr. Aubuchon started experiencing shortness of breath last December and was treated for pneumonia.

The symptoms persisted, prompting him to go to Hermann Area District Hospital in Hermann and eventually Mercy Hospital in Washington, Missouri.

It became evident that his heart had been damaged by a virus and was not pumping as much blood as it should.

He was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and given medication. His fatigue and other symptoms continued to worsen.

The most mundane tasks — such as walking up a flight of stairs or taking a shower and brushing his teeth before bed — became exhausting.

"I couldn't breathe, I couldn't sleep at night," he said. "I was pretty much at my wit's end."

At the encouragement of Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, he sought a second doctor's opinion. The doctor sent him to SSM St. Mary's Hospital in Jefferson City last month, from which he was transferred to St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City for a more aggressive evaluation and treatment.

The doctors there concluded that because his heart is so weak and would not be able to recover on its own, he is a good candidate for a heart transplant.

"They've looked at every angle of the situation and determined that this is the only way they'll be able to prolong my life," he said.

After much prayer, reflec-

tion, discussion with family and friends, "and the shedding of some tears," he agreed to be placed on a national heart transplant list and is presently awaiting a donor.

"I have made this choice in order to be able to live my life and Priesthood as fully as possible on this earth," he said. "Obviously, the length of wait time is unknown and is in God's hands."

## "Okay with that"

Realizing that a heart only becomes available for transplant after someone with a healthy heart dies, Fr. Aubuchon asks for continued prayers not only for himself but also for the donor and his or her family.

A priest friend and former seminary classmate who lives near St. Luke's Hospital invited Fr. Aubuchon to stay with him at his rectory while waiting for the transplant and then while recovering.

"As overwhelming as all of this can be," said Fr. Aubuchon, "God has been so very good to me, and I rest in hope knowing that Jesus is answering my constant prayer to make my heart like His Sacred Heart, through the intercession of the patroness of our diocese, the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

He has been overwhelmed with gratitude for all the love and support he has received.

"A lot of good is coming out of this suffering," he recently wrote to friends. "It is through your prayers and the prayers of so many that I am strengthened."

He spends a great deal of time before the Blessed Sacrament, telling the Lord, "If this is how You want to make me a saint in Heaven with You, then let Your will be done."

"But if You want my opinion, I would like to be here longer to continue Your work as a priest and use this experience as an instrument to help other people."

He said it's a matter of bending his own will toward God's, not the other way around.

"Asking God for something that I want, if it isn't what He wants, amounts to settling for a lesser good," he said. "If that means carrying a heavy cross, then that's what it means. If



**Father Christopher Aubuchon holds a reliquary containing the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, during a diocesan day of prayer for vocations in 2019.**

— Photo by Father Joshua Duncan

it means dying, I'm okay with that, too."

"We're going to continue to trust in Him that way," said Fr. Aubuchon. "He's never let me down and I know He never will."

## Still striving

Fr. Aubuchon hasn't ruled out a miraculous healing, and he has gathered an impressive conglomeration of saints to help intercede for him.

"I'm asking my friends, the saints, to help me do what they did, which is to endure the kind of difficulty and suffering that helps us become saints," he said.

Having been born on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and ordained a priest on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, he has always turned to the Blessed Mother for help in time of need, and she brings him great comfort.

He took the name of her husband, St. Joseph, patron saint of the Universal Church,

patron saint of parish priests, whose incorrupt heart he got to venerate in a reliquary during a diocesan day of prayer for vocations last year.

"I hear he may have also had heart issues, so I've been praying for his intercession," said Fr. Aubuchon.

St. John Vianney was fond of praying, "My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath."

Then there are St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Rita and St. Jude Thaddeus.

"I ask for their intercession especially when praying for other people who are going through a hard time," he said.

He remembers praying a Novena to St. Jude in high school while struggling to accept that God was calling him to consider the Priesthood.

"God wanted me to go to the seminary, but I was terrified of it," he recalled. "I said, 'St. Jude, through your intercession, if God wants me to discern Priesthood in the seminary, please give me calm. If not, help all of this unrest go away.'"

Halfway through the novena, the future priest was filled with peace, tranquility and determination to give the seminary a try.

"Fast-forward some years, and I'm in a similar situation, in need and seeking that peace once again," said Fr. Aubuchon.

## Grateful heart

He's convinced that this whole experience can make

See FR. AUBUCHON, page 18



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# Rich Fountain native installed as Franciscan provincial superior

By Jay Nies

The joy that comes from believing in Jesus's passion, death and resurrection is revealed in merciful service.

That's not just the charism of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George (FSGM), it's the Christian way.

"It is the desire that the Lord has placed in every human heart," said Mother M. Mediatrix Bexten FSGM. "He put it there for a reason so that we can hope for heaven."

Mother Mediatrix, who grew up in Rich Fountain and graduated from Sacred Heart School, recently began a six-year term as provincial superior of the FSGMs' United States province

Named for St. Elizabeth, the province is headquartered in Alton, Illinois.

Mother Mediatrix and the rest of the provincial council were installed on March 25, the Solemnity of the Assumption.

"Our charism is to make Christ's merciful love visible through our service," she noted. "But the spirituality behind that is a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus — especially in the Paschal Mystery, the dying and the rising.

"I think the joy that is encountered with any religious and in a particular way in our community, is the fruit of the realization that ultimately, death and sin are not the final

word that the Lord has redeemed us," she said.

"And even in the midst of the cross, you can find joy, which is really the secret of holiness."

## "The Lord provides"

Founded by Mother M. Anselma in 1869 and headquartered in Thuine, Germany, the FSGMs have about 1,600 sisters throughout the world.

They are Third Order Franciscans who follow the Rule of St. Francis.

Especially known for their nursing and teaching, the sisters serve in hospitals, daycare centers and homes for the elderly; teach children and adults of all ages; care for retired priests; and serve in bishops' households such as the Vatican Nunciature in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1923, the St. Elizabeth Province encompasses FSGM convents and apostolates mostly in the Midwestern United States — "as far west as Nebraska and as far east as Ohio," said Mother Mediatrix.

There are about 100 sisters in the province, including several in the nation of Cuba and in northern Brazil.

The sisters of each province submit nominees for provincial superior. The General Council in Germany then selects the new leader from among the three sisters who receive the most nominations in that province.

"I certainly wasn't expecting it," said Mother Mediatrix. "But I figured that since this is a double discernment on the part of the sisters here and the sisters on the council in Germany, it must be something



**Rich Fountain native Mother M. Mediatrix Bexten FSGM (center), newly installed provincial superior of the St. Elizabeth province of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, gathers with the new provincial council after their installation on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation. With her are council members Sister M. Kateri Hawley, Sister M. Mikela Meidl, Sister M. Elise Mierendorf (vicaress), and Sister M. Angelica Neumann.**

God is calling me to.

"And so far, He has provided me the grace to do the task entrusted to me," she said.

Mother Mediatrix heads up a provincial leadership council that also includes a vicaress and three other sisters, assisted by a sister secretary and a sister procurator, who is essentially a treasurer.

The council members are appointed at the time of the election of the provincial superior.

"Some of the sisters have already served on councils and in community leadership, so there is a wealth of experience to draw on," said Mother Mediatrix.

These past few months of getting acclimated have been exciting and challenging.

"It's really been a lesson in learning God's providence," she said. "And the thing is, in every situation where I find myself lacking, whether it's a skillset or something else, the Lord always provides. People are always willing to help."

## "Depth of the faith"

As a budding leader in her congregation, Mother Mediatrix is drawing on the powerful experiences of her upbringing in a devout family and in a predominantly Catholic locale.

"I really appreciate the culture that I grew up in," she said. "I have yet to find another

place like it. Whenever I come back home, I know I'm with my people!"

They taught her about "being honest and being real."

"I would say that among the very formative experiences in my life, first and foremost was the practice of the Catholic faith in my family," she said. "And not just my immediate family but my extended family, as well."

Generations of large, families and relative stability in most of Osage County have led to the building up of "a really great family network," she stated.

"And there were some things that were just understood — and our faith was one of them."

She talked about her grandparents and "so many older men and women who lived in Rich Fountain" who modeled holiness according to their state in life.

"To be surrounded by saints in this life is something I probably took for granted back then, but I certainly don't take it for granted now," she said.

She also grew under the influence of the School Sisters of Notre Dame who served in the parish, including Sister Edith Juergensmeyer SSND, who taught her at Sacred Heart School.

"I got to spend time with them every week," Mother Me-

diatrix recalled. "They were a great witness of joy and Church life."

She heard stories about the more than 50 religious sisters who had come from the parish, including Sister Agnes Reinkemeyer of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, who was murdered while serving on mission overseas.

"I was moved by the story of her martyrdom," said Mother Mediatrix. "That definitely did affect me."

She believes the abundance of religious vocations from that area points to "the depth of the faith that's been present there for so long."

She was also influenced by the example of Monsignor Donald W. Lambers PA, who used to be pastor in Rich Fountain.

"You talk about joy! He's a great example of it," she said.

## Coming home

After graduating from Fatima High School in Westphalia, Mother Mediatrix went to Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, to study music education.

"Benedictine was a great place of formation for me," she said. "In a lot of ways, I learned the content of our faith. I was in a better position to encounter Jesus willfully and to desire that undivided relationship with Him."

Her roommate began discerning a call to religious life during college and entered the FSGMs in 1997.

"That kind of made me start thinking about possibly entering religious life, as well," Mother Mediatrix said. "I remember being all excited about it and asking all sorts of questions."

Meanwhile, she began praying the Rosary.

"That is where I felt like I had first met Jesus in a real way, in a relational way," she said.

Then she went to visit her former roommate at the motherhouse.

See LEADERSHIP, page 14

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# Early role models helped shape Fr. Cordes's Priesthood

By Jay Nies

Father Christopher Cordes hasn't forgotten the advice an old friend gave him about preaching homilies at Mass.

"Pick out one point, hit everybody right between the eyes with it, and then shut up and sit down," the friend suggested.

"I don't know if I always get that right, but it has probably kept some homilies shorter and closer to the point than they might have been," said Fr. Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia, who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary as a priest of the Jefferson City diocese.

He said he's grateful for "faith, family, friends, the parishes I've been and am in, the Priesthood and the life I have."

A son of Geraline "Gerrie" and the late Thomas Cordes Jr., he grew up in a devout Catholic family in Jefferson City and attended St. Peter Interparish School and Helias Catholic High School.

He said he had "too many good teachers to count."

Sandra Allen was his fifth-grade homeroom and subjects teacher at St. Peter School.

"She was a great teacher who was joyful and encouraging and affirming and challenged everyone to do and be their best," he recalled.

He grew closer to God in high school.

"My faith became more important to me and I knew that I wanted to live a committed Catholic life and put my faith into practice," he said.

He was a member of Helias Catholic's varsity football team during its 1984 "Quest for the Best" state championship season.

"Coach Ray Hentges was my coach and was also a faith inspiration at a time in my life when I needed it," the priest recalled.

The young athlete, whose father had played on Jefferson City High School's varsity football team at the beginning of its record-setting winning streak — had to miss two years of all sports because of a bone condition in his wrist.

"Coach Hentges's example and the way he talked about his faith in religion class helped



**Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia, admires the sign parishioners placed in the front yard of his rectory for his silver jubilee.**

— Photo by Elaine Hassemer

me accept that in a better way than I would have otherwise," said Fr. Cordes.

Sports bolstered his high school education.

"I learned commitment, dealing with adversity, and the importance of working together on a common goal," he recalled.

With thoughts of becoming a high school teacher and coach, he went to study English at what is now Truman State University in Kirksville, where he quickly became active in Catholic campus ministry at the Newman Center.

"I was on team for a couple of Teens Encounter Christ weekends each year of college," he said. "I got involved in a Bible study and I took a course called 'History of American Religious Thought' and enjoyed it more than any of my other classes."

### Joy and hope

He started thinking about Priesthood during his first year of college but waited two years to start looking into it.

"The initial reluctance moved in the direction of a persistent possibility," he said. "Even so, I kind of had a feeling of 'should' more than 'want' for a while."

He decided to finish his degree at Truman before considering the seminary.

Over time, he became more confident that God wanted him to be a priest and that it would be the best commitment for him to make.

His mother was very happy at the prospect.

"I'm the only son in my family and it was harder for my dad, especially at first," he recalled. "But he was supportive of me in whatever I decided to do, and eventually was at peace with it and happy about it."

Fr. Cordes spent two years in pre-theology at Conception Seminary College in Conception before moving on to theology studies at Kenrick-Glenon Seminary in St. Louis.

He enjoyed what he was learning, especially systematic theology, psychology, Church history, Scripture, moral theology and the Documents of the Second Vatican Council.

"The best thing was spending time with people who had the same goals and general values I had, in a prayerful and discernment-oriented community," he said.

He spent two summers in Denver working at a camp for young people from low-income families. Another summer brought him to Washington, D.C., to work with the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition.

Other ministry assignments included the St. Joseph State Hospital in St. Joseph, and St. Mary's Health Center and the Samaritan Center, both in Jefferson City.

