

## Woman with a mission

Miracles abound at The Rolla Mission, according to St. Patrick parishioner Ashley Brooks, the mission's executive director. She speaks of the power of conversion and boundless love.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Venerable Fr. Tolton remains a steady voice for discipleship



Priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois lead a procession to the burial place of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, a former slave in northeastern Missouri who became the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably black priest in the United States, on the 123rd anniversary of his death. — Photo by Jay Nies

**Pilgrim procession in Quincy, Illinois draws about 140 to his burial place on anniversary of his death**

By Jay Nies

Were he living today, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton would not stand for the violence that has broken out at some recent demonstrations, nor would he remain silent in the face of the systemic racial injustices that have persisted for generations.

As he did in his day, the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably black priest in the United States would testify compellingly but compassionately against the injustices and brutalities he witnessed and withstood.

"He lived his life in stark contrast to the realities of his time," stated Father Peter Chineke, a priest of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. "He lived in persecution. He endured some of the worst evils of his time. But he looked beyond the temporal realities of this world because he knew where his robe lies in heaven."

Fr. Chineke, who grew up in Nigeria, preached the homily during a walking pilgrimage to Fr. Tolton's burial place in Quincy, Illinois, on July 9, the 123rd anniversary of Fr. Tolton's death in Chicago.

About 100 people, led by priests and seminarians, processed for about a mile from the statue of Fr. Tolton outside St. Peter School to St. Peter Cemetery.

An additional 40 people joined in praying Evening Prayer at the cemetery.

It was 90 degrees in the sun — significantly cooler than it was in Chicago when Fr. Tolton died of heat stroke at age 43.

Fr. Tolton (1854-1897), born into a

## "God's got this" — Beginning chemotherapy, Father Mike Coleman's spirit remains bright

By Langston Newsome  
Columbia Daily Tribune

Father Michael Coleman remained positive while beginning chemotherapy and radiation on July 20.

It's been a month since Fr. Coleman had a tumor the size of two baseballs removed from its resting place above his heart and lungs.

The surgery was painful, and his recovery afterward has been a slow process. Fr. Coleman has stopped regularly using oxygen, although he still uses it at night to help him sleep.

He has heard horror stories from people that have gone through chemotherapy. He doesn't let that alter his optimism. Fr. Coleman has leaned on the tales of cancer survivors that stressed the process isn't that daunting.

Either way, Fr. Coleman's faith has propelled him forward

in tackling his cancer diagnosis, surgery, and now cancer treatment head-on.

Fr. Coleman, a lifelong St. Louis Blues and Cardinals fan, couldn't help but think of the late-great Doug Wickenheiser when he received his official cancer diagnosis: cancer of the thymus gland.

"Wickenheiser was a fan favorite for the St. Louis Blues and a very devout Catholic," the priest said. "He got cancer in his early 30s and he went around saying that he'd always been the best hockey player he could be for Jesus. Now, he wanted to be the best cancer patient."

That's the mantra that Fr. Coleman entered chemotherapy with. He's determined to be the best cancer patient possible for

See FR. COLEMAN, page 14

See PILGRIMAGE, page 15

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## New deans appointed

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight announces the following deans to fulfill terms expiring in May 2023:

- Rev. Msgr. David D. Cox, Kirksville Deanery
- Very Rev. P. Gregory Oligschlaeger, Hannibal Deanery

- Very Rev. Anthony Rinaldo, Westphalia Deanery
- Very Rev. Gregory Meystrik, Rolla Deanery

Deans serve as liaisons between the bishop and the priests and people of a region of the diocese.

## Pray for deceased priests

- July 27 — **Fr. Noel F. Brennan**, St. Joseph, Edina (1968)  
 Aug. 1 — **Fr. Aloysius G. Hilke**, St. Margaret of Antioch, Osage Bend (1979); **Fr. Ralph H. Siebert**, St. Francis Caracciola, Bourbon; and Sacred Heart, Leasburg (1986)  
 Aug. 3 — **Msgr. Gerard L. Poelker**, St. Lawrence, St. Elizabeth (2009)  
 Aug. 4 — **Fr. Fred J. Yehle**, Shrine of St. Patrick, St. Patrick (1989)  
 Aug. 5 — **Fr. Donald J. Kemper**, St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia (1984)

## Director of Adult Faith Formation

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia is accepting applications for the position of Director of Adult Faith Formation. Commitment to the Catholic faith and faithful Mass attendance required. Some experience in Religious Education leadership preferred. Strong interpersonal skills, organizational skills, and willingness to work as a member of a team important. The core of the position is directing the RCIA process, with the coordination of Scripture studies, faith sharing and other smalls groups, and other aspects of Adult Faith Formation. Contact Fr. Chris Cordes at [frchris@ourladyoflourdes.org](mailto:frchris@ourladyoflourdes.org) or 573-445-7915 if interested.

## SUMMER CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

**Monday, July 27**  
**Resurrection & St. Peter Cemeteries**  
**Jefferson City**

All floral arrangements and decorations must be removed before this date, and should be done by a person designated by the family. Unauthorized persons found removing flowers and decorations from graves will be prosecuted.

NOTE: Items in permanent vases that are part of the monument will not be removed. Cemetery reserves the right to remove any damaged items or faded flower arrangements.

[info@rccjc.org](mailto:info@rccjc.org) — [www.rccjc.org](http://www.rccjc.org)

# Diocesan Catholic schools preparing for in-school instruction this fall

By Jay Nies

All 37 Catholic elementary schools and three Catholic high schools in the Jefferson City diocese are on track to offer in-school instruction at the start of the new school year.

All will abide by the directives of their local health department as well as any federal and state guidelines for mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

"The children are going to come back to a place that is as prepared as it can possibly be to protect them and the teachers and staff," stated Dr. Erin Vader, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools.

"And it's going to be as focused as ever on creating an excellent academic environment that is rooted in Gospel values," she said.

Dr. Vader noted that according to the most recent data, school-age children aren't the ones getting sick enough from COVID-19 to be hospitalized.

"Adults are," she noted. "So right now, the safety and health of our school families and the people who work in our schools is our biggest concern."

She has been encouraging principals to assemble a cadre of short- and long-term substitute teachers to stand in if any faculty members become ill or have to take care of someone else who does.

She noted that at least until January, the schools have access to funding for extended

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

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight**  
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medical leave for teachers and staff who need it.

"We are intensely optimistic and hopeful that while we're preparing for the worst, we are going to have an exceptionally beautiful school year," she said.

### "Very excited"

Dr. Vader pointed out that there's no way to predict what course the pandemic will take in the various regions of the diocese.

"We're all going to have to be flexible and patient with one another to make sure this all works," she said. "We are working through all of this by the grace of God."

She said one of the great things about Catholic schools is "that we're able to individualize our plans to fit our local communities."

On very short notice in mid-March of this year, all of the Catholic schools in the diocese switched from in-school to distance learning with the help of technology and creative, dedicated teachers and families.

This came in response to state and local directives for slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The efforts to continue educating students through the end of this past school year have been deemed largely successful.

Dr. Vader said all of the Catholic schools in the area are now in an even better position to make that same transition if necessary.

"We have all reflected on what worked well and what didn't when we suddenly had to suspend in-school instruction, and now we'll be better able to pivot in that direction if need be."

She's amazed at the anticipation she's seen from children about getting back into school for the first time in months.

"The kids are very excited about being back within their community," she said.

"And so are the administrators and the teachers. When you're called to do something, and outside forces are keeping you from doing it, you're in a very frustrating place."

### Gift and opportunity

The pandemic has been difficult for parishes, schools and families.

Yet, Dr. Vader recalls a quote she once read: "How can anything God gives you not be a gift?"

"We may not recognize that we are being given a gift right now," she said, "but we are."

"This is allowing all of us to understand what it means to sacrifice for the greater good," she stated, "what it means to take care of one another in a lot of different ways."

"And it's giving us an opportunity to go through some trials so that we better appreciate what we have."

As each school's opening day approaches, she asked for prayers for protection, patience and compassion for everyone who will be going back to school.

"And gratitude," she said. "Be grateful that we have all of this."

She has made a habit of seeking the intercession from St. Joseph, patron saint of the Universal Church and protector of the Holy Family.

She said it's important for people to tune out the loudest, angriest and most fearful voices during the pandemic and walk the line between paralyzing fear and dangerous ambivalence.

"If we allow irrational fear to dictate what we do, it will draw us away from what it means to be true Christians," she said. "God gave us our minds to reason rightly, and if we allow irrational fear to take over, we're not trusting God and we're not trusting ourselves."

At the same time, it's essential for every educator, student and family member to take the pandemic seriously.

"We need to stay well informed and continue following the advice of the medical professionals who know better than we how to respond to this pandemic," she said.

"We need to do what we can to protect ourselves and our families and protect our hospital and medical professionals from being overwhelmed, and balance all of that with living our lives."

# Vatican releases step-by-step guide on how leaders must handle abuse allegations

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released a 17-page document offering a step-by-step guide for how bishops, religious superiors and canon lawyers are supposed to handle accusations of alleged abuse by clerics against minors.

While nothing in the text is new, nor does it reflect any change to current Church law, the handbook is meant to present clear and precise directions, procedures as well as attitudes Church leaders should have toward victims, the accused, civil authorities and the media.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight said the newly released document clarifies procedures the Jefferson City diocese and other dioceses throughout the United States are already following.

"People are correct in holding us to a very high level of clarity and transparency in protecting the Church's most vulnerable members," said Bishop McKnight. "This document will help us ensure that the scandalous mishandling of these matters in the past will not be repeated."

Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for

the Doctrine of the Faith, said the handbook, called the "*Vademecum*," was the result of numerous requests by bishops and superiors of men's and women's religious orders "to have at their disposal a tool that could help them in the delicate task of correctly conducting cases regarding deacons, priests and bishops when they are accused of the sexual abuse of minors."

"The course of justice cannot alone exhaust the Church's response, but it is necessary in order to come to the truth of the facts," Cardinal Ladaria said in a statement published by the Vatican July 16.

"This is a complex path that leads into a dense forest of norms and procedures before which ordinaries and superiors sometimes find themselves lacking the certainty how to proceed," he said.

Cardinal Ladaria said the handbook was "designated as version 1.0" and will be subject to future updates.

It will be adapted to any eventual developments of canon law as well as to "respond to new challenges that experience will offer to the juridical treatment of the cases in question," he said.

He also said it will be updated in the future with con-

siderations from dioceses and Church institutions whose "qualified contribution will help to correct, integrate, specify and clarify those points that, as is only natural, require deeper reflection."

Some of the more notable clarifications of current norms and procedures include:

- Information about alleged abuse does not have to come as a formal complaint to an ordinary. The Church leader can learn about it from a third party, anonymous sources and even through social media. "It is not advisable to dismiss the matter" outright, it said, no matter how dubious or uncertain the claim.

- In the case of an accusation being made during confession, the priest must respect the sacramental seal, however he "should seek to convince the penitent to make that information known by other means, in order to enable the appropriate authorities to take action."

- Upon learning of an allegation, the ordinary "ought" to begin a preliminary investigation and gather and safeguard evidence. Even if the report is determined to be unfounded, the accusation, all documentation and an explanation for the ordinary's decision should be kept and a note about the decision should be sent to the doctrinal congregation.

- Even in cases where there is no explicit legal obligation to do so, the ecclesiastical authorities should make a report to the competent civil authorities if this is considered necessary to protect the person involved or other minors from the danger of further criminal acts."

- In situations not involving a minor, but that are "cases of improper and imprudent conduct," it said, "should it prove necessary to protect the common good and to avoid scandal, the ordinary or hierarch is competent to take other administrative provisions with regard to the person accused,

for example, restrictions on his ministry, or to impose the penal remedies" in order to prevent further delicts.

- The ordinary or his delegate is responsible for the prelimi-

civil authorities."

- When it comes to whether the bishop or superior must inform civil authorities upon receiving an allegation and opening its own investigation,

it said leaders should consider the "respect for the laws of the state" and "respect for the desire of the al-

leged victim, provided that this is not contrary to civil legislation."

Alleged victims should be encouraged to exercise their duties and rights as civilians in regard to state authorities.

- While the "secret of office" was to be respected by Church personnel, "it must be remembered, however, that an obligation of silence about the allegations cannot be imposed on the one reporting the matter, on a person who claims to have been harmed, and on witnesses."

- Church authorities were urged to seek help from the doctrinal office or experts at any point in the proceedings.

•During the investigative phase, "a decision to be avoided is that of simply transferring the accused cleric from his office, region or religious house, with the idea that distancing him from the place of the alleged crime or alleged victims constitutes a sufficient solution of the case." Other precautionary measures, which the document refers to, should be considered.

- If the Church receives "a legitimate executive order requiring the surrender of documents regarding cases, or order (for) the judicial seizure of such documents, the ordinary or hierarch must cooperate with the

In an effort to help those responsible for handling abuse allegations and to collect testimonials of credibility with regard to the complainants and the alleged victims, the congregation included a form to be filled out, listing what it considers "useful data that those carrying-out the preliminary investigation will want to compile and have at hand."

See GUIDE, page 15

## Bishop McKnight's Calendar



### JULY

*Appointments are not normally scheduled in the month of July.*

The following appointments are tentative, depending on the pandemic:

**July 24** Seminarian formation evening, 5:30 pm, Bishop's residence

**July 25** USCCB Journeying Together: An Intercultural Encounter for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults (video conference), 2 pm

**July 28** New Catholic school principals luncheon, noon, Catholic Center

### AUGUST

**Aug. 2** Summer seminarian luncheon, 1 pm, Lake of the Ozarks

**Aug. 15** 50th Anniversary Mass for Archbishop Robert James Carlson, 5 pm, Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

### Bishop McKnight's July prayer intention for our Local Church

For the unity of our country: that the God of truth may open our hearts to the truth of the Gospel, that peace may rule our hearts, and that justice may guide our nation of one people of many races.



### Intención del mes de julio del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por la unidad de nuestro país: que el Dios de la verdad abra nuestros corazones a la verdad del Evangelio, que la paz reine nuestros corazones y que la justicia guíe nuestra nación de un pueblo de muchas razas.

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

## Faithful Citizenship: Fr. Corel offers guidance on electoral discernment

By Eddie O'Neill

Like it or not, election season has arrived.

Missourians will head to the polls for a primary election on Aug. 4 and will return to the voting booth Nov. 3 to help elect a president and other state and federal officers.

With that in mind, Father Joseph Corel, pastor *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Sedalia, offered timely information on how Catholic voters are to approach their important civic duty.

His insights, presented July 16, were part of the St. Vincent de Paul parish's regular "Tap into Faith" series and were livestreamed over Facebook.

"My hope is that we can bring civility into a time in which there is a lot of controversy, arguments, and disagreement," said Fr. Corel. "We need to be charitable in what we are about to do and try to place ourselves in the presence of Christ in the midst of conflicts and difficulties that will be coming up."

Citing Sacred Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and numerous Church documents, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," he asserted that Catholics are called

and obliged to participate in the political process.

"We are called to enter into the political discourse because as Catholics, we have teachings that reflect the dignity of the human person," he stated.

"At the heart of every (electoral) issue, is the dignity of the human person," he explained. "The Church will always side on the dignity of the human person and the protection of the weak."

He went on to explain that the Church is not an ideology but rather a repository for what is true and right.

"She is the voice of Jesus Christ, Who gives us the truth," he said. "As the *Catechism* states, the Catholic Church is an expert on humanity because God created humanity and gave us Jesus Christ to perfect humanity and then gave us the Church to show us how to be fully human."

Armed with the truth, Catholics have an obligation to teach others by sharing the Good News. The political process is one of many important ways to do that.

"Politics is about people and the betterment of humanity," Fr. Corel noted. "Our faith life needs to influence our political life and not the other way around."

The key is to develop a well-informed conscience. Fr. Corel presented a three-step process:

- Read Sacred Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and pray over it;
- Practice the virtue of prudence;
- Take action, doing good while avoiding evil.

"Avoiding evil is not enough," the priest emphasized. "We have to do good. In politics, that means we have to do things that promote good."

He concluded with four principles the Church instructs voters to carry into the voting booth with them in the coming months:

- **the dignity of the human person** from birth to natural death;
- **subsidiarity** — the idea of keeping politics and policies as close to the local level as possible;
- **promoting the common good** — namely, seeking to determine what is best for the most people.
- **solidarity** — standing



**Father Joseph Corel leads a "Tap into Faith" discussion about "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," in anticipation of this year's primary and general elections.**

dialogue.

"We cannot compromise basic principles or moral teaching," he said. "We are committed to moral teaching with clarity."

"Let us focus more on moral principles than on the latest polls," he stated. "Let us focus more on the needs of the weak than the benefits of the strong. Let us focus on the pursuit of the common good rather than the demand of the narrow interest."

"This kind of the political participation reflects the social teaching of the Church and the best traditions of our nation," he said.

"The Church cannot champion any candidate or political party," Fr. Corel noted. "Our cause is the defense of human life and the dignity and protection of the weak and vulnerable."

"We welcome dialogue with political leaders and candidates," he said. "We seek to encourage and persuade public officials. Events and photo-ops cannot substitute for serious

A video of Fr. Corel's talk can be found on **Facebook**, by searching "St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish."

The U.C. Catholic bishops' teaching document titled "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" can be found at: [usccb.org/ issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship](http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship)



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

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

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need. We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

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

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

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

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

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

# Missouri's Catholic bishops support Amendment 2 for Medicaid expansion in the state

**Amendment will be on Aug. 4 statewide ballot**

By Jay Nies

Much has changed since Freeburg native Father Sylvester Bauer helped establish what is now Mercy St. Francis Hospital in Mountain View 64 years ago.

Many of the residents of that area in south-central Missouri were indigent, so the Daughters of St. Francis of Assisi and lay staff members provided a large portion of their services at little or no cost.

The ongoing evolution of healthcare, along with a lack of available sisters, has rendered that model inadequate, while costs continue to escalate.

Ten years ago, the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) changed the way the government helps hospitals, including hundreds of small, regional hospitals like Mercy St. Francis, serve patients who cannot afford to pay for treatment.

Specifically, the ACA shifted funding away from federal reimbursements for emergency-room visits, toward helping states pay for making Medicaid available to more people.

Medicaid, established in 1965, is a federal program administered through states to help provide healthcare to people who are least able to pay for it.

Missouri's version of the program is called Mo HealthNet. It provides health insurance coverage for the elderly poor, the disabled, children and low-income pregnant women/custodial parents.

However, able-bodied adults in Missouri only qualify for MO HealthNet coverage if they earn less than 22 percent of the federal poverty level.

That comes to \$5,764 per year for a family of four.

All the while, the shifting of funding from emergency room visits to Medicaid funding was designed to save money. But in states such as Missouri that have not provided broader access to Medicaid, it has created difficulties for hospitals that must still help people without

insurance who cannot pay.

Unless something changes, that will eventually threaten access to hospital services in isolated, rural areas of the state.

Numerous legislative efforts to increase Medicaid eligibility in Missouri through the years have failed, prompting proponents to turn to an amendment to the state's Constitution.



The state's Roman Catholic bishops have endorsed this amendment, which will appear on a statewide ballot on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Passage would require a simple majority from voters.

The amendment would expand Medicaid eligibility to qualifying Missouri residents whose income is at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level — namely, \$36,156 per year for a family of four.

It is estimated that between 200,000 and 250,000 additional adults and children would enroll in MO HealthNet if the proposed expansion were implemented.

The federal government would pay 90 percent of the additional cost, with the state paying the other 10 percent.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported in 2018 that 566,000 — 9.4 percent — of Missouri citizens do not have health insurance.

The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), public-policy agency for the state's four Roman Catholic dioceses, cited research showing that in most cases, Medicaid expansion improves access to care, utilization of healthcare services, affordability of care, and financial security among the low-income population.

"It also results in reductions in uncompensated care for hospitals and clinics, improving operating margins and financial performance, thereby

helping these providers continue to provide care, especially in remote areas," the MCC noted.

Brock Ingmire, manager of state policy and advocacy for St. Louis-based Ascension Health, which operates hospitals in more than 20 states, said the effects of Medicaid expansion would be very noticeable in rural areas.

"Medicaid expansion is not the only single-step solution to solving our rural healthcare problems," he stated. "But there is no doubt that a long-term solution can't be seen without Medicaid expansion as part of it."

In a recent MCC podcast ([mocatholic.org/news-and-events/mcc-podcast](http://mocatholic.org/news-and-events/mcc-podcast)), he said Medicaid expansion in other states has steered more people toward preventive care and cut down on untreated chronic health conditions and unnecessary but expensive visits to hospital emergency rooms.

He pointed to a Kansas Hospital Association's 2019 internal analysis that predicted an 18-percent decrease in uncompensated care for urban hospitals, a 26-percent decrease for rural hospitals and a 45-percent decrease for frontier hospitals (serving areas with less than six individuals per square mile) if Medicaid were to be expanded in Kansas.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that concern for the health of its citizens requires society to "help in the attainment of living conditions that help citizens grow and reach maturity: food and clothing, housing, healthcare, basic education, employment, and social assistance," (CCC No. 2288).

Many low-income earners in Missouri go without health insurance coverage altogether because of the high cost of health insurance premiums, even when coverage is available through their work or on the health insurance exchange.

This puts them at risk for chronic health problems and prevents early diagnosis and treatment of disease.

"Too many Missouri citizens, including many who are working to support themselves and their families, lack access to affordable healthcare coverage," the MCC stated. "Missouri's hospitals also depend upon Medicaid reimbursements to help their bottom line. Providing greater access to health coverage by expanding the Medicaid program will save lives, ensure better outcomes for our most vulnerable families, and is consistent with the bishops' commitment to life."

In a joint statement, the state's Roman Catholic bishops said they support this effort "because of the unmet healthcare needs of the working poor and to ensure the continued delivery of care to those who need it most through the Missouri healthcare system, including Missouri's Catholic hospitals."

The statement's signatories

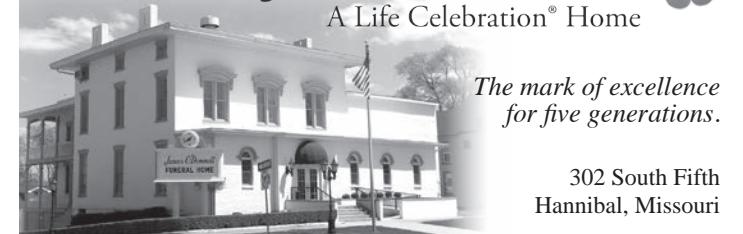
include: Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, apostolic administrator of St. Louis; Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City-St. Joseph; Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City; and Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

With bipartisan support, federal funding for abortion has been prohibited under the Hyde Amendment each year since 1976.

"We offer this support," Missouri's bishops stated, "understanding that current federal law includes pro-life protections in Medicaid through the Hyde Amendment. We encourage Catholics and others of goodwill to give serious consideration to supporting this effort to expand the Missouri Medicaid program."

For more information about Amendment 2 and Medicaid expansion in Missouri, visit: [mocatholic.org/resources/medicaid-resources](http://mocatholic.org/resources/medicaid-resources)

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# Parishioner at helm of The Rolla Mission loves people as they are

By Jay Nies

Ashley Brooks enjoys her ringside view of things miraculous.

"They happen so frequently here that I'm not really surprised anymore," said Mrs. Brooks, executive director of The Rolla Mission. "It's just part of how it works here."

The Rolla Mission is a not-for-profit agency that helps people who are homeless.

In addition to operating an overnight shelter in downtown Rolla during the cold months, it serves three hot meals per day and offers a free shower, laundry facilities and a safe place to belong.

The staff specializes in building-up the kind of relationships that change people's lives.

"It's incredible the transformation that can happen with people if you just love them in the moment for who they are," said Mrs. Brooks.

## The biggest conversion

A member of St. Patrick parish in Rolla, Mrs. Brooks grew up on a small farm near Bland and went to school in Belle.

She worshipped with her family at a nondenominational

Christian church and was active in the youth group there through her teen years.

"It was always emphasized that you help one another, and 'Whatever you did for ... these ... you did for Me,'" she recalled.

Once a year, her family would gather for a big "butchering day," dividing the meat they processed among families and donating some to people in need.

She helped with fundraisers to help her cousin battle kidney disease.

Mrs. Brooks and her husband Patrick met through mutual friends while attending a St. Patrick's Day concert.

They got married and moved to Rolla 10 years ago.

She started feeling drawn back to church after they got married and had their first child.

"Looking into my son's eyes was the biggest conversion," she said. "It's amazing! You're holding a miracle in your arms every day and trying to fathom how that could happen."

She wanted to give her son a good foundation like the one she had been given.

"We went to several area churches," she said. "And ev-

ery time, I just felt pulled back to St. Patrick's."

She also signed up to be a substitute teacher at St. Patrick School, where her father-in-law, Deacon Michael Brooks, was principal.

"I'll never forget how every morning the teachers would meet for like 10 minutes to pray and talk before starting the day," she said.