He served as an acolyte at Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City and as a transitional deacon at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia.

He continued to struggle with the prospect of never getting married and having a family of his own.

"It took a lot of prayer and encouragement and knowledge of myself and trust in God, and I eventually made the decision that this is what I want to do," he said.

"The reassurance came from the sense that this really is the best life for me and who I am and I have to trust that God and grace will be there when I need it most," he said.

On May 20, 1995, in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City,

ish in Russellville.

Monsignor Michael Wilbers, now retired, was his pastor.

"He gave me quite a bit of responsibility and was very affirming of how I was doing," said Fr. Cordes. "I learned that you have to be ready for just about anything, and I learned that people appreciate priests and are supportive of them."

He then served as pastor of St. Mary parish in Shelbina and St. Patrick parish in Clarence, then as pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Montgomery City and sacramental minister of St. Patrick parish in Jonesburg.

In Shelbina, he worked with parishioners to get an elevator installed in St. Mary Church, so people who could no longer climb the steps could start going to Mass again.

He then served as pastor of Mary Immaculate parish in Kirksville and the mission of St. Rose of Lima in Novinger for seven years before being appointed pastor of Our Lady of

See FR. CORDES, page 23

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## QUESTION CORNER

## History of confession / Does Mass on TV fulfill obligation?

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



**Q. When I was a Protestant, I never went to confession, and no such practice existed in any of the churches to which I belonged over the years. Now, as a Catholic, I've been told that confession is based on a passage in the Letter of James (5:16) that says, "Confess your sins to one another." But that verse to me seems more like a general instruction to admit it when we've done a person some wrong and ask each other's forgiveness than it does a mandate to have a confessional in every church. Can you explain? (New Middletown, Indiana)**

A. I have always learned that the Church's power to forgive sins was based primarily on a different scriptural text from the one you cite. This passage comes from the Gospel of John (20:22-23); on the night of the resurrection, when the Risen Jesus appeared to the apostles who were huddled in fear, he said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

The exact form in which that forgiveness is dispensed has varied considerably over the years, as detailed in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (No. 1447). In the early centuries, reconciliation for particularly grave sins consisted of a one-time-only public profession of guilt and a course of manifest penance, sometimes for a number of years, before readmission into the eucharistic community of the Church.

During the seventh century, Irish missionaries brought to the European continent the practice of the private confession of sins to a priest, opening the way to the regular use of the sacrament for both mortal and venial sins — and this has continued as the basic structure of the sacrament up to the present day.

**Q. Due to COVID-19 and restrictions to prevent its spread, public Masses are currently suspended in our diocese. If I "attend" a livestreamed Mass on television during this time, have I fulfilled my Sunday obligation? (By not participating at all, I feel as if I am falling away — and it is becoming much too easy to enjoy this "time off.") (Richmond, Virginia)**

A. No, you have not fulfilled your Sunday obligation by watching Mass on television. But not to worry — in your case, you have no obligation! During the coronavirus pandemic, Richmond — like many dioceses — has simply lifted the responsibility of Catholics to attend Mass. (The Archdiocese of Washington says on its website, "The right thing to do is to stay home for your safety and the safety of others.")

Whenever circumstances make it impossible or unwise to go to church — illness, caring for a sick child, a non-negotiable work assignment, etc. — your Sunday obligation is simply lifted. But what you should still do is to try to make Sunday special.

The bishop of the Diocese of Spokane, Washington, for example, wrote that during the coronavirus, "Those members of the faithful who do not attend Sunday Mass should devote some time to prayer on the Lord's Day, either alone or as a family."

Many parishes and dioceses have offered suggestions as to how that might be done — watching a televised Mass, looking over the Sunday readings in advance, praying the Our Father and offering prayer intentions aloud as a family.

During a weekday televised Mass from his residence in March, Pope Francis suggested that viewers who find themselves unable

See DOYLE, page 18

## Prayer is a 'fight' with God, Pope says at audience

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

True prayer is a "fight" with God in which those who think they are strong are humbled and faced with the reality of their own mortal condition, Pope Francis said.

The story of Jacob wrestling with God throughout the night is a reminder that although prayer reveals "that we are only poor men and women," God also has a "blessing reserved for those who have let themselves be changed by Him," the Pope said June 10 during his weekly General Audience.

"This is a beautiful invitation to let ourselves be changed by God. He knows how to do it because He knows each of us. 'Lord, You know me,' each one of us can say. 'Lord, You know me. Change me,'" the Pope said.

In the audience, livestreamed from the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican, the Pope continued his series of talks on prayer. And before concluding the audience, he reminded the faith-

ful of the June 12 observance of the World Day Against Child Labor.

Calling child labor a "phenomenon that deprives boys and girls of their childhood," the Pope said that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced children and young people in many countries to work in "jobs that are inappropriate for their age to help their families in conditions of extreme poverty."

He also warned that "in many cases, these are forms of slavery and imprisonment, resulting in physical and psychological suffering."

The Pope's concern for child labor comes nearly a week after the death in Pakistan of Zhora Shah, an 8-year-old child maid who allegedly was beaten to death by her employers after accidentally releasing their prized parrots. The case has sparked outrage in Pakistan and around the world.

"Children are the future of the human family,"

See AUDIENCE, page 11

## Sr. Mary Ruth Wand SSND to begin serving in Sedalia July 1

By Jay Nies

Sister Mary Ruth Wand of the School Sisters of Notre Dame will bring decades of experience to the next phase of her ministry in the Jefferson City diocese.

Having served for 22 years as a pastoral minister for Annunciation parish in California, she will join the ministry team of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Sedalia on July 1.

She will coordinate and serve among the parish volunteers who visit the hospitalized, homebound and those living in nursing homes.

"We are very happy that she'll be here to minister with us at St. Vincent de Paul," said Father Joseph Corel, pastor *in solidum* of the Sedalia parish.

Sr. Mary Ruth grew up on a farm near Quincy, Illinois, and has spent most of her 55 years of professed religious life in central and northeastern Missouri.

She has served as a teacher at St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City and at St. George School in Linn, and as a teaching principal at Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek, Holy Family School in Hannibal, Fr. McCartan Memorial School



Sr. Mary Ruth Wand SSND

in Marceline and St. Joseph School in Martinsburg.

She has also served in St. Louis and in Iowa and Nebraska.

She joined the California parish in 1999.

There, she taught children in the Parish School of Religion, visited people who are homebound or in the hospital, and comforted families in times of sickness and death.

She led a Scripture-based faith-sharing group and worked with the parishioners who produce the six-minute weekly mediations for the "Mustard Seed" Sunday-morning radio program.

She told *The Catholic*

*Missourian* in 2017 that churches need to be "places where people can come for refuge and guidance, where we can give them hope and help them keep plugging on."

"We need to be on our knees, asking God how we can help," she said. "Sometimes, I'm there just to listen. Other times, He gives me the words I need. I always pray that I will be His instrument — that God will help me say whatever He needs them to hear."

Sr. Mary Ruth said she'll miss the people of Annunciation but is excited to continue ministering in the Jefferson City diocese.

She plans on staying in touch.

Father Alexander Gabriel, pastor of Annunciation parish and of St. Andrew parish in Tipton, wished her well.

"We are very grateful for all that Sr. Mary Ruth has done for the people of our parish and this community," he said.

Annunciation parish plans to hold a send-off reception for her on a parishioner's farm the afternoon of Sunday, June 21.

There will be plenty of room to maintain proper social distance, the organizers stated.

## This moment of judgment

By Greg Erlandson  
Catholic News Service



I'd be willing to bet that not many of us have watched a man die. Those of us who don't go to war or work in intensive care units are not often witnesses to the last breath of another human being. We

don't see a lifeless body rolled over onto a stretcher, head dangling limply.

George Floyd died before our eyes. He died while an expressionless policeman, his hand stuck in his pocket, a gesture that seemed nightmarishly casual, pressed the life out of him with his knee.

It was the juxtaposition of these images — murder and casualness — that most of us can't get out of our minds. It is that scene that will memorialize this death-drenched year and has ignited a short fuse to a long-standing powder

keg of grievances.

As much as we want to avert our eyes, we need to remember the particulars of this situation. We all want to rush to generalizations. All cops. All protesters. All demonstrations. All blacks. All whites. All liberals. All conservatives.

In our horror or in our defensiveness, we paint with broad brushes what needs to be first and foremost a singular moment. A man is dead. We watched him die.

Yet at the same time, the outpouring rage and grief tells us that this was more than just one incident. And if half the nation may be mystified at the reaction, the other half is not.

How difficult it is for those of us who have not experienced the scourge of racism to understand its sting.

How do we understand what it is like to have every eye on us when we enter a suburban restaurant in many states? How do we understand what it feels like to hear casual slurs from strangers? How do we understand what it feels like to be

viewed as a threat just going out bird-watching or for a jog?

How do we understand what it feels like to fear the police more than the people they are supposed to protect us from? How do we understand the discomfort of driving to work every day past a house with a Confederate flag on the garage door?

How do we understand the urgency of having "the talk" with our sons about how to be careful in any encounters with police? And how do we understand the trauma of seeing George Floyd's lifeless body and thinking that that could be, not some stranger, but our son, our father?

People say racism is America's original sin. That is not just a figure of speech. St. John Paul II and Pope Francis have both said that racism is a sin. It is a sin that haunts the human soul, and there is evidence of racism and deep ethnic prejudice across all continents and in all nations.

But because America was founded

on the loftiest of ideals — that all men and women are created equal — the sin stings more.

This is a moment of judgment: The virus, the crashing economy and Floyd's murder have exposed the inequalities and flaws of our nation: in education, in health care, in civil rights. This is also our moment to take a stand together. Yes, looting is terrible. Yes, militarizing a response to peaceful protests is wrong.

But let us not avert our eyes from the challenge at hand. Let us recommit as a nation, as a Church, to the belief that all are equal and all deserve equal opportunity, and that we must make this more than just talk.

Let us address our shortcomings. Let us commit to being strangers no more, lest at the Final Judgment, we have no excuse at all for what we tolerated on our watch.

*Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at [gerlandson@catholicnews.com](mailto:gerlandson@catholicnews.com).*

## Last chapter: Be used

By Denise Bossert



We have a God Who lavishly dispenses love. That's the good news. Suffering and love frequently go together. That's the tough news.

I avoid suffering. No glutton for punishment here. That is why I set an appointment with a doctor to diagnose my shoulder pain. I put up with the pain for over six months, and I wanted relief. The first line of treatment? A cortisone shot and physical therapy. Bring on the shot, but I am no fan of PT. I don't want strangers touching me.

I showed up for physical therapy and did the routines. The therapist and I chatted, and I went home with subsequent appointments listed on a print-out. Even with the shot, the routines were sometimes painful. I wondered about the MRI. Maybe we should go straight to surgery and nix the PT.

I showed up for my second visit and Eric greeted me with a smile. He took me back and started the stretches. At one point, he asked me if my youngest went to St. Dominic High School where I teach. I told him I have only taught there a couple of years. My daughter had already graduated from high school when I started my position. "Well, then," he asked, "where had I taught before that? Did she go to that school?"

I explained that when my daughter was in high school, I was an author and

speaker. Then the questions came. What talks did I give? What was my book about? I answered between grimaces as I stretched out the muscles in my shoulder and defied my rotator cuff injury.

His story tumbled out. He had grown up Catholic and attended a Catholic high school. He said he did not remember very much from religion class. (Many adults say that, but they remember far more than they think.) He had married a Lutheran. Questions between their faiths came up all of the time. Like purgatory. Like, can he receive communion at her church? Like praying to Mary. Like, why does her church only have communion twice a month?

His wife was taking a new job teaching at a Catholic school. Seemed like religion was coming up more often now.

I pressed a semi-flat ball against the wall and made wax-on, wax-off motions with my bad arm and smiled behind my coronavirus mask. He couldn't see my smile. The words Jesus wanted me to say came easily. Purgatory is a very important doctrine because... We pray to Mary, but praying can mean many things, like intercession and not just worship... We do not worship Mary. Don't receive the Eucharist in a Lutheran parish because you are Catholic, and we believe valid consecration requires laying on of hands and an apostolic succession which goes all the way back to Peter. Check out the papal list in a google search engine. It's an amazing list.

He drove the conversation, and I of-

### REFLECTION

## Just beyond the horizon

By Mark Saucier

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

That quote of Martin Luther King Jr. has reappeared in recent days, encouraging a hope that we will get beyond the systemic violence and the raging streets that call for justice.

While MLK offered those words to the world, their source was a 100-year-old sermon of a Unitarian minister and abolitionist, Theodore Parker.

"I do not pretend to understand the moral universe," Parker confessed. "The arc is a long one. My eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by experience of sight. I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see, it bends toward justice."

Parker's words remind us that the march toward justice is a long one, that victory is not inevitable, and that ultimately it depends on conscience.

So, when George Floyd died, I wondered how much weight I added to that knee on his neck.

I once thought I was a pretty woke guy. I had black friends. I'd read Douglas, Baldwin and Coates. I knew 10 million human beings were imported into this country and that Gen. Sherman's "40 acres and a mule" for former slaves was nixed by Lincoln's successor.