"I was thinking, 'They have something special that I don't have.' And I wanted it," she said. "I looked at their faces and saw this peace and this love."

She believes that at that moment, God pulled back the veil and gave her a glimpse of what He sees.

Her husband stood beside her through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and when she was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church at Easter in 2017.

She chose St. Teresa of Calcutta as her confirmation name.

## A mother's love

One day, Mrs. Brooks saw a Facebook post seeking overnight volunteers for a winter shelter for the homeless.

She followed the link to The Rolla Mission ([therollamission.org](http://therollamission.org)) and started reading.

"I felt this heaviness on my heart," she recalled. "It was the first time I ever very clearly heard God pulling me in one direction. It was like, 'You need to do this.'"

By that time, she and Mr. Brooks had a second child, a 6-month-old baby who was still nursing through the night.

She called her friend Marie, who was a volunteer at The Mission.

They talked about the prospect of bringing the baby for an overnight shift.

Marie said, "I really think it will be okay. Why don't you just come one night and we'll try it?"

is somebody's child," she said. "I needed to love them and care for them as their mother would."

## Much has been given

One of the guests had been given a new pair of slippers to wear while she was at the shelter.

"She was strutting around in them and showing everyone," said Mrs. Brooks. "She came up to me and said, 'Don't you love my new slippers?' She was just beaming."

At 11 p.m., Mrs. Brooks dimmed the lights and went to her own room and set Liam in bed for the night.

She looked down, saw her own slippers next to the bed, and wept.

"Why do I get to have what I have and they have nothing?" she thought.

The tears lasted for days.

"My heart had been opened to their suffering, to this whole side of humanity that I had been totally blind to," she said.

She wrote in her journal that she could not let her heart grow indifferent to people's misfortune, nor could she go around crying all the time.

He husband finally suggested, "Maybe God gave you slippers so you can give them to someone else."

"It became very clear to both of us that I need to take all of these tools I've been given and use them to help people," she said.

She volunteered for more nights at The Mission and to help serve lunch in the daytime.

## The Lord provided

A year later, when her first son was in school and Liam was 18 months old, Mrs. Brooks completed her degrees in human resource management and business administration.

She needed to go back to work, but that would reduce



Ashley Brooks, center, her oldest son and several volunteers gather at The Rolla Mission in Rolla.

Her husband reassured her that if God was really calling, He would make it work.

She remembers praying for safety and inspiration while buckling her baby into the car seat at 9:30 p.m.

"I was saying, 'Open my heart. Make this a transformative experience. Let me do your will!'" she said.

The minute she walked in and saw her friend Marie, she felt at peace.

There was a secure bedroom for the overnight volunteer to sleep in and look after the guests through a closed-circuit camera.

She greeted each of them as they arrived.

The first was wearing cowboy boots, Wrangler jeans and a button-up shirt.

He said, "Are you the overnight volunteer tonight?"

She said, "Yes ... and Liam, too."

He said, "Thanks for being here. You don't have anything to worry about."

Others soon arrived, their faces filled with relief that they were somewhere safe.

Each would pick up a blanket, settle into one of the recliners and fall asleep.

"As I watched people do this, holding my son, I realized that each of these people

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# Silver jubilee: Fr. Debo believes beauty, compassion help light the way to Christ

By Jay Nies

A young man fresh out of art school was distributing Holy Communion to people in a nursing home.

He stopped to spend time with a woman painfully disfigured by cancer.

She knew he wasn't a priest, but when they finished praying, she said, "Thank you, Father."

"I walked out of there a little scared," Father William Debo recently recalled. "It took me back to all the other times when it seemed like God was dropping little hints."

That woman was one of many people who "boldly, gently and very matter-of-factly" helped Fr. Debo aspire to the Holy Priesthood into which he was ordained 25 years ago.

"It's all about serving the People of God, and that comes in many, many different forms," he stated. "I've been able to do that in some very serious ways in times of life or death, and I've been able to do it by sharing a glass of wine and dancing the polka."

## Neither rain nor sleet

Fr. Debo is the older of two sons born to Helen and the late Harold Debo.

He grew up in Wellsville and received his sacraments in the Church of the Resurrection.

The family almost never missed Mass.

"One Good Friday, we were having the worst ice storm I can remember," he recalled. "Power lines were across the road, sparking."

Undaunted, Fr. Debo's dad set about driving the family to church.

"That's just one story among many," the priest recalled. "We always went to church when we were supposed to."

The family lived a backyard away from his paternal grandparents. After their grandfather died, the Debo brothers spent most nights with their grandmother.

"I remember dad building a sidewalk specifically for that reason," said Fr. Debo. "We would go down there in our pajamas from our back door to their front door."

Fr. Debo also spent time with his maternal grandparents, who lived in nearby Martinsburg and were members of St. Joseph parish.

He often went to Mass with them on Saturday evening, then with his parents in Wellsville on Sunday morning.

"I learned through church and through family to have a great deal of respect for older people and doing the kind of stuff you do in a small town," he said.

One Saturday before Mass in Martinsburg, a woman who was always in the pew ahead of him turned around and asked if he'd ever thought about being a priest.

"She was the first to come right out and ask," Fr. Debo recalled.

Others who sat nearby occasionally followed suit.

As one often restless and rambunctious in his religious-education classes, young Billy would respond, "Me? No. I never thought about it."

## Worth my time

What Fr. Debo wanted was to be a graphic artist.

After graduating from Wellsville-Middletown R-I High School, he went to the Colorado Institute of Art in Denver to study advertising design.

He stayed with his aunt and uncle, who were members of St. Joan of Arc parish in Arvada, Colorado.

He became active in the parish youth group and taught CCD.

The mother of one of his friends at school called Fr. Debo's aunt to say she recognized a difference in her son since he started spending time with him.

He was more interested in church.

"My aunt thought I was thumping the Bible and evangelizing," Fr. Debo recalled. "I told her I don't think we ever even talked about church or religion."

"What I think he saw was the conviction I had received from my parents that church is important and worth my time and commitment," he said.

## Artistic license

Fr. Debo returned to Wellsville in 1982 with an associate's degree and a portfolio.

He did freelance work in graphic design while working up new material to send to Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, where he wanted to build a career.

He re-joined Church of the Resurrection parish, designing banners and antependiums for the various liturgical seasons and becoming active in the "Our Journey in Faith" program for the laypeople of this diocese.

He heard about a parish mission in Martinsburg and decided to attend with his grandparents.

A Benedictine monk from Conception Abbey directed the mission and spoke each evening.

"I was inquisitive about a lot of things he had to say," Fr. Debo recalled. "He talked about how the monks ran a seminary. That interested me."

Each night, the visiting priest answered anonymous questions that attendees placed in the "question box."

Fr. Debo stuffed the box.

The visiting priest suspected that many of the inquiries were from the same person. He announced that if anyone had anything to discuss in greater depth, he would be available at the rectory the next day.

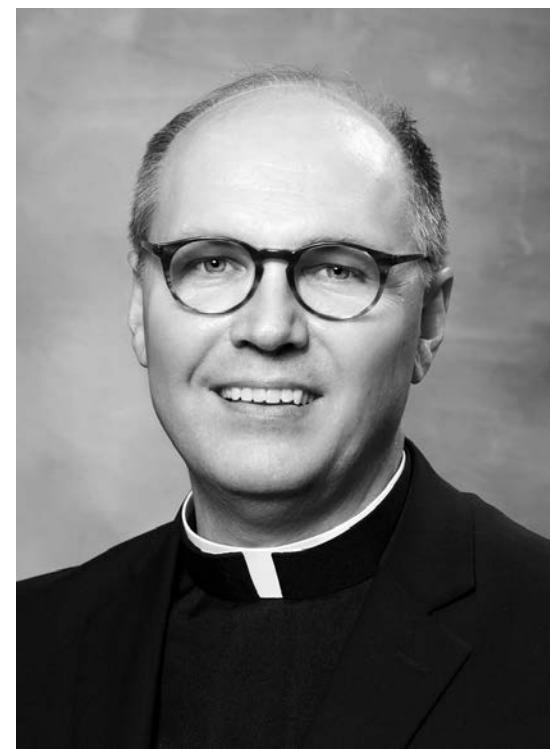
"I knocked on the door and we had a long visit," said Fr. Debo. "He was very nice and gave me some pointers. He said, 'Come and visit the seminary, and contact the vocation director if you're serious about it.'"

## What became of the monk?

Fr. Debo did eventually visit Conception Seminary College.

On his last night there, he met an older seminarian who had previously worked in construction.

"We talked until late into the night," said Fr. Debo. "After hearing what he had to say,



**Fr. William Debo**

I thought, 'Maybe I can give this a try.'

His parents agreed.

"If God wants you to be a priest, He'll get you there," his dad told him.

Fr. Debo enrolled at Conception, taking all of the classes required for a degree, including math and science.

A young Benedictine, Father Albert Bruecken, had just

joined the faculty.

"He'll get you through," Fr. Debo's advisors told him.

"And God bless him, he did!"

That year, the future priest chose Sister Benita Luetkemeyer for his spiritual director. She is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, whose motherhouse is a few miles from Conception.

He was talking to Sr. Benita at a social event during a Benedictine chapter meeting when a group of monks arrived.

"I saw the priest who had given the mission in Martinsburg," he recalled. "I pointed to him and asked Sister if she knew who he was."

She said, "I certainly should know. He's my brother!"

It was Benedictine Father Alexander Luetkemeyer, who had been out on mission as an associate pastor of St. Peter parish in Jefferson City.

**See FR. DEBO, page 23**



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## QUESTION CORNER

### Wording in ‘Hail, Holy Queen’/ Feeling need for forgiveness

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



**Q.** The prayer “Hail, Holy Queen” has three phrases in it that trouble me. They are: “to thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve”; “mourning and weeping in this valley of tears”; and “after this, our exile.” The author of this prayer makes life on Earth appear to be a punishment. What is the history of this prayer, and was the author troubled? (Suffolk, Virginia)

**A.** The origin of the prayer “Hail, Holy Queen” (its Latin title is *Salve Regina*) is uncertain, but many historians ascribe it to an 11th-century German monk and scholar, Hermann of Reichenau — and your question and the wording of the hymn incline me to think this may be true.

This monk is sometimes referred to as Hermann the Lame, or Hermann the Cripple. He was born with a cleft palate, cerebral palsy and spina bifida; he had great difficulty moving and could hardly speak. When Hermann was 7 years old, his parents placed him in the care of the Benedictine monks of the abbey of Reichenau.

Despite his physical disabilities, Hermann was a brilliant student and wrote several works on mathematics, astronomy, history and theology. Later in his life, his sight beginning to fail, Hermann is thought to have composed religious poetry and music, including the “Hail, Holy Queen.”

It is one of the Church’s best-known Marian prayers and is commonly recited or sung in monastic communities at the close of day; it is also frequently used by Catholics as the concluding prayer when reciting the Rosary. (Often, too, the *“Salve Regina”* is sung at the end of a priest’s funeral by his fellow clerics.)

The “Hail, Holy Queen” strikes me as a prayer of love and devotion coming from the heart of an author who may have suffered greatly during his life. Different prayers, of course, speak to the life experiences and preferences of different people, and there is no obligation to pray with wording you might find troublesome.

(Some historians note that in 1492, on his voyage to the New World, Christopher Columbus would gather his crew on the deck each evening and sing the *“Salve Regina,”* signaling their confidence in Our Lady’s protection.)

**Q.** I am a teenage girl who would like some advice. I have committed a serious sin. I knew that it was wrong, that it was considered a mortal sin which would separate me from God, but I decided to do it anyway. Now I truly regret it. They say that if you die in mortal sin, then you will be lost forever. This thought scares me and makes me think that I cannot be forgiven because I went against God. How can I handle this? (City of origin withheld)

**A.** I remember back in 2015 when Pope Francis, in a homily during Mass in his chapel, spoke to your situation. He said that God is willing to forgive all our sins, always and without exception, and that the Lord rejoices when someone asks Him for pardon.

“God always forgives us,” said Pope Francis. “He never tires of this. It’s we who get tired of asking for forgiveness. But He does not tire of pardoning us.”

And I remember, too, in 2019 when the Pope spoke to a crowd gathered for the Angelus in St. Peter’s Square and pointed

See DOYLE, page 18

## SSM Health, Noble Health announce Letter of Intent for hospital in Mexico

### Organizations committed to ensuring high-quality healthcare for the region

SSM Health and Noble Health announced on July 14 the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to explore a possible transfer of ownership of SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital–Audrain and associated community medical group practices to Noble Health.

The LOI indicates that SSM Health and Noble Health have entered a period of exclusive negotiation regarding the 100-year-old hospital that SSM Health purchased in 2013.

If the diligence process and discussions move forward as anticipated, transfer of ownership could occur by the end of the year.

“This continues a process that began two years ago, when we began evaluating potential opportunities to ensure the long-term sustainability of quality healthcare in the Mid-Missouri region,” said SSM Health Regional President Mike Baumgartner.

“We have worked closely with local leaders and community members to help shape our progress to this point,” he said. “Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that we do what is best for our employees, providers and the communities we serve.”

Kansas City-based Noble Health is focused on expanding care in rural communities and recently began management of Fulton Medical Center in Fulton. They recently shared plans for increasing and improving services in that community.

“Noble Health is looking forward to setting out on our mission of being champions of hometown healthcare here in Audrain County,” said Don Peterson, executive chairman of the board at Noble Health. “We understand how important it is to deliver great care close to home. We’re excited about the potential to be a part of the community and look forward to working with SSM Health to complete this transition to offer the best service to meet this community’s health needs.”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight



SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital–Audrain

said he’s very encouraged by the possibility of Noble Health continuing the high quality of healthcare services in Audrain County, honoring the legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Mary and other pioneers.

“Caring for the sick is a core element of our Catholic mission,” said Bishop McKnight. “I am grateful for all who work in healthcare, especially those who serve because of the values of our Christian faith, and look forward to continued collaboration in ensuring appropriate, high-quality care to the people of Mid-Missouri.”

Noble Health Corporation is led by Tom Carter, a public-policy advocate who worked with U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt in Missouri and Washington, D.C., for more than 25 years and Don Peterson, founder of IVX Health, who will focus exclusively on strategy and portfolio growth.

Noble Health’s objective is to move community healthcare

forward by bringing the right resources, technologies and providers into the heart of the community.

“With an innovative approach that both localizes and personalizes the care that is provided, Noble Health is able to positively impact the health of the community by addressing the specific health needs of residents,” the organization stated.

SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital–Audrain opened in 1918 as Audrain Medical Center and became of a part of the SSM Health system in 2013.

Today, the 70-bed community hospital offers a range of services including emergency care, cardiology services, medical imaging, orthopedics, a senior care unit, surgical services and a nationally-recognized cancer screening program.

The hospital regularly receives national recognition for its commitment to patient safety and quality.

## Moratorium on use of music by David Haas

Recently multiple accusations of sexual abuse and spiritual manipulation have been made against the composer/songwriter David Haas.

GIA Publications has suspended its sponsorship and publishing relationship with Haas. The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is no longer providing him a letter of suitability. Other music publishers have followed suit, and women continue to come forward with additional accusations.

On July 8, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis announced that it will not use Haas’ compositions at archdiocesan Masses.

After consultation and review of the situation, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight has decided a moratorium must be placed on using any David Haas music throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City.

# Catholic education for life in a time of pandemic

By Hosffman Ospino  
Catholic News Service



It is not enough for Catholics to say human life is sacred. We must put our money where our mouths are. Education is one historically effective way of doing so. However,

we may need to shift some gears during this time of pandemic.

More than Catholic education that teaches about life, we need Catholic education that proactively teaches practical ways to protect life. By practical here, I mean precise, simple, speedy and widespread.

This is not a time to rest solely on abstract theologizing and philosophizing, or to imagine possible worlds while escaping the one in which we live, or to dig our heels into political ideology. People are dying. Those who contract the virus have no guarantee that their lives will be the same.

I see with dismay the exponential rise in the number of COVID-19 infections and continuing deaths associated

with the virus. If there are any educational campaigns to prevent widespread contagion, they seem to be failing. Perhaps people are not listening. Perhaps they are confused. People need to hear the message more often.

Churches are uniquely positioned to bring messages of preventive health care to people and families where they are. Churches have a *de facto* receptive audience. In principle, the Catholic Church in the U.S. could drive the message to its nearly 70 million members. Even if only half of them listened, we would be influencing almost 10% of the entire U.S. population with lifesaving messages during this pandemic.

Everything that Catholics do to share a message inspired by the Gospel is Catholic education. It happens everywhere and at all times. Catholics should take the lead at this historical moment and launch a major educational campaign to protect life. Involve everyone.

An educational campaign needs talking points that can be repeated regularly. A Catholic campaign to protect and save lives could start with a four-fold appeal.

One, **appeal to commonsense.** Share basic messages about hygiene and

physical distancing.

Two, **appeal to values.** Offer a renewed catechesis on the virtues of prudence, justice, temperance and courage.

Three, **appeal to a sense of integrity** that transcends individual whims and interests. Our Catholic ethical commitments challenge us to do what is right because it is true, to understand freedom as a way to achieve our human perfection, and to act always with the common good in mind.

Fourth, **appeal to a Gospel-informed conscience.** We care about others' lives in the here and now of history, regardless of their skin color or culture or social location, simply because they are the face of Christ. No exception.

Such Catholic campaign requires every possible tool available. To be effective, the campaign needs to be consistent and repetitive until the pandemic is over.

Can the bishops write a pastoral letter now on this topic? Why not. Say something in every homily. Make it a regular page in every parish bulletin.

Integrate this message of care and prevention in every faith formation effort. Yes, develop a fresh curriculum.

All Catholic newspapers and magazines should dedicate a noticeable section to the campaign. Initiate regular cycles of conversation through social media, ignite the Catholic blogosphere about it. Catholic schools and colleges can integrate these points in their teaching, research projects and other educational practices.

Mine the potential of Catholic television. Mindful of its size and outreach, I would love to see EWTN taking the lead. Speak about it daily. Every ad cycle should have a commercial with this educational message. Do likewise through Catholic radio.

This is the perfect time to save lives. Let us make history in the way we address this pandemic as a Catholic community.

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

## REFLECTION

### As I live and breathe

By Mark Saucier

It was that in-between time, too early to get up, too late to go back to sleep.

I lay there in the darkness, my mind leaving the land of dreams and finding its way to the contours of the coming day.

In the stillness, I could hear my wife breathing. Not as loud as the snuffling of a snore, just audible enough to follow her repeated exchange, inhaling the oxygen-rich air and exhaling a cleansing carbon-laden current.

She did it effortlessly and unconsciously in her sleep, but not that different than she would if awake.

We come into the world with the gasp of a first breath and often leave with a rattle preceding our last. Even in these, it is others, not us, who are aware of what is happening, who will feel relief at the former and grief at the latter.

Between the two, we are not usually aware of our breathing. Oh, we talk about "a breath of fresh air" or the need "to catch my breath."

We're so busy, we "hardly have time to breathe."

We cynically say, "Don't hold your breath."

We tell a friend to "stop and take a breath," though we seldom do ourselves.

Our reality reminds us that the most essential activity of our life can be dangerous. We've learned about aerosolizing and particulates and how we can breathe in sickness, even death.

Once sick, our breathing-out can infect others the same.

There are other breathing lessons today. We've all heard "I can't breathe," but we can be choked in more ways than one.

People can't breathe when jobless and the bill collectors are closing in, when skin tone defines and confines, when fear of failure, rejection or just tomorrow paralyzes the lungs.

We cannot speak without breath. Our words begin in our lungs, our breath manipulating our larynx, the giving sound its resonance, cadence and volume.

Every word of hate or anger, every word of love or consolation begins with our breath.

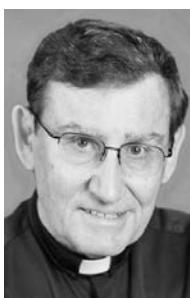
But so does prayer. In contemplation and meditation, the masters teach their disciples to quiet the world and to listen within, but the first step is always to focus on your breathing.

Despite his suffering, Job could say, "the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

If that's the case, maybe I should pay a little more attention to my own breathing and less to my wife's.

## Comparing contrasting perspectives

By Father Eugene Hemrick  
Catholic News Service



In German, the word "gegensatz" indicates an opposing point of view. How might this translate?

Undoubtedly, we live in a blessed progressive age. Take, for example, modern medical achievements that create better human life and health. Many also enjoy greater peace of mind due to increased protections and dependable insurance programs.

Our life is richer thanks to accomplishing tasks with less labor and time. Faster cars and planes have compressed time. Sociology and psychology now treat tensions in greater depth.

Most people agree we live in a world of awesome progress. There is, however, another opposing point of view.

It is true medical science has enhanced our life. But as helpful as it is, do we have a will to health? Do we wholeheartedly embrace discipline needed to cultivate good eating habits and health practices?

How willing are we to study and use the best means for ensuring our health? Do we overly depend on medical science to the neglect of employing our

own ingenuity in staying well?

It is true we can travel from one place to another faster. But do we really gain time and greater leisure, or are we more rushed and busier?

It is true we have well-planned insurance programs and security. But could it be that our independence, healthy confidence and readiness for whatever might come are minimized? Do we rely on others to protect us to the neglect of devising imaginative ways of looking out for ourselves?

The word "gegensatz" prompts us to look at opposing points of view and whether they strengthen or weaken our character, freedom, self-reliance and responsibility. "Gegensatz" also seeks ways on how to make opposing perspectives come together.

How, for example, do we respect health-enhancing medicines without losing our power to control them? How do we control the anxiousness caused by speeding through life? How do we control the paranoia that often accompanies being overly security-minded?

The pandemic gives us a good opportunity to reevaluate cultural values considered to mark progress. True progress is achieved when we avoid taking one step forward and two steps backward, and when we make the effort to connect opposing points of view.

# Fr. Peckman is helping the masses prepare for spiritual warfare

**Online "Let Freedom Ring" aimed at freedom from temptation, demonic influence**

By Jay Nies

Jesus didn't just complain about the human condition.

He actually did something. "He directly fought the devil!" said Father William Peckman, pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Boonville and St. Joseph parish in Fayette. "He acknowledged and did battle with the demonic forces that ceaselessly try to influence our behavior."

Since July 7, Fr. Peckman and two other priests have been helping prepare thousands of Catholics to engage in spiritual battle, through an online program called "Let Freedom Ring: 40 Days to Freedom from the Devil."

"This is about spiritual warfare," Fr. Peckman insisted. "It's about looking at the sins that are grinding things to a halt within our families, our parishes, our Church and society, and dealing with them head-on."

The goal is to use the ancient, time-honored Christian tools of prayer, reflection

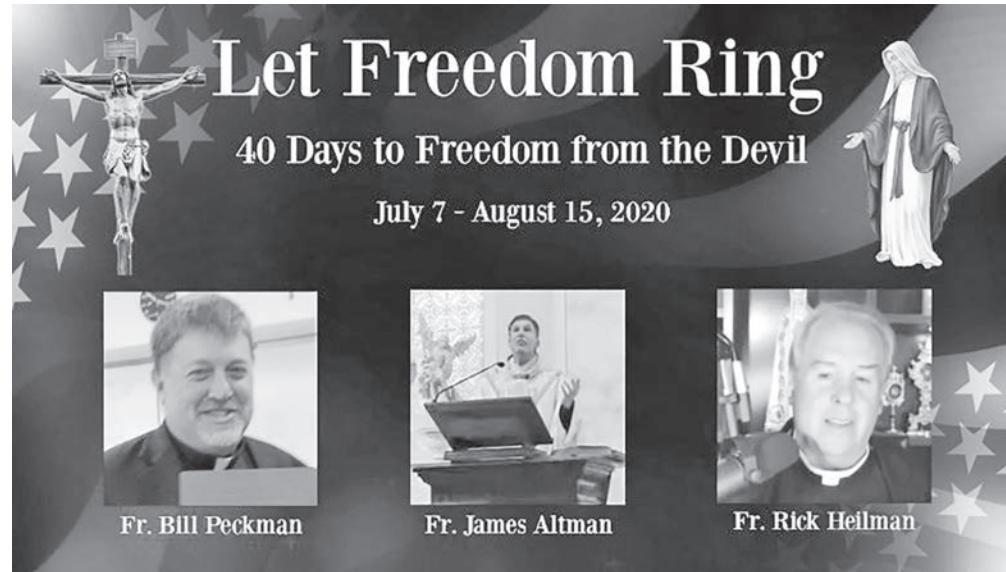
and reparation to "purge the demonic from our families, parishes, diocese and country, so that there may be an explosion of faith and charity in our Church at all levels," he said.

Each day of the program includes a reflection on a particular sin that prevents people from reaching the full potential of their relationship with God.

There are also prayers and actions of mercy and reparation, along with a solid regimen of fasting and physical exercise.

"We're talking about personal freedom and engaging in prayer in order to overcome temptations and learn new virtues," said Fr. Peckman.