But then I traveled to Nigeria. For seven days, I never saw another *nwoke ocha*, a white man.

Still, I felt welcome, comfortable at meals and conversations, enjoying the discovery, the laughter, and the countless hugs of each day.

I remember asking myself if I would feel like this if I spent a week alone in North St. Louis, South Chicago, or Watts.

The question itself suggested some vestiges of prejudice. I didn't feel guilty, but I knew it was something I had to examine.

Now we hear calls for a litany of changes and reforms. Regardless of the merit of any of these, nothing is going to work without an examination of personal conscience, without a conversion of the heart.

Paul echoes this in his epistle to Philemon. In prison, the evangelist has befriended Onesimus, a slave of Philemon who stole from his owner.

When Onesimus is released, Paul sends him back to his master with a letter and a challenge. He urges Philemon to a vulnerability open to change, to treat Onesimus, not as a slave, but as a beloved brother.

The arc of the moral universe may well orient towards justice, but whether it bends or breaks depends on each of us.

See BOSSERT, page 18

# Bishop dedicates addition to Catholic grade school in Columbia

By Jay Nies

As one of the most unusual academic years in Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School's history was winding down, the final touches were being placed on the school's \$6.6 million, 24,000-square-foot addition.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight joined Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia; Elaine Hassemer, principal; Dr. Erin Vader, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools; and several others on May 8 for a livestreamed dedication ceremony in the school's new lobby.

"Back in August, 2019, when the addition was being completed and we were moving in, none of us could have even imagined a dedication like this one," Mrs. Hassemer noted.

She said the time the students spent learning at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic helped reinforce the fact that a school is much more than bricks and mortar.

"It's a thriving community which is dedicated to the spiritual, intellectual and moral development of our students," she said.

The addition includes 12 new classrooms, a writing lab, a creative interactive learning environment known as a "makerspace," multiple small teaching spaces, and a new media center and school office.

The brickwork matches the nearby Our Lady of Lourdes Church and the Our Lady of Lourdes Education Center in the church's lower level.

The completed complex offers enhanced security and 21st-century functionality for the roughly 625 students in grades kindergarten through 8, and for those who teach them and form them in the faith.

It also includes advanced technology and upgrades to the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, lighting, and heating and cooling systems, as well as a FEMA-rated storm shelter with room for all of the students and faculty.

## Safe and secure

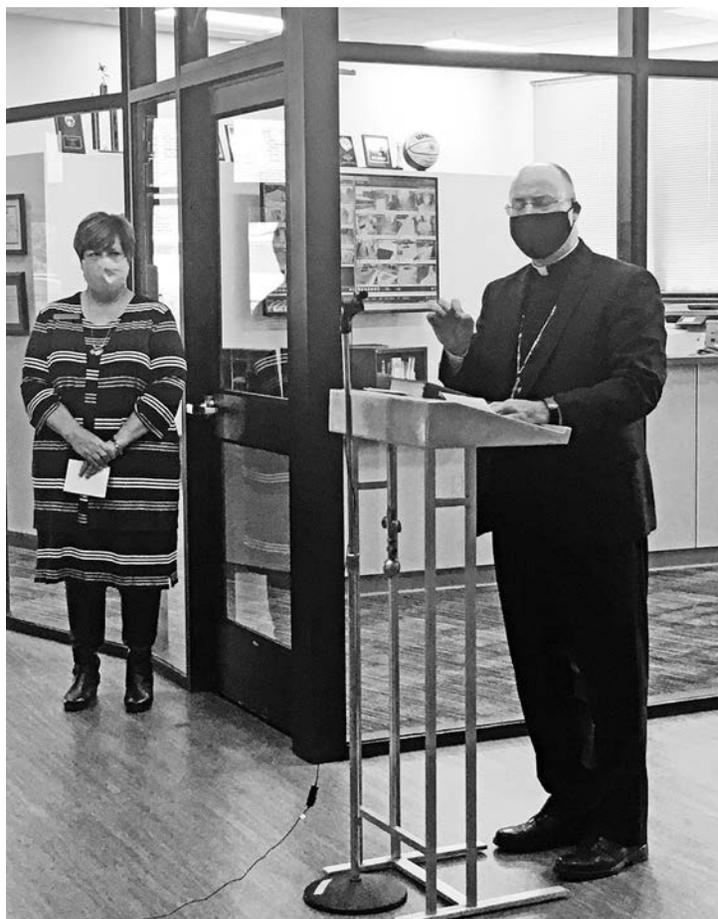
Fr. Cordes thanked God for the addition and everyone who had a hand in getting it built — "those here today and the many, many others who are not able to be with us because of health concerns and space restraints."

"We ask for Your continued guidance and blessing on us and on all that happens in this building, our school, our parish, our diocese and all of us in our lives, following You and bringing Your Good News to the world," he prayed.

Fr. Cordes thanked Mrs. Hassemer for guiding the school steadily through the planning, construction and various phases of moving and reorganizing.

He pointed out that planning for the addition began in 2013, while Monsignor Michael Flanagan, now retired, was pastor.

"Our two major motivations were to increase the safety and security of our students



**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight speaks at the dedication ceremony of the new addition to Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia. Dr. Erin Vader, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, is one of the participants.**

— Photo by Elaine Hassemer

and our school community and to improve the equational environment," he said.

Beginning in 2016, people from all three Columbia parishes made pledges to the capital campaign for the school addition.

Construction commenced in the Fall of 2018. The moving of classrooms and offices and use of the new portion began last fall, and finishing work on the inside and outside concluded during the current school year.

The addition and new entrance stand on ground once occupied by an avenue of temporary, portable classrooms.

"We were able to move all those classes into the main building and create a dedicated space for the sixth through eighth grades, as well as our specialized classrooms and our administration area," said Fr. Cordes.

## "New life"

Those attending included Brad Stegeman, representing Simon Oswald Architecture, which designed the addition; Bryan McCullam, representing Diamond Design, the general

contractor; Brad Copeland, diocesan director of buildings and properties; members of the building committee; Assistant Principal Katie Helfer; teacher Donna Blauch; and Sololmon Kinoy, president of the student council.

Fr. Cordes thanked Dominican Father Richard Litzau, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center parish, and Father Francis Doyle, pastor of Sacred Heart parish, both in Columbia, for theirs and their parishes' support of the project.

He also thanked Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos, now retired, for his support throughout the planning stage and Bishop McKnight for permitting the project to move forward.

He also recognized the members of the campaign committee that raised the money for the project, and the people who donated to it.

Dr. Vader said it's always beautiful to see new growth and new life in Catholic education.

"The sort of new growth we're seeing and blessing today speaks to a healthy and vibrant Catholic community," she

pointed out.

She said the expanded school is an extension of the mission of Our Lady of Lourdes parish to provide a Christ-centered learning community.

"And it's a reminder to all of us that Catholic education is necessary, that it is vital for the future of our Church and for our world," she stated.

She said the new walls and furnishings are a physical reminder of the Church's obligation "to form our youngest Catholic Christians as stewards and servant leaders."

"It reminds us of our calling to help these children discover their talents and gifts they have been given by God," she said. "And it reminds us of our responsibility to help them use those talents to be Christ's hands and feet in this world."

## A work of mercy

Bishop McKnight emphasized the importance of Catholic education in building-up parishes and the whole Church.

"Catholic schools help parishes to be centers of mercy and charity," he said. "Education is a fundamental corporal work of mercy."

"And as we go about thanking God for the blessings He has bestowed upon us in this structure and all that will take place here, we are reminded, too, of our obligation as leaders and adults to provide an environment that is safe and healthy," he said.

The bishop thanked everyone who was involved with this project: "the workers, the laborers, the architects, the engineers, and everybody who assisted with that, the faculty and the leadership of the school, as well as your pastor."

He prayed for God to make the upgraded school building "a center where students and teachers imbued with the words of truth will search for the wisdom that guides the Christian life and strive wholehearted to stand by Christ as their teacher."

The bishop and Fr. Cordes then sprinkled holy water onto the walls and floor of the addition.

Fr. Cordes said the school will hold an open house when circumstances permit.

## Service not forgotten



**Members of the Sumner American Legion Post gather in St. Joseph Cemetery at Hurricane Branch to honor the veterans who are buried there on Memorial Day.**

— Photo from the Friends of St. Joseph Hurricane Branch Catholic Church Facebook page

# Pope appoints Bishop Rozanski as new St. Louis archbishop, accepts retirement of Archbishop Robert Carlson

**Bishop Rozanski has been serving as bishop of Springfield, Massachusetts, since 2014**

By Jennifer Brinker

St. Louis

Pope Francis on June 10 accepted the retirement of Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis and appointed Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, to succeed him.

Archbishop Carlson turned 75 in June 2019, the age at which bishops are required to submit their retirement to the Pope.

Archbishop-designate Rozanski has served as head of the Diocese of Springfield since 2014.

He previously served as a priest and auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, made the announcement in Washington, D.C., June 10, exactly 11 years to the day that Archbishop Carlson was installed as archbishop of St. Louis in 2009.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City said he's looking forward to working with his new metropolitan.

"I was privileged to work with him on several committees during my time of service at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops," said Bishop McKnight. "Archbishop Rozanski has a pastor's heart, and I think he will be well suited for the Archdiocese and the Province of Missouri."

Bishop McKnight said he has greatly appreciated the leadership of Archbishop Carlson.

"He has been a kind and helpful mentor since he ordained me as a bishop, and I had the privilege of working with him closely when he was the chairman of the USCCB Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations."

Bishop McKnight added that Archbishop Carlson's efforts "to address the tragedy of racism in our communities have inspired many."

The Mass of installation for Archbishop-designate Rozanski's Mass is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 25, the feast of St. Louis.

More information on the Mass will be forthcoming as details are confirmed.

He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on Nov. 24, 1984.

On July 3, 2004, he was named by Pope St. John Paul II as auxiliary bishop for of Baltimore and was ordained bishop on Aug. 24, of that year the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

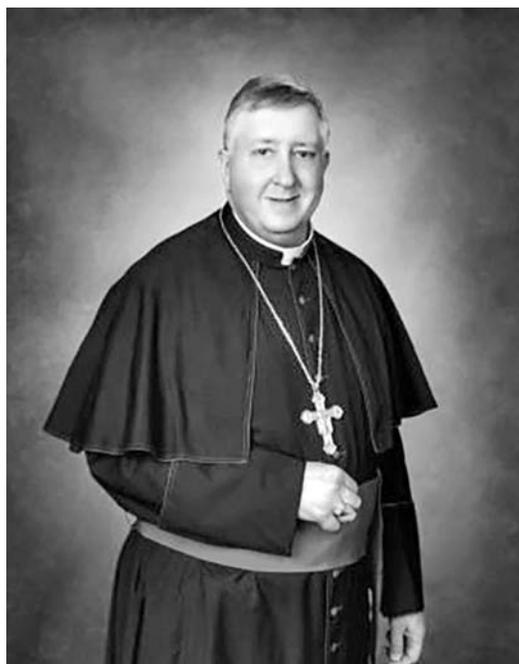
At that time, he was the youngest bishop in the United States.

Pope Francis appointed Bishop Rozanski as head of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, on June 19, 2014. He was installed on Aug. 12 of that year by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., of Boston.

Archbishop Carlson will continue to serve the archdiocese of St. Louis as apostolic administrator until Archbishop-designate Rozanski's installation.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis said in a statement that it is grateful to Archbishop Carlson for his faithful and strong leadership throughout the triumphs and challenges of the last decade, and looks forward to the gifts he will continue to offer in the next chapter of his life.

**Archbishop-designate Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis**



Archbishop Carlson said he's honored to have served as leader of the archdiocese for more than a decade.

"This large and generous community of faithful Catho-

lics will continue to encourage me in my faith journey, and I know that Bishop Rozanski will cherish his inheritance," he said. "I am confident in the future of God's strong Church in St. Louis with Archbishop-elect Rozanski as its shepherd."

The diocese of St. Louis was erected in 1826, and was elevated to an archdiocese in 1847.

The territory of the Archdiocese of St. Louis today includes the City of St. Louis and 10 surrounding counties in Missouri.

In 2019, there were approximately 2.25 million people living within the boundaries of the archdiocese, with 505,000, or 22 percent, identifying as Catholic.

*Mrs. Brinker is a staff writer for the St. Louis Review and Catholic St. Louis, publications of the St. Louis archdiocese.*

## Bishops say Our Lady of America apparitions were not supernatural

Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, and five other bishops have concluded that alleged apparitions of Our Lady of America — said to have taken place more than six decades ago — were not of supernatural origin.

While private devotion inspired by reports of the apparitions could continue without harm to the faith, Bishop Rhoades said, it would not be appropriate for any sort of public devotion.

"I must come to the conclusion that the visions and revelations themselves cannot be said to be of supernatural origin in

the sense of objective occurrences," Bishop Rhoades said in a final document known as a singular decree, adding that he "cannot approve or support public devotion or cult."