"We must arm ourselves with prayer and the sacraments," he said. "That is what 'Let Freedom Ring' is designed to do."



## Start today

Fr. Peckman, Father Richard Heilman of the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin, and Father James Altman of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, take turns writing the reflections.

Fr. Peckman has already written about "Freedom from Fear," "Freedom from Predation," "Freedom from Envy," "Freedom from Belligerence," "Freedom from Pornography" and "Freedom from Godlessness."

"We see all these things and we feel helpless, and we're not!" he said. "By the grace of God, these things are all conquerable."

About 65,000 people have signed up for the program through the U.S. Grace Force website.

Thousands of others are taking part without signing up.

The program began on July 7 and ends on Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fr. Peckman said people can join the program any day and then return to the beginning to make up the missed days.

"Jump in where we're at," he suggested. "It's in no particular order. Over time, we recommend that you engage all 40 days and maybe from time to time, work through it again."

## True colors

Because not everyone can participate at the same level of intensity, there is:

- a "white level" for people who are pregnant, elderly or have serious medical conditions;

some of the most shocking evil in humanity's history has taken place in the past 150 years.

It has coincided with the growing ambivalence to the reality of spiritual battle in the world.

"We have redirected the fight we used to take to Satan, and we now use it against each other," he said. "Instead of seeing the supernatural forces that are tempt-

ing and provoking us, we now only see each other as the enemy and treat each other in the same way an exorcist would treat a demon — namely, 'Be gone!'"

Fr. Peckman believes that's why reasonable debates have given way to shouting and drowning-out of opposition — akin to exorcism.

"We do not merely want to silence but to eliminate," he said. "The belligerence and ferocity of these divisions continues to grow stronger."

All the while, Satan cackles.

"The demons laugh with glee," said Fr. Peckman. "They operate almost unrestricted and let those they influence take the blame."

"We no longer fight them as we once did," the priest asserted. "We punish their earthly proxies."

## A way of life

Fr. Peckman noted that there are as many temptations and impediments to grace as there are people.

"Not everyone has the same problems," he said. "But the devil knows exactly where to hit."

Identifying and actively engaging the spiritual flashpoints of this life have made Fr. Peckman feel more human, more powerful, more Catholic.

"A week into this, I could already see a difference," he said. "I'm not afraid anymore. I'm not intimidated. The temptations I struggle with are evaporating."

"My hope for the long run is that this becomes a way of life," he stated.

[usgraceforce.com](http://usgraceforce.com)

## California mission founded by St. Junipero Serra gets papal upgrade

Catholic News Service

Ventura, California

When Father Tom Elewaut saw the name on his phone's caller ID the night of June 30, the pastor of Mission San Buenaventura guessed the call had something to do with the recent controversy over whether to remove the statue of St. Junipero Serra in front of Ventura's City Hall.

He guessed wrong.

"I've got some good news," said Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez on the other end of the line. "You're a minor basilica."

At a special 7:30 a.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gomez, Fr. Elewaut and Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron, Mission San Buenaventura was unveiled as the first basilica in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the 88th in the United States.

"When the Pope designates a basilica, it means this is holy ground, that something beautiful and important in the history of salvation happened here," Archbishop Gomez said at the Mass.

Fr. Peckman said people can join the program any day and then return to the beginning to make up the missed days.

"Jump in where we're at," he suggested. "It's in no particular order. Over time, we recommend that you engage all 40 days and maybe from time to time, work through it again."

## True colors

Because not everyone can participate at the same level of intensity, there is:

- a "white level" for people who are pregnant, elderly or have serious medical conditions;

Fr. Peckman insisted that

# His way IS the highway! Roadside images of Christ are enduring gifts of love

*This article was originally published in the Aug. 3, 2001, edition of The Catholic Missourian:*

*"Under the title of 'Christ of the Highway,' with hands extended in blessing, we ask Thee to bless and protect all travelers who journey through our land. And, since Thou hast said: 'I am the Way and the Truth and the Life,' we pray Thee also to guide, enlighten and sanctify all of us who travel the highway of life, so that our journey toward eternity may bring us safely home to Thee in heaven."*

By Jay Nies

Lifting up his voice and his eyes, the late Monsignor Gerold J. Kaiser splashed holy water onto the new "Christ of the Highway" statue on the front lawn of St. Patrick Church in Rolla.

It was Mother's Day, May 12, 1957.

Msgr. Kaiser wore his papal chamberlain regalia. First communicants wore ties and veils. An image of Our Lady wore a crown of fresh flowers. And nearby U.S. 66 still wore the moniker of "Main Street of America."

The Rolla Knights of Columbus had donated the new statue as part of the city's centennial celebration.

The late Joe Loughridge, a longtime parishioner and Knight, had built the stone pedestal.

"Grant Thy abundant blessings to the people of this community in which we live," Msgr. Kaiser prayed. "May this image of Thee be to all a vivid and frequent reminder of Thy definite promise to 'be with us all days, even to the end of the world' through Thy unfailing providence and loving care."

It was to be the young Diocese of Jefferson City's first "Christ of the Highway," a tactile reminder of Christ's abiding presence.

Its purpose was to invoke a blessing upon and express a warning to passing motorists on U.S. 63-66.

Two more such tableaus would appear along numbered highways in the diocese over



**WOULD THE REAL "CHRIST OF THE HIGHWAY" PLEASE STAND UP? — The late Monsignors Gerold J. Kaiser and Bernard A. Timpe had a hand in placing these statues in churchyards along highways in Rolla, Jefferson City and Freeburg.**

— Photos by Father Gregory Meystruk, Jay Nies and Father William Debo

the 10 years roughly paralleling the nation's odyssey from fins to fastbacks.

#### Grateful parents

Shortly after Msgr. Kaiser was transferred to Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City in 1961, parishioners James and Irene Stegeman, who had been unable to have children, adopted a son.

"We decided that we had to give something back, to show our appreciation to God," said Mr. Stegeman, who believes he's had enough good luck for 10 people. "So we went to Msgr. Kaiser and talked a little about it. He told us he liked the 'Christ of the Highway' statue and said it worked really good in Rolla. He suggested that we do the same thing up here. Highway 50 came by the church back then."

So Msgr. Kaiser and the Stegemans drove to Rolla to take a look.

"The minute we saw the statue, it really struck Irene and me in the heart," Mr. Stegeman said. "We knew it was about the most perfect gift we could give. If anyone drove past the church and happened to say a prayer and then went

down the road and got killed, that last thing on their mind could help them find their way to heaven."

Encouraged by the Stegemans' enthusiasm, Msgr. Kaiser ordered a practically identical statue.

Mr. Stegeman, a foundation-builder by trade, planned to make a red brick pedestal to match the church. "But then I thought it would stand out a little more if we used some Carthage limestone," he said. "So I ordered some, and that's what we used for the pedestal."

Workers used a cherry picker to lift the statue into place.

Msgr. Kaiser blessed the statue on May 21, 1961, offering prayers that Christ would protect travelers and bring blessings to the community. The ceremony was held in connection with the parish's May procession.

#### Third time's the charm

Around 1967, a third "Christ of the Highway" statue appeared — this one outside Holy Family Church in Freeburg.

The late George Struemph, a Holy Family parishioner, was serving as executor of the es-

tate of his brother, Raymond Struemph, who had died in St. Louis in 1965 or 1966.

Monsignor Bernard A. Timpe had just arrived in Freeburg as pastor. When George Struemph turned up some extra money in the estate and decided to donate it to the Church, Msgr. Timpe suggested "Christ of the Highway" in Raymond's memory.

Parishioner Herb Stratman hired John Strope to build the pedestal with limestone from the old Jefferson City Stone Co.

Mr. Strope dug below the frost line and poured the concrete footings. He built the pedestal of concrete blocks and then faced it with limestone, capped with a flat slab for the statue.

Mr. Strope and several parishioners used a well truck and cable from the local MFA to lift the statue onto the pedestal. A half-inch-wide rod drilled into the pedestal would keep the statue from tipping over.

"Msgr. Tempe watched every move we made," Mr. Stratman recalled. "I think he was worried we were going to break a hand off or something."

The original statue fell off the pedestal when a motorist ran into it in 1970. The pedestal survived the impact, but the statue had to be replaced.

Another traffic accident in 1999 took the pedestal, along with the second statue, out of commission.

Insurance check in hand, the parish purchased a third statue and materials for a new pedestal.

Parishioners built a concrete infrastructure. Third-generation brick mason Isadore Forck, a member of St. Francis Xavier parish, Taos, who was doing brickwork at a home in Freeburg, agreed to lay the stone-mimicking concrete blocks facing all sides of the pedestal.

"Virgil Wieberg and Dan and Brent Stratman down there did the main work on it," Mr. Forck said. "Inside the 'stone,' there are about 38 concrete blocks. I laid the stone around it. My part took about six hours. I had the time, and they're really good people down there."

Mr. Stratman kept telling Mr. Forck to send the parish a

## Bishops renew nuclear disarmament call as anniversary nears

Catholic News Service

**Washington, D.C.**

Members of a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee renewed a long-standing call for nuclear disarmament as the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of two Japanese cities neared.

The Committee on International Justice and Peace, chaired by Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, also urged the world community and parishioners to pray for the goal of disarmament, especially during Masses Aug. 9.

The call came in a statement released July 13. The bombings of Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 1945, and Nagasaki, the center of Japan's Catholic community, three days later led to the end

of World War II.

The eight committee members and two bishop consultants echoed Pope Francis, who during a visit in November to Nagasaki said, "A world of peace, free from nuclear weapons, is the aspiration of millions of men and women everywhere."

They also cited the Pope's words in urging the world to undertake a "joint and concerted" effort to end the threat nuclear weapons pose to life on earth by building mutual trust and "thus surmount the current climate of distrust."

The statement expressed concern for "geopolitical conflicts with state and non-state actors, increasingly sophisticated weapons and the erosion of international arms control frameworks" as

threats to world peace.

"The bishops of the United States steadfastly renew the urgent call to make progress on the disarmament of nuclear weapons. The Church in the U.S. proclaims her clarion call and humble prayer for peace in our world which is God's gift through the salvific sacrifice of Jesus Christ," the statement said.

The bishops concluded the statement by saying, "Fear, distrust and conflict must be supplanted by our joint commitment, by faith and in prayer, that peace and justice reign now and forever."

The statement was accompanied by a set of resources, including prayers, study guides and action steps that are available online at:

[usccb.org/nuclear](http://usccb.org/nuclear)



The Atomic Bomb Dome is seen in Hiroshima, Japan, Aug. 6, 2019.

— CNS photo/Kyodo via Reuters



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## **Lt. Gov. Kehoe honors Fulton parish couple for community service**

By Jay Nies

Sue and Lewis Beaty do more volunteer work than many people accomplish with full-time jobs.

The couple's commitment to Church community has been validated with a 2020 Lieutenant Governor's Senior Service Award.

Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe visited St. Peter Church in Fulton July 16 to present the award and an official proclamation.

"They are the 'go-to' people because of their sheer energy, positive spirit, many contributions and organizational skills," stated fellow Fulton parishioner Joanne Schrader, who nominated the Beatys for the awards.

The lieutenant governor presents the awards in each state legislative and senatorial district to promote and highlight the manifold contributions Missouri's senior citizens make their local communities.

Nominees must be at least 60 years of age and volunteer a minimum of 25 hours per year.

Mrs. Schrader said she nominated both Beatys because it would be difficult to nominate one over the other.

"Each one is actively involved in the church, parish school, and community," she stated.

Both are active St. Peter parishioners.

Mr. Beaty facilitates maintenance to include plumbing, electrical, HVAC and other general repair items.

He serves on the parish's security committee and is part of the rotation that counts and deposits each week's offertory collections.

He also helps with Knights of Columbus fundraisers and community assistance activities.

Mrs. Beaty is active in the Fulton Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary and the parish Ladies Society-sponsored projects and activities.

She is the publicity chairperson for the parish Fall Festival and serves on the team that organizes the parish's annual rummage sale.