The investigation concerned numerous apparitions reported by Sister Mary Ephrem Neuzil, a Sister of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus of Dayton, Ohio, between 1956 and 1959.

At the time, it was reported that Mary had appeared to Sister Neuzil and had identified herself as Our Lady of America. Sister Neuzil died in 2000.

Both before and after the reported apparitions, she said she had other communications or locutions from Mary that took place in several dioceses.

## AUDIENCE

From page 8

Pope Francis said. "It is up to all of us to foster their growth, health and serenity!"

In his main talk, the Pope reflected on the story of Jacob, an "unscrupulous man" who despite the odds, "seems to succeed in every feat in his life."

"Jacob — we would say in today's modern language — is a 'self-made man.' With his ingenuity, he is able to conquer everything he wants. But he is missing something: he lacks the living relationship with his own roots," the Pope said.

It is on a return trip to see his brother Esau — whom he defrauded for an inheritance — that Jacob encounters the stranger who fights with him. Citing the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the Pope said that this struggle is "the symbol of prayer as a battle of faith and as the triumph of perseverance."

Overcome by a strike to the hip, the stranger — whom Jacob later realized is God — blesses him and gives him the name "Israel." The Pope said that Jacob ultimately enters the promised land with a limp, but also "with a new heart."

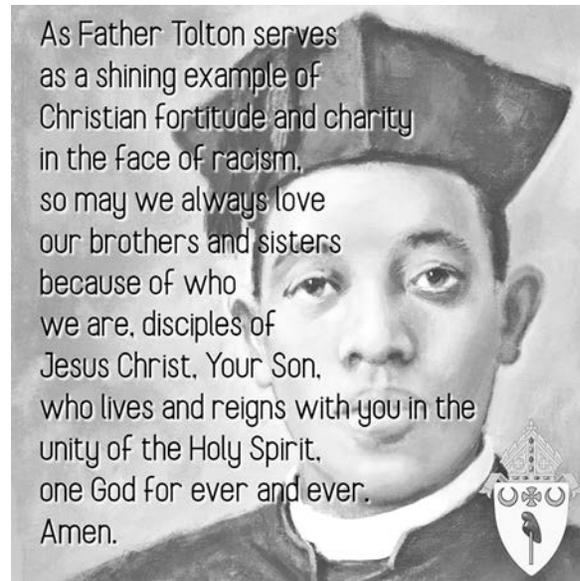
"Before he was a confident man, he trusted in his own cunning," he said. "He was a man impervious to grace, resistant to mercy. But God saved what was lost."

"We all have an appointment with God in the night," Pope Francis

said. "He will surprise us when we do not expect it, when we find ourselves truly alone."

But, the Pope said, "we need not fear because in that moment, God will give us a new name that contains the meaning of our whole life."

*Follow Arocho on Twitter: @ arochoju*



# Detroit archdiocese to shift to ‘family of parishes’ over two years

By Michael Stechschulte  
Catholic News Service

**Detroit**

Over the next two years, the Archdiocese of Detroit will transition to a new pastoral and governance model for its 218 parishes called “families of parishes,” Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron announced May 31, the feast of Pentecost.

Calling it a “very important step in the life and mission of our local Church,” he said the move will allow parishes to more robustly serve their mission while proactively respond-

ing to historic challenges that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Even before the pandemic, we knew God wanted to renew our parishes. The structures we inherited served our mission well in the past, but they need to be renewed and aligned for mission,” Archbishop Vigneron said. “And so, in prayer and in consultation with others, I’ve discerned that this is the time to respond in faith to our new reality and to better equip our parish communities for mission.”

While the health and economic crises have contributed to a reduction in material resources, the archdiocese also faces a looming priest shortage, the archbishop noted, with almost two-thirds of priests in southeast Michigan older than 60.

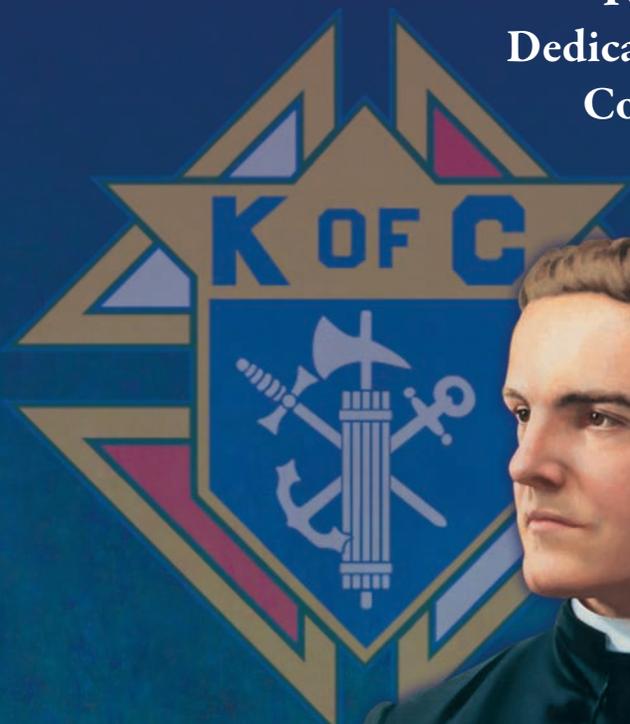
Many of these priests care for one or multiple parish communities as they approach — or even exceed — retirement age, a burden that if left unchecked would quickly become unsustainable, the archbishop said.

In the new “family of parishes” model, multiple priests and deacons

would be assigned to care for a group of three to six parishes, alleviating some administrative burdens and allowing parishes to more closely share human and material resources and talents.

“Over the next several months, groups of clergy and lay faithful will help me discern the leadership and governance structure of the families of parishes and the ways in which this new structure will help all our parishes become vibrant posts of missionary activity,” the archbishop said.

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Stan Strope  
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Dustin Dolce  
573-230-6902



Jeff Fennwald  
573-473-7590

# A fresh new look for a historical chapel in Edina

By Jay Nies

The chapel in the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Edina looks bright and fresh, following a renovation that was completed in time for Easter.

The original hardwood floor was uncovered and restored, and the walls were painted white, along with other touches.

“While it no longer has the distinctive ‘knotty pine’ look from the ’60s, it does echo the timeless look of our St. Joseph Church,” observed Father Colin Franklin, pastor of St. Joseph parish, St. John parish in Memphis and the St. Rose of Lima mission in Novinger and chaplain of the Kirksville Newman Center.

Fr. Franklin offered the livestreamed Masses of the Easter Triduum and the first few weeks of Easter in the chapel, while public Masses and other parish gatherings were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The chapel, where daily Masses continue to be offered, is on the main floor the 1902-vintage former St. Joseph Convent, two doors down from the church.

Occupied for over 70 years by Sisters of Loretto who taught at the former St. Joseph School, and later

by School Sisters of Notre Dame who staffed a regional catechetical center in Edina, it stands on the site of St. Joseph parish’s original church and rectory.

The parish in 2004 substantially upgraded the building, converting it into a retreat center.

High ceilings, art-glass windows, an ornate staircase and other touches provide links to the past, while a state-of-the-art conference room provides an oasis of soft colors and soft carpeting.

The center serves as a functional, affordable northern-Missouri venue for such renewal experiences as Cursillo, Teens Encounter Christ, and Awakenings, as well as parish-based retreats for adults and young people.

For information about the St. Joseph Retreat Center, contact Cheryl Hayes at (660) 397-2580 or [haymom54@hotmail.com](mailto:haymom54@hotmail.com).



The St. Joseph Retreat Center in Edina.

The renovation of the chapel in the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Edina was completed in time for livestreamed Masses for the Easter Triduum to be offered there.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Catholic Church - Edina, MO Facebook page





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## Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri announces Cristal Backer as director of development, outreach

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) has announced that Cristal Backer serves as their new director of development and outreach.

Her responsibilities include overseeing development and communication efforts to support the work at Catholic Charities of “Providing Care and Creating Hope.”

With over a decade of experience in nonprofit work, Mrs. Backer spoke about how much she values the connection to the local faith community as a Cathedral of St. Joseph parish-

ioner and St. Joseph Cathedral School advisory board member.

“I am grateful for this opportunity to serve Catholic Charities and our community,” she said.

“This is truly a special time to be involved with the work of Catholic Charities, as it renovates the former chapel and gymnasium of the La Salette seminary in Jefferson City and transforms it to become a multi-service health and social welfare space to serve central and northern Missourians.”

Plans for the space include

a food pantry, universal exam rooms for healthcare providers to utilize for screenings and other basic health services, classroom space for various programs, and the inclusion of Catholic Charities current services, including disaster recovery, housing and financial counseling, and immigration services.

CCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester said that even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the desperate need for the services to be provided there was evident.

“But now as we see the in-



Cristal Backer

flux of people, including those who lost their job and have

never needed assistance before, we strive to be up and running as soon as possible,” he stated.

“We look forward to Cristal helping in these critical efforts through her understanding of God’s intention for us all to be good stewards of His gifts to us of time, talent, and treasure as they are given in His service” he said.

“We are glad to have Cristal join our staff to assist in our work to provide compassionate care for those most vulnerable in our region,” he said.

CCCNMO is the charitable services arm of the Diocese of Jefferson City, providing a range of programs and services to those in need to a 38-county service area regardless of faith, culture or situation.

CCCNMO is committed to assisting the most basic and immediate needs of the poor and vulnerable by giving them the help and resources needed for long-term change.

Anyone interested in joining Catholic Charities’ building renovation efforts can donate at:

[cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give](https://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give)

## LEADERSHIP

From page 6

“I found a sense of being at peace and being at home — a sense that this is where I’m supposed to be,” she said.

She entered the following year.

### “Maternal mediator”

After the novitiate, she was missioned to St. Alban Roe parish in Wildwood, in the St. Louis archdiocese, from 2000 to 2010.

She then served for two years in the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, as director for the diocesan Office of Consecrated Life and director of a house of formation for young women discerning religious life.

She was then transferred to the congregation’s provincial house, named for St. Francis of Assisi, and taught at St. Mary School in Alton until 2015.

She returned to St. Alban Roe parish in Wildwood and remained there until becoming provincial superior.

“My leadership prep has been very organic,” she stated. “I don’t have an MBA or any-

thing like that. But I think being a teacher is great formation for how to be a leader.”

### Love, joy and faithfulness

“Our foundress, Mother Anselma, identified three aspects that should be present in Thuine Franciscans: love of poverty, joy in work, and faithfulness in prayer,” said Mother Mediatrix.

Joy is a foundational element of the order.

“That’s very much a Franciscan trait,” she noted. “St. Francis was very joyful.”

It’s also one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

“It is my lived experience that when we cooperate with God, He helps us work through all the struggles we have,” said Mother Mediatrix. “When we unite our suffering with His suffering, He makes that offering to Him redemptive.”

The sisters dress distinctively. The formal habit color is black, which is worn on feast-days and holy days.

Work habits are either grey or white, depending on the sisters’ type of service.

### Perfect timing

Mother Mediatrix entered leadership just as a pandemic took hold.

“We’ve been dealing a lot with COVID-19,” she said. “But the necessary prayer and discernment are also taking place.”

She noted that the congregation recently celebrated its 150th anniversary.

“Knowing that I actually am drawing from a foundation that stretches so far back — that so many people have done this before me, and that I am doing this for a time and then handing it on — that’s very important to me,” she said.

She pointed out that the Second Vatican Council in its Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life called for religious communities to return to their sources.

“Central to that for us is our charism,” she said. “That is foremost in our mind, that the charism needs to be preserved and needs to continue to be understood, and also discerning how and where that charism needs to be shared in our world.”

### “Very good fruit”

While promising to continue praying for the people of her home diocese, Mother Mediatrix asked for prayers “for an

outpouring of the Holy Spirit on me and my council and also on the congregation.”

God continues to bless the FSGMs with young women who are seeking the Lord and a relationship of complete dedication to Him.

“I think they come to us because they see it as a way to happiness and fulfillment,” said Mother Mediatrix. “Of course, it won’t be fully realized until we’re in heaven.”

To anyone discerning a possible calling to religious life, she suggested to “just continue to seek Jesus Christ and get to know Who He is in the Gospels and through the Liturgy.”

“Continue to seek ways of encountering Christ in the sacraments,” she added.

To the parents of young women considering religious life, she suggested remembering that all things — including sons and daughters and even one’s own life — are a gift from God.

“And the nature of a gift is that it’s meant to be given away,” she said.

She acknowledged that a vocation to Priesthood and religious life is a vocation for the whole family.

“It really does affect everyone, and sometimes it can be difficult,” she said. “But we can trust the Lord and know beyond doubt that it can lead to very good fruit.”

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we praise you for sending your Son to be one of us and to save us.

Look upon your people with mercy, for we are divided in so many ways, and give us the Spirit of Jesus to make us one in love.

We ask this gift, loving Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Diocese of Jefferson City



**LEFT:** Rev. Mr. Derek Hooper lays prostrate before the altar while the bishop, priests and congregation chant the Litany of Saints. **CENTER:** Father Michael Baldwin, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, gives Rev. Mr. Hooper a sign of peace after ceremonially helping him put on his deacon vestments during the Mass. **RIGHT:** Bishop W. Shawn McKnight lays hands upon Rev. Mr. Hooper while silently invoking the power of the Holy Spirit to make him a deacon of the Church.