She volunteers in the St. Peter School library as a library

A photograph showing three people in an indoor setting. On the left, a woman in a white short-sleeved shirt and a tan knee-length skirt stands behind a dark wooden podium, holding two framed certificates. She is wearing a white face mask. In the center, a man in a blue and white plaid long-sleeved shirt and khaki pants stands facing the woman, also wearing a white face mask. On the right, another man in a grey suit jacket and grey trousers stands, also wearing a white face mask. He is holding a small object in his hands. In the background, there is a large blue mural of a panther's head and a partially visible American flag on a stand. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

**Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe presents proclamations and Lieutenant Governor's Senior Service Awards to Sue and Lewis Beaty, active members of St. Peter parish in Fulton.**

— Photo by Anita Ruga

Mr. Beaty also does some minor repairs at the Fulton Senior Center during the tax

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Kent, Christy and Kyle Trimble

An advertisement for Columbia Orthopaedic Group. On the left is a black and white portrait of Dr. Alan Anz, M.D., a young man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. To his right are five small, colorful anatomical illustrations arranged horizontally: a hand, a knee joint, a spine, another knee joint, and a foot. Below these images is the text "COLUMBIA ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP". Underneath that is a large, bold title "Alan Anz, M.D.". Below the title is the subtitle "Parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes". The main service offered is "Specializing in adult hip & knee pain". Information for scheduling an appointment is provided: "For an appointment call (573) 876-8158". At the bottom is the website "www.columbiaorthogroup.com".

An advertisement for Hilke's Ice Co. It features a white delivery truck with a red trailer. On the side of the trailer, there is a red rectangular sign with the text "HILKE'S ICE CO.", "FREEBURG, MO", and the phone number "573-744-5500". To the right of the truck is a large stack of clear ice cubes. Overlaid on the image is text: "Supplying ice for parish picnics, weddings and any occasion you might have." at the top, "Call us today!" in a cursive font, the company name "HILKE'S ICE" in large red letters, "Freeburg, Mo." below it, and the phone number "573-744-5500" at the bottom right.

## FR. COLEMAN

From page 1

Jesus and the rest will take care of itself with God's will.

But, Fr. Coleman would be lying if he didn't have a clear goal for life after his cancer treatments are finished.

Fr. Coleman is pastor of Holy Spirit parish in Centralia and a longtime chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia.

Tolton Catholic opens its 2020 football season against Hallsville on Aug. 28. Fr. Coleman, the Trailblazers' chaplain and biggest fan, has his eyes on returning to the sidelines this year to cheer on his kids.

"My motivation is that I want to be on the sidelines for Friday night lights," he said.

### Finding answers

There wasn't a huge decline in health that led Fr. Coleman to the doctor. He was feeling fine and thought nothing of the slight wheeze he developed at the end of April.

He didn't develop any other

symptoms of common sicknesses. Maybe, the wheeze that continued throughout early April was just a part of getting older.

Dr. Denise Freidel, a member of Fr. Coleman's parish in Centralia, would continually ask about his health. Fr. Coleman remembers teasing Dr. Freidel about her constant requests to have his chest X-rayed.

"I'm fine," Fr. Coleman constantly said.

However, as weeks passed, he relented and the X-ray brought back large abnormalities and cancer became a serious possibility from the scan.

"When I saw it the first time I thought 'yikes' this is going to kill me," Fr. Coleman said. "Because it was so big."

Dr. Freidel was there to calm him down at that moment. There needed to be more tests and more doctors involved to figure out exactly what this was.

What followed was more X-rays, two biopsies, and then learning that the mass accumulating in his chest was cancerous.

"I didn't tell people for a while because I had no answers," Fr. Coleman said. "When I got that last biopsy, that was on Wednesday (June 10), when I got home they scheduled me right away for



**Members of Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School's House Executive Council make a surprise visit to Father Michael Coleman on July 17 in Holy Spirit Church in Centralia.**

— Photo courtesy Joe Bradley

the following Wednesday for surgery."

That news changed Fr. Coleman's mindset. He first told fellow priests in the Diocese of Jefferson City, followed by family and friends. He went from keeping his cancer diagnosis away from those he loved to believing others needed to know. People in his parish, at Tolton Catholic and throughout Columbia had to know that Fr. Coleman was still strong in his faith and that he would continue to fight.

"I found that as soon as I started telling people I found relief," he said. "I never really felt scared. At first, I thought 'this is it' when I saw that scan, then I started thinking God's got this."

Sunday, June 14, Fr. Coleman's cancer diagnosis was made public via Tolton Catholic's social media. Almost instantly, a groundswell of community support emerged.

That support helped Fr. Coleman double down on defeating cancer, and he left his successful surgery ready to take on the next stage of his recovery with a new outlook.

"I've felt nothing but gratitude," Fr. Coleman said. "I think about all the wonderful people I know that have had cancer, people I've buried, people that are going through it now, and I feel honored to stand with them."

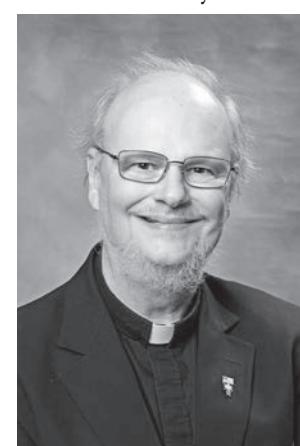
### Seeing it all

Fr. Coleman has held on to the small moments since returning home from surgery.

He said he's "feeling so blessed and happy" to offer up his sufferings for Father Christopher Aubuchon, a young priest of the diocese who is awaiting a heart transplant in Kansas City.

"That is beautiful and humbles me greatly to receive such a gift," Fr. Aubuchon responded. "God bless his generous and thoughtful heart. Please let him know that I am praying for him as well each day and in my Mass intentions."

Fr. Coleman is active on



**Father Michael Coleman**

Twitter and sees the countless messages wishing him a speedy recovery or bouts of encouragement as he continues to fight cancer.

He sees it all.

It makes Fr. Coleman think of John Wayne, the famed American actor, during the 1979 Academy Award ceremony. Mr. Wayne was battling stomach cancer at the time and Fr. Coleman could see the toll it was taking on him.

Fr. Coleman remembers knowing that Mr. Wayne was dying that night. As he entered to thunderous applause in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles that evening, Mr. Wayne said something that continues to resonate with the priest: "That's just about the only medicine a fella would ever really need."

Fr. Coleman thought of that during Tolton Catholic's Baccalaureate Mass on June 26. Students created signs to show their support, and Fr. Coleman couldn't have been happier. The community he holds so dearly has continued to be there.

Moments like

that mean everything. For Fr. Coleman, seeing his impact on his community and their unwavering support is truly the only medicine he would ever really need.

*Mr. Newsome is a reporter for the Columbia Daily Tribune newspaper ([columbiatribune.com](http://columbiatribune.com)), which published this article July 21. This slightly revised version is published here with permission.*

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## COVID-19 Spiritual Adoption prayer

*Here is a prayer of Spiritual Adoption for individuals who are suffering from COVID-19:*

Especially, Lord, we lift up \_\_\_\_\_.

May he (she) feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation

as they receive treatment or under quarantine.

Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease.

Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them. Amen.

## PILGRIMAGE

From page 1

family of slaves in north-eastern Missouri, discerned Priesthood and ministered faithfully in spite of the overtly racist obstacles he endured.

His cause for beatification and sainthood is under way in Chicago and Vatican City.

Father Daren Zehnle, pastor of St. Augustine parish in Ashland, Illinois, said a pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place to encounter something holy that hopefully leaves the pilgrims changed for the better.

Noting that Fr. Tolton closed many letters with phrases such as "Your Sincere Friend" or "Your Friend in Jesus," Fr. Zehnle suggested that such a spirit of friendship and fellowship is holy and might help to ease the civil unrest and coarse public discourse that have taken place in recent weeks.

"It would be good to look to the example of Fr. Tolton and say, 'Father wants us not only to be a friend of Jesus, but a friend of everyone,'" said Fr. Zehnle.

Fr. Chineke, parochial vicar of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception parish in Springfield, Illinois, spoke at the cemetery.

Although Fr. Tolton lived at



**LEFT:** About 100 people disembark from St. Peter School in Quincy, Illinois, which Venerable Father Augustus Tolton attended as a child, during a July 9 pilgrimage procession to mark the 123rd anniversary of his death. **RIGHT:** About 140 people gather for Evening Prayer at Fr. Tolton's burial place in St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy.

— Photo by Jay Nies

a time when it was "basically a crime to be black man in this country," he understood that he was only here on a temporary mission.

"And after his mission," said Fr. Chineke, "the Master looked at him and said, 'You, the good servant, you have finished the race, you have fought very well. Welcome to My kingdom.'"

All Christians are called to live in the same manner — sacrificing any pleasures and expediencies that stand in the way of carrying-out Christ's mission.

Fr. Chineke pleaded with the pilgrims to prepare for the day when they will stand before the Lord, alone and unadorned, and give an account-

ing of what they have done and not done in this life.

"Fr. Tolton was obedient to the truth," the priest emphasized. "His loyalty to the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ, just like the other saints in heaven today, is what Christ is calling you and me to emulate today."

That obedience means listening to and acting upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ — "seeing others as Christ would see them, treating them as we would want to be treated, dealing with them as we would want others to deal with us."

In other words, Fr. Chineke emphasized, it's not enough just to profess Christianity.

"We must behave like

Christians," he stated. "We cannot profess love and then do otherwise. That love must

**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.**

characterize all that we do. The things we do in secret and the things we do in public — they must be rooted in a genuine love for Christ and one another."

The priest noted that Christ did not promise an easy life.

"What He did promise was that He will remain with us until the end of time," he said.

The service closed with the prayer for Fr. Tolton's canonization, followed by the singing of all four verses of "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," which was Fr. Tolton's favorite hymn.

It was sung at his First Solemn Mass in Quincy in 1886 and at his Funeral Mass there 11 years later.

Fr. Zehnle proclaimed the pilgrimage a success and plans to hold another one on the same date next year.

"Unless Fr. Tolton gets beatified sooner," he said, "in which case, we'll be back here before then."

[toltoncanonization.org](http://toltoncanonization.org)

## GUIDE

From page 3

In an interview with Vatican News July 16, Archbishop Giacomo Morandi, secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said it is "the first time the procedure is described in an organized way — from the first report of a possible crime to the definitive conclusion of the cause — uniting the existing norms and the praxis of the congregation."

He also affirmed that the guidelines ensure that anonymous complaints of abuse, which were often disregarded, are taken more seriously now and that ignoring a complaint "because it is not signed would be wrong."

"It has become clear that a peremptory attitude in one sense or another is not conducive to the search for truth and justice," he said. "How can a complaint which, even if anonymous, contains certain evidence (i.e., photos, films, messages, audio), or at least con-

crete and plausible clues of the commission of a crime, be thrown out?"

Archbishop Morandi said that while some crimes are recent, the congregation is "still witnessing reports emerge of old cases, sometimes many years later."

Nevertheless, he said, "when this phase of past cases emerging comes to an end, I am convinced (and we all hope so) that the phenomenon we are witnessing today can recede."

Plans to publish the handbook were first announced at a press briefing at the end of the Vatican summit on the protection of minors in 2019.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, who served as moderator of the four-day summit, said at the time that the handbook would be available in "a few weeks or month or two."

Archbishop Morandi told Vatican News that the delay in publishing the

handbook was "due to extensive analysis work, not only within the congregation but also outside of it, with experts in the field, other dicasteries, and in particular with the Secretariat of State."

The summit brought together Pope Francis and 190 Church leaders — presidents of bishops' conferences, the heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches, superiors of men's and women's religious orders and Roman Curia officials — for four days of listening to speeches, survivors' testimonies, discussions in small groups, a penitential Liturgy and Mass.

In addition to the handful of survivors who spoke at the summit itself, dozens of survivors from around the world gathered in Rome in solidarity with one another and to speak to reporters and to individual bishops.

Twelve representatives of the survivors were invited to meet with the sum-

mit's organizing committee.

Fr. Lombardi told journalists that the handbook would list a set of guidelines and "will help bishops around the world clearly understand their duties and tasks" when handling cases of abuse.

Visit [vatican.va](http://vatican.va) and search "points of procedure" to read the entire document in English or Spanish.

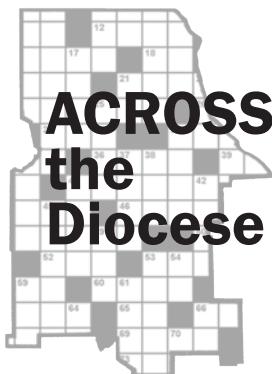
Contributing to this story was Junno Arocho Esteves.

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By Father Don Antweiler

### ACROSS

- Mo. holds a significant place in \_\_\_\_ history, not least because of the long-time presence of Trans World Airlines (TWA) in the State.
- Name of the Good Witch of the North in MGM's 1939 "Wizard of Oz."
- TWA was long headquartered in Kansas City, from 1931-1964, & planned to build its hub there. KC provided a \$150 million \_\_\_\_ issue to help build the airport, but it quickly became obsolete because of changed security issues.
- After years, with KC \_\_\_\_/unwilling to make the necessary changes to its airport, TWA moved its operational hub, and eventually its headquarters, to St. Louis. There it became the first corporate sponsor of the newly named Trans World Dome.
- Instead of .com, non-profs use \_\_\_\_.
- Flightless bird from down under.
- Eagle's nest.
- Flying enthusiast Howard Hughes bought & then ran TWA from 1939-1965 leading its expansion to
- Europe, the Middle East and \_\_\_\_, moving it up to the #2 U.S. airline, after Pan Am. Later, in 1966, he was ousted for unstable management, costing the airline, and gaining Hughes nearly \$550 million.
- In 1946, flamboyant Hughes flew Hollywood stars (e.g., Cary Grant, Myrna Loy, Edgar G. Robinson, etc.) from Calif. to New York in \_\_\_\_ time earning TWA the moniker "airline of the stars."
- In astronomy, letters for planetary nebula, the glowing expanding shell of ionized gas ejected from red stars late in their lives.
- The \_\_\_\_ brand of gasoline was rebranded as Exxon in 1973.
- In the late 1960's TWA became the world's largest airline by passenger-miles with flights to Europe, Hong \_\_\_\_, and Africa.
- 105 in old Rome.
- TWA was also called the "Airman's Airline," with the marquee expertise of Charles Lindbergh and Jack Frye. It became known as "The Lindbergh Line" with the slogan "The shortest \_\_\_\_ Coast to Coast."
- Actresses Longoria and Gabor.
- In 1958, TWA became the first major airline to \_\_\_\_ an African-Am. flight attendant.
- Letters for Luxury Sport, a class of Chevy engines.
- It was \_\_\_\_ much to bear!
- In 1957, Pres. Eisenhower sent federal troops to Cen-

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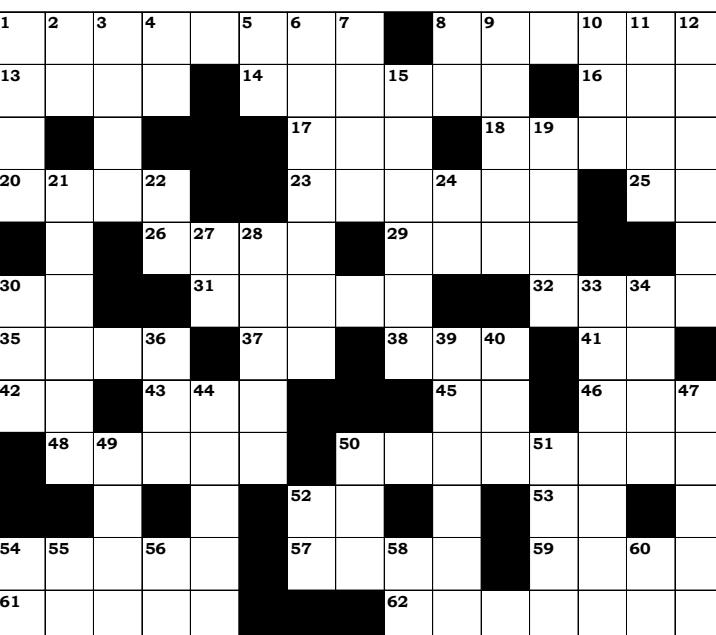
**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

tral High School in this State to protect 9 black students from segregationist mobs and a defiant State Governor (abbr.).

- Moon of Jupiter.
- Gun club.
- Kung \_\_\_\_; Chinese martial art.
- Aunt in Toledo.
- In the early 1960s, TWA introduced in-flight movies and Doppler \_\_\_\_, and built its own TWA Flight Center at JFK, designed by Eero Saarinen, designer of the St. Louis Arch.
- The TWA \_\_\_\_ uniform from 1978-2001 was designed by noted fashion designer Ralph Lauren.
- Letters for Catholic Univ. in Washington, D.C., the only institution of higher learning founded by the U.S. bishops.
- Letters for the Univ. of Chicago, which produced in wartime 1942, in a lab under its football field, the world's first man-made self-sustaining nuclear reaction as part of the development of the atom bomb.
- "...wrapped him in the \_\_\_\_ cloth and laid him in a tomb..." (Mark 15:46).
- Having to do with the ear.
- In 2001, American Airlines bought TWA, discontinued St. Louis as a hub and closed TWA's maintenance \_\_\_\_ in KC.
- TWA, a proud airline with a rich history in Mo. and beyond, was painfully brought to its \_\_\_\_ by a notorious corporate raider and poor management decisions ending with 3 bankruptcies. Its demise was finalized with American Airline's acquisition.
- "...listen to what I am about to say to you in my \_\_\_\_," (Acts 22:1).

### DOWN

- "...you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, '\_\_\_\_, Father.'"
- \_\_\_\_ 5 hair spray.
- Cross letters.
- They put me on an \_\_\_\_-hoc committee for the project.
- Letters for Indiana Univ. where Vice President Pence earned his law degree.
- Burdensome.
- 4th year high schooler (abbr.).
- He saved a bundle after installing the \_\_\_\_ panels.
- Tai \_\_\_\_; Chinese martial art.
- City is said to be the smallest country in the world: 100 acres enclosed by a 2-mile border with Italy.
- Operatic solo.
- Last word in a book perhaps.
- The Liturgy of the Hours, or the Divine \_\_\_\_, is also referred to as the Breviary.
- Yes in Lourdes, France.
- When it \_\_\_\_ it pours.
- Edward \_\_\_\_, Am. playwright, 1928-2016; Pulitzer Prize for drama 3 times; Tony award for best play for 2 other works; his work characterized as part of the Theater of the Absurd.
- Mary's mom.
- In 1986, TWA bought Ozark Airlines for \$250 million bringing TWA's share of flights \_\_\_\_ of St. Louis to 82%.
- I like to put an ice \_\_\_\_ into my cup of coffee to cool it down a bit.
- Abbr. for company.
- Abbr. for the writer of the 3rd Gospel in the NT.
- Much of TWA's history is documented \_\_\_\_ the Mo. Historical Society's Kansas City research center.
- Shoe width.
- "The Wizard of \_\_\_\_" comic strip. Its title plays on the "Wizard of Oz" and the Freudian term for the primal/instinctive part of the human psyche.
- Letters for Sacred Scripture.



ANSWERS on page 19

## ROLLA MISSION

From page 6

the time she could spend at The Mission.

"I started looking for jobs, but I really felt called to be there," she said.

There were no paid positions on the staff on that time.

Finally, she called The Mission's volunteer manager. They talked and started praying.

Within weeks, three people had offered to pay the first year's salary for an executive director.

"I was walking by faith," said Mrs. Brooks. "I was so scared! So I said, 'Okay Lord, You helped get me here. I need Your help to do this.'"

Mr. Brooks encouraged her to keep trusting in God.

"It was very much opening myself up to God's will and giving Him control," she said. "And it's been incredible."

Her responsibilities range from short-to long-term, such as helping clients find housing and overcome barriers to keeping it.

"One of our key services is love, compassion and non-judgement," she said. "That's as important for growth as anything else we offer."

## Charity and Mercy Grants

As parishes respond to the needs in their communities from the impact of COVID-19, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri invites them to apply for a Charity and Mercy Grant to support those efforts.

Charity and Mercy Grants are available to support parish social ministry efforts, whether expanding a current ministry or beginning a new ministry.

Applications are available on the Catholic Charities website, [cccnmo.diojeffcity.org](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org); or by email at [info@cccnmo.org](mailto:info@cccnmo.org). Parishes may also call (573) 635-7719 to request an application.

Application questions can be directed to John Doyle, parish and community outreach coordinator, at [jdoyle@cccnmo.org](mailto:jdoyle@cccnmo.org).

People from her hometown and the church she grew up in frequently donate food and supplies to The Mission.

"All of them are incredible," she said. "They've held fundraisers and have even come up to help."

The Mission has grown to four staff members and more than 175 volunteers.

More than 40 churches and civic organizations donated to The Mission last year.

About 70 percent of the budget comes from donations, with the rest from grants.

Mr. Brooks and Deacon Brooks help with some of the grant applications.

"It's a family thing," she noted. "They're both writers."

### Out of the cold

Mrs. Brooks sees her primary role as "professional cheerleader and hugger."

Many who come for help are suffering, frightened and convinced that they are unloved.

Some days, she must simply sit and cry with people.

"It's okay to just be there and feel sad with them," she said.

Then, there are the miracles.

She told of a guest who raged for weeks while withdrawing from heroin.

"I'll call her Sarah," said Mrs. Brooks. "I'm not going to lie: it was hard to love her."

People who spend years on heroin are often trying to cover up some sort of pain and trauma.

"So now they're facing that pain and trauma sober, which just adds another layer to the misery," said Mrs. Brooks.

One night, everyone at the shelter was relieved that Sarah was sleeping instead of raging.

It was frigid outside. A local pastor brought to the shelter an elderly woman who had been sleeping outside his church.

Her legs were too frozen to move, so two men got up and helped her in.

There were no open seats.

Sarah awoke, saw what was going on and immediately moved her things from her chair and said, "She can stay here."

Sarah then ran to get blankets to cover the shivering woman.



Ashley Brooks and her youngest son spend time at The Rolla Mission.

sweet friendship in the days that followed," said Mrs. Brooks. "It was amazing."

### Incredible and treasured"

Mrs. Brooks said she could do none of what she does at The Mission without her faith or her family.

"I'm really lucky to have a great support team," she said. "When I go home, I can talk to my husband about it. I have family and friends who are incredibly supportive."

She asked for prayers for The Mission's clients, specifically for them to realize "how loved and incredible and treasured they are."

Volunteers are always welcome, especially during COVID-19, when many of the daytime regulars over 65 have to limit their exposure.

Donations to help pay for food and supplies can be sent to The Rolla Mission, care of St. Patrick Church, 17 St. Patrick Lane, Rolla MO 65401-2262.

[therollamission.org](http://therollamission.org)  
[facebook.com/therollamission](https://facebook.com/therollamission)

## HIGHWAY

From page 11

bill, but he never did.

"Finally, he called me and said, 'I want to donate the time I spent doing that,'" Mr. Stratman said.

The new statue was placed atop the pedestal on July 5, 2000. Bathed in ivory light at night, it beckons passersby to reflect on what's inside Freeburg's magnificent "Cathedral of the Ozarks."

"This time, if a car runs into it, it will do more damage to the car than the pedestal," Mr. Stratman asserted.

### From age to age

U.S. 66 through Rolla eventually was decommissioned when the Interstate 44 bypass was opened in the 1970s.

When St. Patrick Church was renovated and expanded in 1992, the original entrance fronting U.S. 63 was sealed up with stone, forming a Gothic-arched alcove. Parishioners decided to move "Christ of the Highway" from the corner of the churchyard to the al-



Monsignor Gerold J. Kaiser dedicates the diocese's first "Christ of the Highway" statue, located at St. Patrick Church in Rolla, on May 12, 1957.

— Photo by Sam Turner, *Rolla Daily Herald*

cove, which is now adorned with bushes and tulips that bloom majestically every spring.

The statue has been painted gray to match the stone backdrop. At night, dueling floodlights in front of the ped-

estal cast twin shadows onto the church, alluding to the depicted deity's Trinitarian nature.

U.S. 50 through Jefferson City eventually was rerouted from East McCarty Street to the Rex M. Whitton Expressway. But East McCarty remains a vibrant "byway," bustling with vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

At its intersection with Clark Avenue, a whitewashed sentry, arms outstretched, silently peers down from its 50-year-old pedestal.

"We hoped that one day our children would stand there and say their daddy and mommy gave it to the church," Mr. Stegeman said.

Now, their grandchildren stand there and admire it, too.

Meg Poettgen, a member of Holy Family parish in Freeburg; and Clem Bruemmer, a member of St. Patrick parish in Rolla, helped research this article.

## Things To Do

### Fundraisers & Social Events

Jul. 25

**Monroe City**, Holy Rosary School homecoming golf tournament, 10 am, Mosswood Golf Course, for info or registration, contact Ryan Watson at 573-406-2472 or [horsarymc@gmail.com](mailto:horsarymc@gmail.com)

Aug. 1

**Freeburg**, K of C 2nd Annual Seafood Shindig, 5-8 pm, Holy Family parish grounds

Aug. 2

**Westphalia**, St. Joseph parish picnic dinner, with fried chicken & German pot roast, 11 am-8 pm, drive-thru only

**Aug. 9**  
Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart parish picnic, with fried chicken & German pot roast, 11 am-7 pm, carry-out or drive-thru

**Sep. 6**  
**Freeburg**, Holy Family parish picnic, 11:30 am-7 pm

### Youth & Young Adults

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)

### Health & Wellness

Note: For a limited time, the American Red Cross will test all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies as an additional health service to donors.