— Photos by Jay Nies

## ORDINATION

From page 1

told him, “even to His death on the Cross.”

He will proclaim the Gospel, prepare the altar for the sacrifice, and help distribute the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful. He will teach and encourage believers and non-believers in Church doctrine and will preside at public prayer.

The bishop reminded Rev. Mr. Hooper to lead by example, becoming blameless in the sight of God and serving joyfully as if He were serving Jesus Himself.

“From now on, you are not only a hearer of the Gospel, you are also its minister,” the bishop said.

Among the concelebrating priests at the ordination were: Rev. Mr. Hooper’s brother, Father Gabriel Greer, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas; Father Michael Baldwin, a priest of the Wichita diocese, who helped Mr. Hooper put on his deacon vestments during the Mass; Father Daniel Merz, pastor of the Linn and Frankenstein parishes and diocesan director of the permanent diaconate; Father Jason Doke, diocesan moderator of the curia; Father Stephen Jones, president of Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, where Rev. Mr. Hooper taught for a year before continuing his seminary formation; Monsignor Gregory Higley, pastor of the Hermann and Rhineland parishes, where Rev. Mr. Hooper will minister this summer; and several other priests of the Wichita diocese.

Fellow seminarians of the

Jefferson City diocese were the altar servers.

### Dying to self

During the Ordination Mass, Rev. Mr. Hooper stated his willingness to serve Christ’s people, proclaim the faith in word and deed, pray daily for the people of the world, and do so obediently and respectfully to the bishop.

He then prostrated himself before the altar, as a symbol

**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.**

of his dying to self and of his complete helplessness apart from God.

The congregation and choir chanted the Litany of the Saints, including Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun, a candidate for sainthood, who was a priest of the Wichita diocese.

While placing his hands on Rev. Mr. Hooper’s head, Bishop McKnight, in the name of Christ and His Church, called upon the Holy Spirit to set the new deacon aside for holy service in the world.

Bishop McKnight then presented to him the Book of the Gospels.

“Receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Whose herald you have

become,” he said. “Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach.”

### Grace and gratitude

The congregation sang “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” as Rev. Mr. Hooper prepared the altar for the Eucharist.

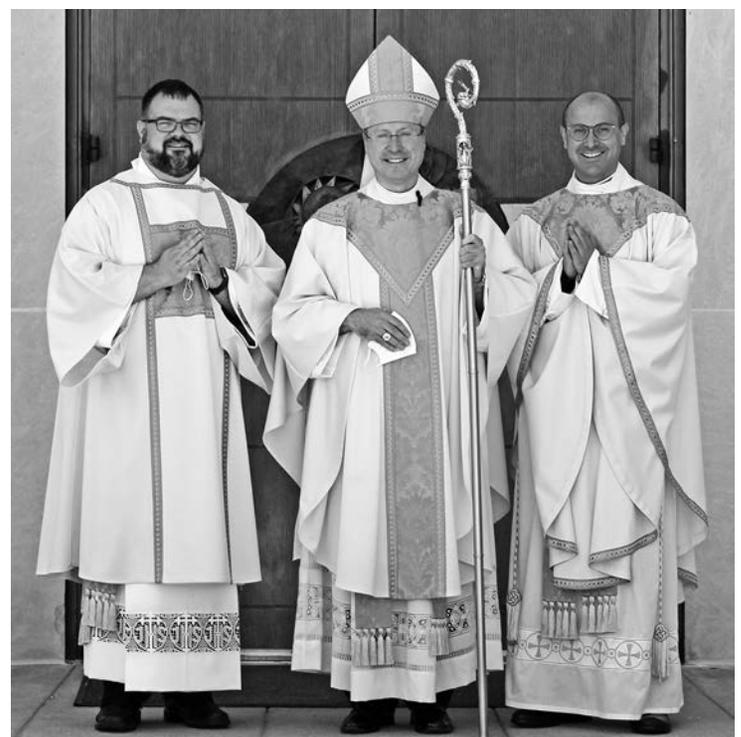
“Holy Father, Your Son chose to wash the disciples’ feet and so set us an example,” Bishop McKnight prayed at the Offertory. “Accept, we pray, the oblations of our service and grant that by offering ourselves as a spiritual sacrifice, we may be filled with a spirit of humility and zeal, through Christ our Lord.”

At the end of Mass, the bishop prayed that Rev. Mr. Hooper would have a fruitful ministry and “be found faithful as a minister of the Gospel, of the sacraments and of charity.”

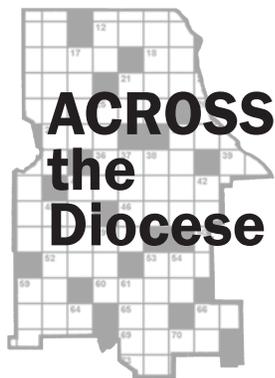
The bishop was quick to thank Rev. Mr. Hooper’s family and the Diocese of Wichita, from which he came.

Rev. Mr. Hooper will assist Msgr. Higley in Hermann and Rhineland this summer, then will begin his final year of seminary studies at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago this fall.

“I look forward to growing in love and service of God with the people of the Diocese of Jefferson City,” he stated. “I am excited to spend my life in prayer and service for you, and I am incredibly grateful and blessed to live out my vocation in this diocese.”



**TOP:** Rev. Mr. Derek Hooper elevates the Most Precious Blood as Bishop W. Shawn McKnight concludes the Eucharistic Prayer during Rev. Mr. Hooper’s Ordination Mass. With them is Father Daniel Merz, diocesan director for the diaconate. **BOTTOM:** Rev. Mr. Hooper, Bishop McKnight and Rev. Mr. Hooper’s brother, Father Gabriel Greer, stand outside the Cathedral of St. Joseph following Rev. Mr. Hooper’s diaconal ordination.

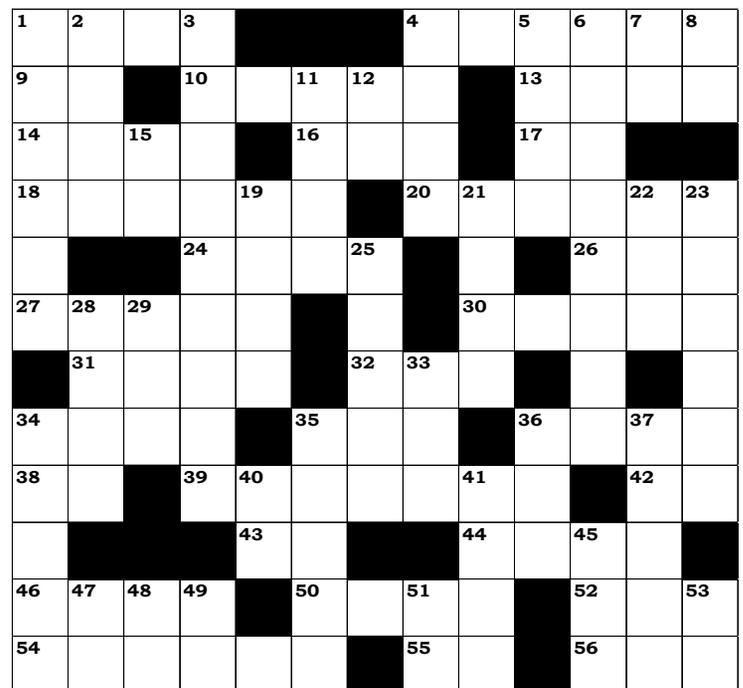


By Father Don Antweiler  
**ACROSS**

1. From prairies to garden plots, flower \_\_\_\_ to city parks, plants native to Missouri are aesthetic, practical and good for soil and native life.
4. What a turkey hunter wants to hear.
9. Ultraviolet (\_\_\_\_) rays can cause skin cancer.
10. Old Testament prophet; his prophetic message was profoundly deepened by his painful experience in his married life; 35th book of the Bible.
13. "Mares eat \_\_\_\_" — opening lyrics of the ditty "Mairzy Doats and Dozy Doats," Mother Goose rhyme.
14. This Nevada city calls itself "The Biggest Little City in the World."
16. Letters after the name of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans); founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1209.
17. Raleigh is this State's largest city. Supposedly, people from there settled in Pulaske County, Mo. and named their new little city after their former city. Their southern drawl, however
18. Native seeds naturally drop to the \_\_\_\_ in late fall and winter, their growing season, producing grasses and wildflowers adapted to our environment.
20. Native plants have tendrils systems underground deeper than turf grass or \_\_\_\_ flowers and so are much more drought tolerant.
24. Jacob's first wife whom he unfortunately, was tricked into marrying by his uncle (Genesis 29:15-27).
26. A laundry detergent.
27. \_\_\_\_ Island; this State, distrustful of a powerful federal gov't., was the only one of the 13 colonies to refuse to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention, 1787-89.
30. 1 or 2 \_\_\_\_ of native prairie can absorb well over 10" of rainfall per hour without water runoff which helps prevent erosion and flooding.
31. Dorothy & friends were \_\_\_\_ and overwhelmed by the pyrotechnics of the Wizard of Oz.
32. "The stress of everyday life is getting to me. I need a \_\_\_\_ cation!"
34. "\_\_\_\_ the river and through the woods to grandmother's house I go..." --Thanksgiving poem by Lydia Maria Child in 1844 in "Flowers for Children, Vol. 2."
35. Many kinds of native plants are perennials and will grow and bloom year after year with very \_\_\_\_ to minimal maintenance.
36. "...which will be poured out for you and for \_\_\_\_" —from the words of consecration at Mass.
38. Letters for American Eagle, outfitters for jeans, T's, shoes and more. 9 locations in Mo., including Columbia.
39. There are 450 \_\_\_\_ of native bees in Mo., including bumblebees. Tomatoes and blackberries require "buzz" pollination, provided almost exclusively by this native bee.
42. Bone.
43. Original 12-step grp.
44. Things got so quiet that you could hear \_\_\_\_ drop (2 wds.).
46. Cross letters.
50. Diverse native plant environments have big \_\_\_\_ systems preventing quick rain run-off and so enabling water to infiltrate the soil and be slowly and cleanly released into springs, creeks, and rivers.
52. Alice in Wonderland discovered the Mad Hatter at a never-ending \_\_\_\_ party.
54. Grasses and wildflowers native to Mo. are better able to withstand our \_\_\_\_ weather changes, and thrive when others wilt.
55. \_\_\_\_ I was saying...
56. Abbr. for the 19th book of the Bible.

#### DOWN

1. Booches restaurant and pool hall in downtown Columbia was founded in 1884. Known for its wall witticisms, esp. "Closed on Sunday, see you in church," it has been named more



- than once by *USA Today* as one of the top 10 \_\_\_\_ places in America.
2. Word often linked as a suffix to "for."
3. "And when he does find it, he sets it on his \_\_\_\_ with great joy..." (Luke 15:5).
4. Native plants benefit native animals. Songbirds, \_\_\_\_ birds, deer and their fawns, nesting turkeys, and protein-rich insects all thrive in their natural environments.
5. Sonny \_\_\_\_ was a songwriter/singer/politician who partnered with his second wife as the 60's duo Sonny and Cher.
6. From beneficial \_\_\_\_ in the soil to insects, bees, birds and mammals, native plants affect the entire food chain.
7. Letters on a car that traditionally stand for Luxury Touring.
8. In a school grading system, letters for Exceeds Standards.
11. Crown Candy Kitchen in St. Louis has been a St. Louis staple since 1913 and is famous for being one of the oldest \_\_\_\_ fountains in the U.S.
12. 6th letter of the alphabet.
15. Nein in New York.
19. "Don't give people what they want, give them what they \_\_\_\_," —Joss Whedon, comic book writer.
21. One of Superman's powers is his \_\_\_\_ vision.
22. Anger.
23. Convenience store/gas station, also known for its pizza.
25. The storm wreaked \_\_\_\_ on her garden.
28. "Samuel asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you \_\_\_\_?'" (1 Samuel 16:11)
29. Part of IOU.
33. Letters for Am. War of Independence; also referred to as the Am. Revolutionary War, 1775-1783.
34. Desert watering hole.
35. "\_\_\_\_ a lesson from the fig tree," (Mark 13:28).
36. Letters for the Missouri State Penitentiary, the historic former prison in Jeff. City where tours have become a popular tourist draw.
37. \_\_\_\_ is Bishop Robert Barron's coined phrase for the growing number of young who are religiously unaffiliated. Bishop Barron is chair of the U.S. Bishops Com. on Evangelization and Catechesis.
40. Home State of the Eagles & Steelers (abbr.).
41. "Therefore whoever \_\_\_\_ the bread unworthily... will have to answer..." (1 Corinthians 11:27).
45. Suffix for Israel.
47. Text abbr. for next up or new user.
48. Related to Ave. or Hwy.
49. The Wizard of \_\_\_\_ comic strip, where the King's subjects are known as "Idiots."
51. The director of the Mo. Office of Admin. (\_\_\_\_) has the very important job of coordinating the central management functions of State gov't.
53. \_\_\_\_ first I didn't understand.

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## UNITY

From page 1

me — people who have dealt with racism personally in a way I never have,” said Father Stephen Jones, president of Helias Catholic High School and administrator of St. Martin parish in St. Martins.

“When you see it in people you know and value, you begin to wake up to it a bit,” he said.

“Racism has been a part of our landscape for generations,” Dominican Father Richard Litzau, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia noted. “There’s plenty of responsibility to go around. The way we can get past it is to talk to each other, acknowledge our own guilt and give it over to God in prayer.”

Videos of George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis are the latest flashpoint in race relations, prompting mass demonstrations throughout the United States, including cities in this diocese.

“I think we have to stop and ask ourselves, ‘Where are we going and where do we want to be at the end of this process?’” Fr. Litzau stated.

### At the table

Father Patrick Dolan, sacramental minister for St. Mary parish in Milan and the mission of St. Mary in Unionville, spoke of a Russian icon depicting the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit seated at a table with four chairs.

“The empty chair represents our God welcoming His people to be part of the life and the community of God Himself,” said Fr. Dolan.

Acts of racial prejudice and discrimination muffle that welcome and separate people who are created to be in communion with one another.

“We are all God’s people, of various nationalities, color and languages and cultural backgrounds,” said Fr. Dolan. “We all hope one day to be with our God at the table and the banquet of heaven, as one people, His people.”

### Meant to be

Jesus longed for all people to be one, just as He and the Father and the Holy Spirit are one.

“The Lord God knew exactly what He was doing when He

## Missouri bishops issue statement on the death of George Floyd

*The Roman Catholic bishops of Missouri issued a statement on June 2 in response to the death of George Floyd and its aftermath.*

*The statement, signed by Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis, Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City and Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, is as follows:*

We, the Catholic bishops of Missouri, wish to express our anger and sadness at the senseless death of George Floyd.

This tragedy tears open a wound that hasn’t completely healed in Missouri following the death of Michael Brown. It also once again opens up our state and nation to unnecessary violence and destruction.

We wish to clearly state that we denounce police brutality in any form, especially in any form motivated by racism, or by a disregard for persons based upon the color of their skin. We also denounce violence and property destruction as a means of countering violence.

We must find a way to live peacefully to-

gether, respecting the racial and ethnic differences among us.

Racial and ethnic injustice continues to exist in our state and in our country, and we cannot turn a blind eye to it. We must ask ourselves what systemic changes are needed to address it. We must also honestly examine our hearts and ask God to eradicate any vestige of it that might lie there. We cannot do this on our own.

No human power can eradicate racism; we need the assistance of a higher power. We call upon Catholics and all people of good will to pray for an end to racism, bias, and prejudice within ourselves and within our communities.

Recalling the gift of Pentecost celebrated this past weekend, through which God sends the Holy Spirit to unite a scattered and divided human family, may the Holy Spirit guide us into all truth concerning the dignity of every human person, and may Jesus Christ gather us together into fellowship with the Father.

This weekend, we ask the Catholic pastors throughout the province of Missouri to include in their petitions at Mass, a prayer for racial harmony and an end to violence.

created you and me and everybody else on the planet,” Father Joseph Corel, pastor *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Sedalia, told his parishioners.

“He created people of all different races, languages and cultures and is very happy with having done this,” he said.

Fr. Corel said it’s important for everyone to become aware of their own blind spots in relating to people who are different.

Only by interacting and becoming friends with people from other countries, cultures and ethnic groups did he stop referring to people who are different from him as “them.”

In the seminary, he learned about Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, who was born into slavery in Missouri before the Civil War and encountered stinging racism while trying to answer his priestly calling.

Fr. Tolton wound up studying in Rome and becoming the Roman Catholic Church’s first recognizably black priest in the United States.

“He had to fight for equality in the Church,” said Fr. Corel.

### Torn apart

“It’s about love! It’s about

unity!” emphasized Father Anthony Rinaldo, pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Loose Creek and St. Louis of France parish in Bonnots Mill.

“We know that every human being is created in God’s image,” he said. “We are one people.”

Racism destroys that unity and opens the door to atrocious behavior.

“Right now, we’re being torn apart by racism,” he said. “There’s so much anger and hatred and fear.”

He emphasized that violence is the wrong response, but so is indifference.

“May the Lord open our hearts and minds and help us to find ways and means in which we can effect lasting change in our nation, in our own attitudes and to put an end to the violence that has come from all these things,” he said.

### No room

Father William Peckman, pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville and St. Joseph parish in Fayette, said there’s

no room in the Church for any of the “isms” that separate people.

“What is our contribution to society?” he asked. “Is it more division, or do we love one another in such a way as to draw

## Prayer for an end to racism

Heavenly Father, listen favorably to our prayers, especially in this time when so many people are hurting and expressing their pain.

Enlighten our minds to see all forms of racism, hatred and prejudice that we silently harbor in our own hearts.

As Fr. Tolton serves as a shining example of Christian fortitude and charity in the face of racism, so may we always love our brothers and sisters because of who we are, disciples of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.  
Amen.

other people to Christ?”

He believes that if the Catholic Church is going to make a difference on earth, “it will be in our ability to love.”

“We’re going to cast away the divisions that come from this world and see each other first and foremost as fellow children of God, made in His image and likeness,” he said.

### “Let us go out”

Fr. Niekamp gave his Moberly parishioners a gripping overview of how racism — including institutionalized slavery — had infiltrated the Church and U.S. society through the years.

“And yet, throughout the Church’s history and throughout America’s history, we have had people who called us to be better, to love a little more, to be a little more compassionate, to extend those certain inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all people,” he said.

“We can be better, we are being better,” he stated, “but we have a long way to go.”

While condemning violence, Fr. Niekamp lauded the people who have demonstrated peacefully to raise awareness and call for change.

“They should be in our prayers,” he stated. “They should have our support. They should be an example for all of us.”

Because love lasts forever, it is the Church’s greatest weapon against division and racism.

“Let us go out into the world this day,” said Fr. Niekamp, “to beg forgiveness from God Himself, to work to make a difference, to change the world in which we live, so that our children, our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren might grow up in a more equitable, more loving, more peaceful, more compassionate, more understanding world.”

### Something different

Bishop McKnight asked the priests to include a call to prayer for an end to racism.

Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia, asked

his parishioners to join him in praying “for all who experience discrimination of any kind, for our law enforcement personnel, and for all who seek change through peaceful and nonviolent methods,” he said.

Fr. Jones noted that broken-

See REPENTANCE, page 23

## Protocols for reducing COVID-19 risk remain a must for events

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. 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 [vtaefoundation.org/Jefferson-city-golf-registration](http://vtaefoundation.org/Jefferson-city-golf-registration)

Jun. 26

**Eugene**, Wardsville/Osage

Bend K of C golf tournament, 1 pm shotgun start, Redfield Golf Course

### 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)

### BOSSERT

From page 9

ferred up the pain between answers.

It was incredible to be in the moment with Eric and the Holy Spirit. I thought of St. Paul. I rejoice in my suffering because it makes up for what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ.

God wants Eric and His wife to find their common ground. I couldn't help wondering how long it would take for a first-year teacher in a Catholic school to find her way into the Catholic Church. I suspect Eric spent the day wondering something along those lines.

We serve a God who lavishly dispenses love. The day I tore my rotator cuff and the six months that made so many little things impossible were not wasted. Suffering is never wasted. If God had Eric and his wife in mind when He permitted me to suffer some pain, then so be it. I rejoice in that kind of suffering.

*Bossert is a convert to the Catholic Church. She is an author, speaker, theology teacher and syndicated columnist for diocesan newspapers. She writes from New Melle, Missouri.*

### DOYLE

From page 8

to receive the Eucharist during the coronavirus make a "spiritual Communion," and he offered the following text:

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most holy sac-

rament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

*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.*

### FR. AUBUCHON

From page 5

him more patient, more spiritual, more reliant on God — in short, a better priest.

"I've often said that this life is a saint-making machine," he stated. "That's what you have to allow it to be. So if this is something God is using to help me to become a saint, then it's exactly what I want."

He celebrated his sixth priestly anniversary on June 7, which fell this year on the Solemnity of the Most Holy

Trinity.

"I am filled with tremendous gratitude to the Most Holy Trinity for the gift they have shared with me, to be truly *In persona Christi*, meaning, 'In the person of Christ,' for the sake of holy Mother, the Church; serving those entrusted to my care as a spiritual father," he said.

He believes there's a well-spring of homily material waiting to be tapped from his current experiences.

"If this goes the way I'd like it to, people are going to be hearing about it for years to come," he said.

Remembering that God is always good and faithful in all things, please keep Fr. Aubuchon in your prayers.

*Cards or notes of support for Fr. Aubuchon can be mailed to: Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, c/o Fr. Christopher Aubuchon, 3934 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111.*

### DEACON

From page 4

"We're just not strong or wise enough," said Deacon Seibert. "We can't handle it without Him. What we need to be are obedient soldiers and follow the instructions He has given us."

He believes the COVID-19 pandemic and the current civil unrest are reminding people of their total dependence on their Creator.

"Personally, I'm not strong enough to handle any of this by myself," he said. "All my strength comes from God. Any time I try to take on things myself without letting God be in total control, that's when I get in trouble."

#### "Rise up!"

Each day, Deacon Seibert asks God for the wisdom to know when to stand up and speak,

and when just to listen.

"It's not about being in the middle," he said. "It's about being with God."

He sees messages about respect and dignity woven through Scripture, and he takes them to heart.

"Respect begets respect," he said. "On both sides."

He talked about the overwhelming power of a sincere apology.

"You have to look into your own heart first and see what's there, because you're the only one who can do that," he said.

"We all have our failings. But rise up! Get back on track and go on living in the light of your Savior."

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## Anniversaries

**Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul**  
 Vernon & Barbara Zeller, 64 years  
 James & Clara Imhoff, 63 years  
 Phillip & Alice Templemire, 62 years  
 Tom & Joyce Adair, 60 years  
 Bill & Joyce Bryan, 55 years  
 Irl & Lynn Lutz, 55 years  
 Ken & Linda Schuster, 54 years  
 Bob & Peggy Irish, 49 years  
 Wayne & Dianne Klein, 49 years  
 Darryl & Nancy Kempf, 48 years  
 Edward & Sandra Larm, 48 years  
 Michael Sr. & Donna Pomajzl, 48 years  
 Mark & Virginia Thomann, 48 years  
 David & Janet Joynt, 47 years  
 Tom & Marsha Fitzgerald, 46 years  
 Kent & Marcheta Friedrich, 46 years  
 Bob & Jani Sandknop, 42 years  
 Billy & Sherry Shelton, 42 years  
 Bill & Vickie Kueny, 40 years  
 Brad & Kim Grissum, 36 years  
 Charles & Nancy Larm, 36 years  
 Tom & Eileen Fangman, 35 years  
 Tim & Annamarie Smith, 34 years  
 Jeff & Cindy Lammers, 33 years  
 John & Bonnie Dillon, 32 years  
 Tony & Michelle Imhoff, 32 years  
 Mark & Patricia Stretz, 32 years  
 Jude & Cynthia Florek, 28 years  
 Doug & Sharon Gramlich, 28 years  
 Rick & Jennifer Marshall, 27 years  
 Phil & Beth Rumbaoa, 27 years  
 Gary & Teresa Barnes, 26 years  
 Ken & Mona Brownfield, 25 years

**Brookfield, Immaculate Conception**  
 Everett & Beverly Lineberry, 64 years  
 Bill & Betty Yaeger, 64 years  
 Larry & Emma Ludwig, 60 years  
 Carl & JoAnn Bunten, 50 years  
 Matt & Marcia Cunningham, 44 years  
 Terry & Debbie Hoyt, 44 years  
 Steve & Connie Huffman, 42 years  
 Bill & Kathy Dorsey, 41 years  
 Dan & Nancy Jackson, 40 years  
 Michael & Cindy Severa, 36 years  
 Justin & Jana Keune, 25 years  
 John & June Schmitz, 25 years  
 Jason & Jonna Weydert, 25 years  
 Terry & Sherry Cooper, 20 years  
 John & Maggie Kremer, 18 years  
 Tom & Natalie Bennett, 16 years  
 Jim & Barbara Timmons, 12 years

**Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes**  
 Don & Diane Hawn, 50 years  
 Chuck & Janis Snow, 50 years

**Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Center**  
 Deacon Gene & Ginger Kazmierczak, 55 years

**Edina, St. Joseph**  
 Bill & Margaret Delaney, 53 years

**Fayette, St. Joseph**  
 John & Pat Merk, 46 years  
 Doug & Leigh Ginter, 34 years

**Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians**  
 Nelson & Jean Brandt, 40 years

**Hannibal, Holy Family**  
 Jerry & Mary Kaszynski, 45 years  
 Buddy & Linda Purvis, 20 years

**Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
 Jim & Kathel Cooper, 50 years

**Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception**  
 Tom & Linda Fennessey, 25 years

**Jefferson City, St. Peter**  
 Henry & Dona Dahl, 60 years  
 Brian & Michelle Keller, 25 years

**Jonesburg, St. Patrick**  
 Glenn & Joan Rucker, 60 years  
 Rich & Vivian Grelle, 55 years  
 Gale & Michele Johnson, 43 years  
 Laurie & Kent Gilbert, 32 years  
 Tom & Terri Lenzenhuber, 19 years  
 Keith & Lori Farrar, 13 years

**Kahoka, St. Michael**  
 Keith & Judy Wheeler, 46 years  
 Charles & Gloria Allen, 49 years  
 Francis & Nancy Ellison, 49 years  
 Kevin & Maria Shirey, 38 years  
 John & Erin Wheeler, 22 years  
 Michael & Andrea Brandon, 15 years  
 Paul & Alberta Germann, 14 years  
 Lute & Cheryl Winkleman, 11 years

**Kirkville, Mary Immaculate**  
 Tom & Cheryl Hawkins, 51 years  
 Bob & Janie Theobald, 51 years  
 Mike & Mary Carol Early, 47 years  
 Dan & Sandy Lammers, 40 years  
 Kevin & Paula Brawner, 39 years  
 Charles & Cathy Kelly, 39 years  
 Brian & Darice Todd, 35 years  
 Pat & Tammy Kriegshauser, 31 years  
 Dan & Deborah Holte, 30 years  
 Joaquin Maldonado & Katherine Velez, 30 years  
 Bob & Michele Behnen, 18 years

**Linn, St. George**  
 Jerry & Debbie Backes, 32 years

**Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception**  
 Tom & Ruth Kliethermes, 35 years

**Milan, St. Mary**  
 Rex & Paula May, 52 years  
 Dennis & Sherri Ryan, 42 years  
 Mario & Liana Chapero, 19 years  
 Justin & Stephanie Oaks, 17 years

**Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception**  
 Gerald & Denise Witthaus, 45 years

**St. Clement, St. Clement**  
 Jim & Marie Leverenz, 64 years

**St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle**  
 Norm & Ashlie Otto, 11 years

**Vienna, Visitation**  
 Steve & Carol Steinman, 48 years  
 Joe & Sherry James, 27 years  
 Bryan & Stacia Steinman, 27 years  
 Jason & Brandy Kampeter, 21 years

**Wardsville, St. Stanislaus**  
 Aaron & Sarah Weeks, 11 years

**Wien, St. Mary of the Angels**  
 Ollen & Jeana Bixenman, 60 years  
 Jim & Marilyn Bixenman, 49 years  
 Dale & Audrey Davis, 42 years  
 Jeff & Peggy Schneider, 38 years  
 Wayne & Mary Lou Burstert, 33 years  
 Todd & Bonnie Linebaugh, 30 years  
 Matt & Laurie Cupp, 26 years  
 Ron & Betty Fischer, 26 years  
 Kevin & Debbie Fischer, 18 years  
 Jerry & Tracie Moore, 16 years  
 Luke & Alyssa Niemeier, 10 years

## Elections

Fulton, St. Peter School — **Ashton Eible, Danny Neudecker**, new Advisory Board members

## Baptisms

Cuba, Holy Cross — **Zoey Lynn Nichole Szyhowski**

Fayette, St. Joseph — **Addalynn Carroll and Lenore Nichole Araiza**, daughters of Christian & Carrie Araiza; **Eleanor Jane Flaspohler**, daughter of Frank & Kathryn Flaspohler

Fulton, St. Peter — **Luke Michael Larson**, son of Michael & Jamie Larson

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Julian Bax**, daughter of David & Sydney Bax

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Sawyer Jackie Scoggin**, son of Isaac & Elise Scoggin; **Ryker Kai Troxell**, son of Todd & Jacqueline Troxell

Laurie, St. Patrick — **Addison Lynn Allen**

Marceline, St. Bonaventure — **Kennedy Edgar**, daughter of Gabe & Becky Edgar; **Alyssa Rollison**, daughter of Chris & Lori Rollison

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Hattie Rae Connell**, daughter of Greg & Kaitlyn Connell

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Mia James Wilde**, daughter of Chris & Renee Wilde

St. Robert, St. Robert Bellarmine — **Robert Henrik Birch**, son of Nicolai & Allison Birch

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Roman Joseph Schwartz**, son of Christopher & Sarah Schwartz

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Elliott Craig Dorge**

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Grant Douglas Bexten**, son of Ryan & Alicia Bexten; **Sawyer Stephen Haslag**, son of Andria Haslag & Adam Haslag; **Isaiah John Loethen**, son of Clinton & Brooke Loethen

Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Atley Grace Laidler**, daughter of Nathan & Gracyn Laidler

## Birthdays

Belle, St. Alexander — **Fred Bethmann**, his 94th on June 10

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Juanita Henry**, her 94th on June 7

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Evelyn Borgmeyer**, her 90th

Jonesburg, St. Patrick — **Genevieve Kelly**, her 90th on May 18

Marshall, St. Peter — **Marge Elsea**, her 99th

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Marie Scherf**, her 95th on June 6

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Adele Lueckenhoff**, her 92nd on June 17

## Deaths

Camdenton, St. Anthony — **Cherie Waiter**

Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Brian Flatt**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Elaine Gray, Stella Schauwecker**

Columbia, St. Thomas More Newman Center — **Dennis R. Hensley**

Cuba, Holy Cross — **James Gilliam Jr.**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Marian F. Kuster**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **June Renkemeyer**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Patti Wedig**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Sonia Benevides, Eduardo Saavedra**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Curtis P. Stockman**

Rosati, St. Anthony — **Henry Lightcap**

Russellville, St. Michael — **Marvin V. Buthod, David Raithe**

St. James, Immaculate Conception — **Henry Lightcap**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Jean Anderson, Andrea Bordurant**

St. Robert, St. Robert Bellarmine — **Marie Pemberton**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Freda M. Toellner**

## Marriages

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Gretchen Rauch & Hayden Lee**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Abby Bartley & Dalton Horstmeier**

Rich Fountain — **Larisa Boehm & Dustin Theonen; Jenna Falter & Evan Neuner**

## Initiations

St. Elizabeth, St. Lawrence — **Brad Perry**, baptized and received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church on May 24

### Crossword puzzle answers

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

## Sedalia Sacred Heart STUCO donates \$1,400 for heart health at hospital



Sedalia's Sacred Heart School Student Council (STUCO) officers pictured with the Bothwell Regional Health Center (BRHC) Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab Team: Kathy Woolery, BRHC; Melanie Davis, BRHC; Rose McMullin, SHS '84, Chief Nursing Officer; Maia Smith SHS '20, STUCO president; MacKenzie Hoffman, BRHC; Rockie Werneke, BRHC; and Summer Caton, SHS '20, STUCO treasurer

The Sacred Heart School Student Council (STUCO) presented \$1,400 to the Bothwell Regional Health Care (BRHC) Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab Center on May 21.

Funds were raised by STUCO for the past two years through school bake sales and dress down days.

"Being in quarantine has made me realize that acts of service, no matter how big or small really do make a difference in your community and even to individual people," said STUCO President Maia Smith, who was on hand for the check presentation.

"I feel like now, more than ever, people and businesses are coming together to collect and donate supplies or make masks," she said. "There has been so much appreciation for our hard-working heroes in the medical field and they deserve so much more. I'm

grateful for all they do for us."

Summer Caton, STUCO treasurer, also represented SHS at the ceremony.

"Service is important to me because it reflects Christ in us," said Miss Caton. "It shows us that performing stewardly tasks enlighten the lives of others."

She said fundraising for BRHC Cardiac Center is an important cause for STUCO because it is an area in the community that everyone may use at one time or another.

"You never know when someone may face a critical cardiac-related issue, and BRHC's Cardiac Center will be available to assist the patient in the best way possible," she said.

Rose McMullin, Bothwell Regional Health Center Chief Nursing Officer, a member of the SHS Class of 1984, was on-hand to accept the check on behalf of the rehab team.

"I want to thank the students from SHS for their generous donation to the cardiac and pulmonary rehab unit," said she said. "The funds will be used to purchase new equipment to help our pa-

tients improve their health."

She said the donation is a valuable service to the community.

"It's great to see young people take such an interest in improving their community," she stated.

— Photo by Liz Suter-Van Leer

## What you did for them ...



Volunteers from Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City join Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri; El Puente-Hispanic Ministry Jefferson City; Annunciation parish in California; The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri and Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) to bring a Fresh Food Pick Up and hygiene product distribution to Moniteau County June 1. With them is Father Alexander Gabriel, pastor of the Tipton and California parishes. Three hundred seventy-eight individuals, including children, adults and seniors, were able to receive assistance.

— Photo from the Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Facebook page

## Proud graduates from Rich Fountain



Members of Sacred Heart parish in Rich Fountain who are members of the Fatima and Linn High School graduating Class of 2020 gather in their regalia on the grounds of Sacred Heart Church.



# Elijah is taken to heaven in a whirlwind

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

It was almost time for God to take His prophet, Elijah, to heaven.

Just before that happened, Elijah and the man who would replace him, Elisha, were walking from Gilgal.

“Please stay here; the Lord has sent me on to the Jordan,” Elijah told his companion.

“As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you,” Elisha replied.

The two men continued on together, with 50 of the guild prophets following them at a distance.

When they reached the Jordan, Elijah rolled up his mantle. He struck the water, which parted so he and Elisha could walk on dry land.



“Ask for whatever I may do for you, before I am taken from you,” Elijah said. Elisha said that he wished to receive a double portion of Elijah’s spirit.

“You have asked some-

thing that is not easy,” Elijah said. “Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not.”

As the two men continued to talk, a flaming chariot

and flaming horses came between them. Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

“My father! My father! Israel’s chariots and drivers!” Elisha cried out.

Elisha picked up Elijah’s mantle that had fallen from him and returned to the bank of the Jordan. He struck the water with the mantle and said, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?”

The water divided, and Elisha crossed over.

The guild prophets in Jericho, who were on the other side, saw Elisha and said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.”

They went to meet him, bowing to the ground before him.

“Among your servants are 50 brave men,” they said.

“Let them go in search of your master. Perhaps the spirit of the Lord has lifted him up and left him on some mountain or in some valley.”

“Do not send them,” Elisha said.

Since they kept urging him until he was embarrassed, Elisha finally told them to go ahead with the search even though he knew it would be fruitless.

The 50 men searched for three days without finding Elijah, because God had taken the prophet to heaven.

### Read more about it... 2 Kings 2

1. Who was to replace Elijah as God’s prophet?
2. How was Elijah taken to heaven?

## Bible Accent

How did God’s choice of Elisha as prophet come about?

In 1 Kings 19, we read that King Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, planned to kill Elijah.

Elijah fled to Judah then went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He prayed for death before falling asleep.

An angel awoke Elijah to give him food and drink to prepare him to walk 40 days and nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

When Elijah arrived, he told God that he feared for his life.

“Go back!” God said. “Take the desert road to Damascus.

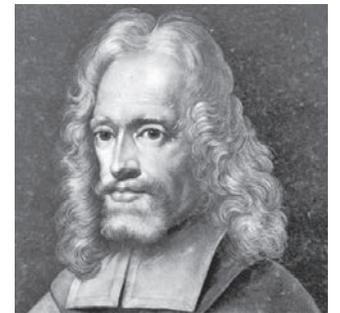
When you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king of Aram. You shall also anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king of Israel, and Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah, as prophet to succeed you.”

Elijah set out. He came upon Elisha, who was plowing with a yoke of 12 oxen. Elijah threw his cloak around Elisha, a gesture that meant Elijah wanted Elisha to follow and serve him.

Elisha slaughtered the oxen and used the plow as fuel for a fire to cook the meat. He gave it to the people to eat, and then he left to follow Elijah.

## Saint Spotlight

Oliver Plunkett was born in Ireland in 1625. After being ordained a priest in Rome in 1654, he taught and reviewed books for the Sacred Congregation of the Index. In 1669, he was named archbishop of Armagh and primate of Ireland. For 10 years, he organized synods, visited dioceses, opened schools and confirmed thousands. Persecution of Catholics by the English forced him into hiding in 1679. Late that year, he was arrested while visiting his dying cousin in Dublin. He was put in prison on false charges of treason and was executed in London in 1681. We remember him on July 1.



## Puzzle

Using the hints provided, put a T next to the sentences about Elijah that are true and an F next to the ones that are false.



1. \_\_\_ Ravens brought Elijah bread and meat to eat. (1 Kings 17:6)
2. \_\_\_ Elijah could not bring the widow’s son back to life. (1 Kings 17:22)
3. \_\_\_ God told Elijah to go to Ahab so God could bring rain and end a drought. (1 Kings 18:1)
4. \_\_\_ Elijah wanted all Israel summoned to Mount Sinai. (1 Kings 18:19)



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

## Essay

Describe how you would have reacted if you had witnessed Elijah being taken to heaven.



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## Pontifical North American College's choir releases anniversary CD

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service  
Washington, D.C.

To celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, the seminary has released a CD of its choir singing motets and liturgical pieces.

"*Firmum Est Cor Meum: Music From the Pontifical North American College*" is the album's title.

"*Firmum Est Cor Meum*" is Latin for "My heart is steadfast," the seminary's motto.

The music was recorded in May 2019 at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, the seminary's main chapel.

Like a lot of things, release of the CD was upended by the coronavirus pandemic, according to Mark Randall, executive director of the North American College.

"It was always intended to be part of our 160th anniversary celebration, which was the last academic year," Randall told Catholic News Service in a June 3 phone in-



terview.

But because of the pandemic, classes at the North American College ended in mid-March, and the seminarians all flew back to their U.S. homes by the end of the month. Like millions of other students, they continued their learning online and continued to meet with formators via video chats. The seminary estimates that about 5,000 priests have walked through its doors since its founding in 1860.

The academic year ended in May, and the CD's official release date was May 28, "so

we kind of squeaked it in right at the end," Randall said. He noted that, 15 to 20 years ago, the seminary released its first CD, although it was primarily organ music.

"For over a century and a half, the Pontifical North American College has served as America's seminary in Rome," said a May 28 statement from Father Peter Harman, the college's rector, announcing the CD's release. "Our talented student choirs over the years have greatly enhanced our liturgical celebrations to the inspiration of our students and the many guests we have hosted."

The college's Seminary Choir and the Cappella Sine Nomine, a smaller ensemble, whose voices are heard on the disc, sing weekly at the North American College's Sunday Mass and Solemn Vespers, as well as larger liturgies such as

## Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

Scoob! (PG)



Adults

The High Note (PG-13)  
Selah and the Spades (R)  
Shirley (R)  
True History of the Kelly Gang (R)



Morally Offensive

Capone (R)  
How to Build a Girl (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.

the ordination to the diaconate in St. Peter's Basilica each fall.

The CD isn't for sale in stores, although any visitors to Rome will be able to purchase one at the North American College itself. The easiest way to order is through the seminary's website, [www.pnac.org](http://www.pnac.org).

*org*. The cost is \$12, including shipping. "We want to make it clear it's not a fundraiser," Randall told CNS.

"*Firmum Est Cor Meum*" also is available through music streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music and Pandora.

## Vatican to collaborate with new video-streaming platform

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Vatican officials expressed their support for a new video-on-demand service aimed at adding religious programming and content to the already jam-packed field of video-streaming services.

### On air

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K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

During a news conference June 4 announcing the launch of "VatiVision," the new streaming site, Paolo Ruffini, prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, said the platform will allow people to "access content of quality and value that would be otherwise unobtainable, lost or forgotten."

"For this reason, I am happy that VatiVision will also distribute some content made in collaboration with Vatican Media," he said.

Despite its name, Ruffini said that VatiVision is an independent initiative and that the Vatican is neither funding the service nor does it have any say in what content will be made available.

VatiVision also received praise from Monsignor Dario Viganò, vice chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Ruffini's predecessor. The new platform, he said, is an example of Pope Francis' observation about "the great potential that new technologies offer us."

"We are before a gift from

God, that is, a resource that can bring good fruits," Msgr. Viganò said.

The video-streaming site, which was developed by the Italian media distribution company Vetrya and production company Officina della Comunicazione, features religious-themed programming as well as movies, documentaries and series related to art and culture.

Unlike other video-streaming sites, such as Netflix, Amazon Prime or HBO Max, the VatiVision platform will not have a monthly payment plan for its service. Instead, it adopted a video-on-demand structure akin to Apple iTunes and Google Play where users can either rent or purchase programs.

VatiVision will launch in Italy June 8 and will eventually expand to other countries in Europe and Asia, as well as North and South America. It will be available as an app on Apple, Google Android and Samsung for smartphones, tablets and smart TVs.

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## FR. CORDES

From page 7

Lourdes in 2015.

He and the Mary Immaculate parishioners reached a consensus to renovate their existing church in Kirksville rather than build a new one.

In Columbia, he helped oversee the building of a 25,000-square-foot addition to Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School.

"I've enjoyed and learned from and grown in my faith in all the parishes I've been assigned to," he said.

He believes it's important to draw on those experiences into ministry to the diocese. He has served on the diocesan Presbyteral Council, the Ministry to Priests committee, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the leadership team for the "Disciples in Mission" parish renewal program.

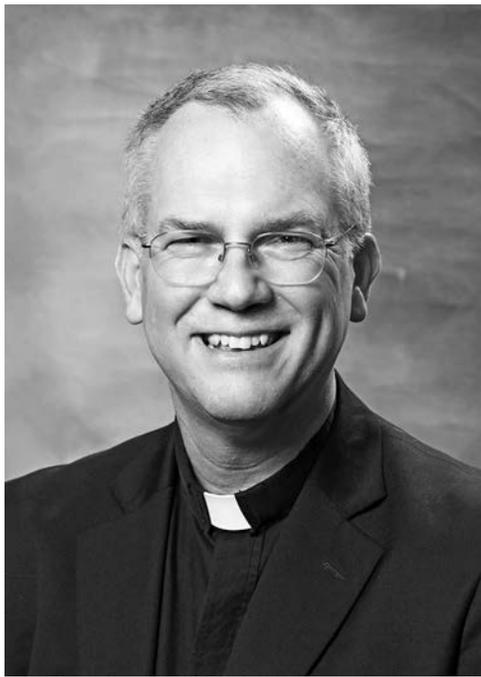
"I've enjoyed working with all three bishops and many diocesan staff members," he said.

### Sacramental presence

Fr. Cordes describes himself as "a Catholic priest who finds that serving the Church brings meaning and joy to my life."

He remains convinced that the Catholic Church contains the fullness of the truth that Jesus Christ revealed about God. The sacraments help define the Priesthood, since the priest represents the sacramental presence of Christ in the Church.

"But it's more than that," Fr. Cordes stated. "A priest also hopes to be the presence of Christ in the life situations where people encounter him. It's the unique combination



**Father Christopher Cordes**

of the two — making Christ sacramentally present and relationally or pastorally or interpersonally present."

Fr. Cordes enjoys the variety that priestly ministry affords him.

"Every day is different," he said. "Sometimes it's a Mass, sometimes a conversation with someone, sometimes a hospital visit, sometimes a young person or older person."

He still gets nervous about preaching homilies, but he likes having to do it because it requires him to pray and reflect more about life and faith and put it into words.

He remains prayerful through all of this, "trying to 'hear' what God is saying in the middle of things."

His priest support group has been meeting regularly for 20 years and provides accountability and fellowship with priests he enjoys spending time with.

In his spare time, he enjoys

visiting with family and friends, walking, listening to music, traveling to see historical sites, assembling photos into albums, reading, and playing some golf.

He said his sisters and their families have included him in their lives in very meaningful and joyful ways.

### Struggle and joy

For men who believe they might be called to the Priesthood, Fr. Cordes recommends "praying long and hard about it."

"Make sure you care about people," he said.

"Realize that it's about prayer and sacraments but also about practical situations and people, and you find joy and struggle in both, but the joy and satisfaction and meaning outweigh the struggle."

His favorite saints are St. Katharine Drexel, because she's an American who forsook wealth in order to become a religious sister and used her wealth to help people in need, and St. Martin de Porres, who was poor and rejected but lived with joy and served the poor.

His favorite Scripture passage is 1 Corinthians 13, "because it gives a practical and inspirational vision of what love really is."

His favorite prayer is the one attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, which begins with, "Make me an instrument of Your peace."

For his silver jubilee, Fr. Cordes asks for prayers for "wisdom, acceptance, hope, joy, perseverance, compassion and humility."

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, June 14

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi)  
Dt. 8:2-3, 14b-16a  
Ps. 147:12-15, 19-20  
1 Cor. 10:16-17  
Jn. 6:51-58

### Monday, June 15

1 Kgs. 21:1-16  
Ps. 5:2-3ab, 4b-7  
Mt. 5:38-42

### Tuesday, June 16

1 Kgs. 21:17-29  
Ps. 51:3-6ab, 11, 16  
Mt. 5:43-48

### Wednesday, June 17

2 Kgs. 2:1, 6-14  
Ps. 31:20-21, 24  
Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday, June 18

Sir. 48:1-14  
Ps. 97:1-7  
Mt. 6:7-15

### Friday, June 19

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
Dt. 7:6-11  
Ps. 103:1-8, 10  
1 Jn. 4:7-16  
Mt. 11:25-30

### Saturday, June 20

The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
2 Chr. 24:17-25  
Ps. 89:4-5, 29-34  
Lk. 2:41-51

### Sunday, June 21

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Jer. 20:10-13  
Ps. 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35  
Rom. 5:12-15  
Mt. 10:26-33

### Monday, June 22

St. Paulinus of Nola, bishop;  
St. John Fisher, bishop, and Thomas More, martyrs  
2 Kgs. 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18  
Ps. 60:3-5, 12-13  
Mt. 7:1-5

### Tuesday, June 23

2 Kgs. 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36  
Ps. 48:2-4, 10-11  
Mt. 7:6, 12-14

### Wednesday, June 24

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST  
Is. 49:1-6  
Ps. 139:1b-3, 13-15  
Acts 13:22-26  
Lk. 1:57-66, 80

### Thursday, June 25

2 Kgs. 24:8-17  
Ps. 79:1b-5, 8-9  
Mt. 7:21-29

### Friday, June 26

2 Kgs. 25:1-12  
Ps. 137:1-6  
Mt. 8:1-4

### Saturday, June 27

St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor of the Church  
Lam. 2:2, 10-14, 18-19  
Ps. 1b-7, 20-21  
Mt. 8:5-17

### 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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## REPENTENCE

From page 17

ness and division have been a fact of life since the fall in the Garden of Eden.

"Have we gotten better? I think we have," he stated. "But I have friends of color who experience serious racism in 2020. And that's abhorrent. The Church can never stand for it. Our culture should

never stand for it. This nation should never stand for it."

He said every movement that has changed the world started with a few individuals.

"I suggest listening to the experience of someone different from you," he said. "To do that, you have to engage them. And pretty soon, you have a

relationship, and those differences don't seem as 'different.'"

### Common ground

Fr. Litzau believes the peaceful protesters — not the violent rioters — have an important point to make.

He's convinced the Church can help by providing a safe,

neutral space for people of different backgrounds and experiences to speak honestly and listen to each other.

"If you share your experience of the truth with enough people, you start to notice some overlap," he said. "And that's where you grow. In the overlap."

All the while, people must

examine their own hearts and ask God, "How do I personally have to change my understanding of the world around me?"

He said Catholics should plan on hearing more homilies about racism.

"It's not going to go away," he stated. "We're going to have to keep talking about it."

## Totus Tuus is happening in the Jefferson City diocese this summer — in person and online

Three teams of Totus Tuus missionaries are facilitating the energetic catechetical experience for Catholic grade school and high school students in 11 parishes in the diocese.

“These 12 young missionaries are positively on fire,” stated John DeLaporte, director of youth ministry and religious education for the Jefferson City diocese.

“Totus Tuus” is Latin for “Totally Yours,” which was Pope St. John Paul II’s papal motto.

Logistic concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing have required some creative thinking on behalf of the missionary teams.

The teams are currently producing a “virtual” version of the program consisting of catechetical videos for kids and teens to view, as well as social media campaigns for high schoolers.

Parishes can use these virtual resources to create a modified Totus Tuus experience or share them with their kids and families in the home.

“We’ve instituted many protocols and measures to offer the program in a safe, responsible way, in compliance with local and CDC guidelines,” Mr. DeLaporte noted.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight encouraged Mr. DeLaporte to pursue options for giving young people in the diocese a positive, faith-filled summer experience in spite of the COVID-19 outbreak.

“He believes we can do this safely and responsibly and not let all of the restrictions quell every effort to minister to young people,” said Mr. DeLaporte.

This year’s curriculum focuses

on the Ten Commandments and the moral life of the Church, as well as faith and the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

Mr. DeLaporte said parishioners who “would like to bring a team of faith-filled, dynamic missionaries” to their parish should contact their pastor, check their parish calendars and contact him at [jdelaporte@diojeffcity.org](mailto:jdelaporte@diojeffcity.org) to learn how.

[diojeffcity.org/totus-tuus](http://diojeffcity.org/totus-tuus)

## Hope in post-pandemic world can only be achieved together, cardinal says

Vatican City

Catholic News Service

The mandate given by Pope Francis to the Vatican’s coronavirus commission was to pre-

pare a future full of hope amid chaos and uncertainty, Cardinal Peter Turkson said.

In a livestreamed meeting with Vatican Media journalists June 9, Cardinal Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, said the Pope’s words to “prepare the future” rather than “prepare for the future” are rooted in the teachings of his predecessor, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

The cardinal, who also leads the recently formed commission, recalled Pope Benedict’s address during his visit to Benin, in which the now-retired pontiff said that “to hope is to be open to the future and to be open to the future is to be open to God.”

“Preparing the future is in that line and the moment you introduce God into the discourse,” you also introduce the human person, the cardinal said. “So, preparing the future for Pope Francis, then, is preparing a future that is made up of human beings: you and I.”

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