**Jul. 26**  
**Columbia**, Blood drive, 8 am-2 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center MPR

**Aug. 2**  
**Wardsville**, Blood drive, 8 am-noon, St. Stanislaus School gym

## Items for Things to Do

In the interest of time and accuracy, *The Catholic Missourian* has moved to a simple online process for submitting events for the Things to Do page.

To have an event considered for publication in Things to Do and in the diocesan online events calendar, go to [diojeffcity.org/event-listing](http://diojeffcity.org/event-listing) and follow the directions.

The process is straightforward and user-friendly. Events submitted for display advertising will be automatically included in Things to Do, as will items that have been previously submitted.

## PARISHES

From page 13

with legitimate faculties, who will act as a 'moderator of pastoral care,' with the powers and functions of a parish priest, albeit without an office with its duties and rights."

The document also instructs bishops to not designate deacons, consecrated and lay men and women who are given responsibilities in a priestless parish as "pastor, co-pastor, chaplain, moderator, coordinator, parish manager," which are typically reserved for priests "as they have a direct correlation to the ministerial profile of priests."

Instead, those with responsibilities should be designated as "deacon cooperator, coordinator, pastoral cooperator or pastoral associate or assistant," it said.

Laypeople, the document states, are called "to make a generous commitment to the service of the mission of evangelization," first and foremost, through the "general witness of their daily lives."

The Vatican press office said, "The text, fundamentally, recalls that 'in the Church there is room for all and everyone can find their place' in the one family of God, respecting each person's vocation."

Monsignor Andrea Ripa, undersecretary of the Congregation for Clergy, said their office created the instruction as a way to help support and guide bishops and dioceses in parish reforms and diocesan restructuring.

The instruction was not a "one size fits all" approach, he wrote, but a concise overview of current norms and indications that can be utilized by the different dioceses and parishes according to their unique situations.

"Given that the Church

is mandated by Christ to be missionary, evangelizing and outward-looking, a reform of her structures is continuously required in order to respond to the challenges of the day," the monsignor wrote.

"Naturally, this involves a certain reorganization in the way the pastoral care of the faithful is exercised, so as to foster a greater co-responsibility and collaboration among all the baptized," he wrote.

The importance of the laity in the parish community was emphasized in the way bishops work on restructuring the diocese, particularly when it comes to closing or merging parishes.

In order for such restructuring to succeed, the document said, many factors need to be taken into account by including all members of the parish.

"Dropping plans upon the people of God from above, without their involvement, should be avoided," Msgr. Ripa said in his written presentation.

The instruction underlined that certain reasons were not sufficient for suppressing a parish, including "the scarcity of diocesan clergy, the general financial situation of a diocese" or other situations that are temporary or reversible.

Legitimate reasons for suppression had to be "directly and organically connected to the interested parish community, and not on general considerations or theories," it added.

Similarly, legitimate reasons for the deconsecration and sale of places of worship could not include "the lack of clergy, demographic decline or the grave financial state of the diocese," it said.

*Contributing to this report was Carol Glatz.*

## Vatican foreign minister: Religious freedom must be protected

By Simon Caldwell  
Catholic News Service

**Manchester, England**

The Catholic Church has failed to defend Christians effectively, partly because it historically accepted persecution as part of its "community story," a Vatican official said.

Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Vatican's foreign minister, told an online forum in mid-July that efforts to counter persecution were now required because the entire fabric of human rights was at stake — even in the West — if religious freedom continued to be attacked.

He made his remarks on the first anniversary of the 176-page "Truro report," the publication of which led to a commitment by the British government to address the global persecution of Chris-

tians specifically.

"I think that the Truro report was very timely," he said from the Vatican via Zoom, the video-sharing platform. "It was a bit of a wake-up call.

"Speaking to some extent on behalf of the Catholic Church and the Holy See, I think in some ways perhaps we became too complacent in front of persecution, too used to it being a phenomenon in our community story, and thought therefore perhaps it was something you had to live with, something that we can't do anything about. I think the Truro report was a very significant effort to do something about that," he said.

"I think also we all know the denial of religious freedom is the beginning of the denial and erosion of so many other human rights; it is almost the lit-

mus test of human rights," said the Liverpool-born archbishop.

He said it was also important that Christians and other people of goodwill made "a renewed effort to underline the question of conscience in general, even outside the religious sphere," because "we do see — even in the West, developed world — the progressive erosion of conscience and, therefore, also of human rights."

"Never underestimate the power of prayer and the unity of the people of faith," Archbishop Gallagher added.

The Truro report was commissioned by Jeremy Hunt, a former British foreign secretary, and launched July 8, 2019.

It takes its name from Anglican Bishop Philip Mounstephen of Truro, England, who led the independent commission that worked on the report.

The report revealed a surprising scale of persecution of Christians globally, leading Hunt, an Anglican, to conclude that he was "not convinced that our efforts on behalf of Christians have always matched the scale of the problem."

The report recommended that Britain seek a U.N. Security Council Resolution to require all of the nations of the Middle East and North Africa to protect Christians and to permit U.N. observers to monitor security measures.

## DOYLE

From page 8

ed out that the endless mercy of God is at the heart of the Gospel.

"Each time we go to confession," Pope Francis said, "we receive the love of God there, which conquers our sin. It no longer exists. God forgets it. When God forgives, He loses His memory, He forgets our sin, He forgets. God is so good with us!"

I know that you are sorry for your sin; all you need now is to go to the sacrament of confession, and then you will start over with the Lord — fresh and forgiven.

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.

**Anniversaries**

**Argyle, St. Aloysius**  
Derek & Abby Havens, 21 years  
Frank & Aggie Neutzler, 12 years  
Brad & Rachel Heimericks, 10 years

**Bonnots Mill, St. Louis of France**  
Maurice & Lois Mertens, 55 years

**Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels**  
Donnie & Kathy Hale, 21 years

**Camdenton, St. Anthony**  
Don & Barbara Mans, 41 years  
Steve & Diane Brenneman, 33 years  
Ron & Jane Riddle, 29 years  
Mike & Tammy Wilde, 21 years  
Tyler & Jenna Bishop, 15 years  
Jack & Lois Wiley, 14 years  
Warren & Donna Moffatt, 13 years

**Fulton, St. Peter**  
James & Alyce Zerr, 60 years

**Jefferson City, St. Peter**  
Mark & Lucille Copeland, 69 years  
Don & Sara Boes, 15 years

**Linn, St. George**  
Larry & Paula Scheppers, 49 years

**Louisiana, St. Joseph**  
Leon & Rita Reeves, 66 years

**Montgomery City,  
Immaculate Conception**  
Donald & Sandra Oakes, 47 years  
Jerry & Nancy Fischer, 27 years

**Owensville, Immaculate Conception**  
Craig & Linda Brown, 44 years  
John & Dottie Jahnson, 44 years

**Palmyra, St. Joseph**  
Charles & Joyce Erwin, 53 years  
Donald & Mary Krekemeyer, 53 years  
Carl & Debbie Bock, 48 years  
Tom & Tammy Schroeder, 41 years  
Jeffery & Becky Kroeger, 38 years  
Steve & Brenda Bland, 31 years  
Jeffery & Michelle Merkel, 31 years  
Kevin & Diane DeHaan, 30 years  
Edward & Peggy Meyers, 28 years  
David & Dawn Wheeler, 26 years  
Steve & JoAnn Conoyer, 24 years  
Luke & Michelle Richardson, 23 years  
Jason & Marie Shafer, 22 years  
Tim & Andrea Barnes, 15 years  
Ryan & Sarah Taylor, 12 years  
Steven & Triston Jones, 11 years

**St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle**  
Dale & Marlyn Herigon, 43 years

**Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul**  
Nelson & Shirley Collins, 60 years

**Vienna, Visitation**  
James & Jeanne Redel, 61 years  
Fred & Kay Ragan, 47 years  
Randy & Brenda Swyers, 37 years

**Deaths**

California, Annunciation — **Harold Roll**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Mary Rose Twenter, Luzy Zahler**

Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians — **Harold P. Jaegers**

Fulton, St. Peter — **Arlena Mae Acton**

Indian Creek, St. Stephen — **Thomas Pangborn**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Rudolf M. Lemke**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Marvin Barrett**

Kirksville, Mary Immaculate — **Mary Coates, Robert Killday**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Lori McDermott**

Macon, Immaculate Conception — **Lauretta Vance**

Meta, St. Cecilia — **Margaret A. Luebert**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **George Gruenloh**

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Shirley A. Koenig**

Rolla, St. Patrick — **Judy Gannon, Joan Lucas, Vickie Robb, George "Pete" Willy**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Carolyn Fontaine**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Mardell H. Rackers**

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Caden J. Haslag, Evelyn L. Weber**

**Marriages**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Corey Holtmeyer & Cortney Wolters**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Melissa Gassner & Craig Bruemmer; Synclaire Truesdale & Steven Williamson**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Hanna Alsbach & Brandon Duran**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Breanna Kempker & Coltin Wright**

Shelbina, St. Mary — **Paige Dimmitt & Jordan Thompson**

**Birthdays**

Rolla, St. Patrick — **Dorothy Reece**, her 100th on Aug. 7; **Catherine Huellhorst**, her 100th on Aug. 16

**Elections**

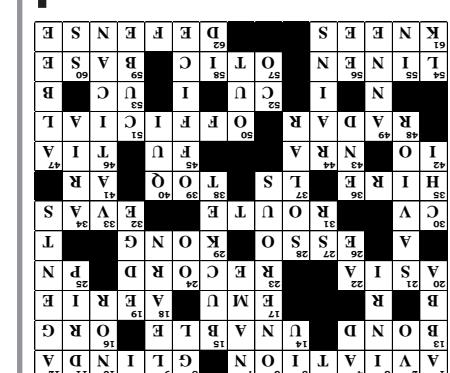
Columbia, Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly 583 — **Adam Wehner**, faithful navigator; **Joe Zulovich**, faithful captain; **Bill Busch**, faithful pilot; **Tony Lupo**, faithful admiral; **Father Chris Cordes**, faithful friar; **Keith Caldwell**, faithful comptroller; **Joe Quinn**, faithful scribe; **Chuck Snow**, faithful purser; **Nathan Roberts**, **Tim Vargesko**, sentinels; **Mike Barnes**, **Mike Fulca**, **Patrick Pullins**, trustees

Columbia, Knights of Columbus Council 1529 — **Tim Vargesko**, grand knight; **Chris Pearman**, deputy grand knight; **Father Christopher Cordes**, chaplain; **Bob Zey**, chancellor; **Brian McKearge**, warden; **Joe Zulovich**, recorder; **Lynn Ash**, treasurer; **Keith Caldwell**, financial secretary; **Brian Sleeth**, advocate; **Adam Wehner**, **Nick Zey**, guards; **Charlie Schuster**, **Norb Sutter**, **Clay Vogl**, trustees

Jefferson City, Knights of Columbus Fr. Helias Council 1054 — **Kevin Stegeman**, grand knight; **Rory Stegeman**, deputy grand knight; **Father Basil Tigga**, chaplain; **Chris Farmer**, chancellor; **Mike Bish**, advocate; **Tom Oakes**, recorder; **Zeke Vanderfeltz**, warden; **Larry Schetzler**, lecturer; **Tory Brondel**, **Levi Woods**, guards; **Brent Cain**, **Mike Flanagan**, **Pat Schaefer**, trustees; **Dan Smith**, financial secretary

Lake Ozark, Knights of Columbus Council 9273 — **Gary Chaput**, grand knight; **David Hotop**, deputy grand knight; **Michael Scherer**, chancellor; **John Weidler**, recorder; **Ernie Pither**, treasurer; **Henry Sateia**, advocate; **John Akscin**, warden; **David Kneeter**, **Gregory Thompson**, guards; **Charles Cassmeyer**, **Luke Graessle**, **Don Koch**, trustees; **Monsignor Marion Makarewicz**, chaplain; **Larry Bayliss**, financial secretary

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Tom Draper**, **Joe Pestka**, **Anne Rackers**, **Kristina McMichael-Schwartz**, parish pastoral council

**Crossword puzzle answers****Names for the People Page**

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

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Jayne Elizabeth Schmitz**, daughter of Curtis & Ashley Schmitz

## A be-YOU-tiful day for Camp Siena



## Soon to be beatified, Italian teenager offers ‘model of sanctity’



Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager who used his computer programming skills to spread devotion to the Eucharist, will be beatified Oct. 10, 2020, the Diocese of Assisi announced. Acutis is pictured in an undated photo.

— CNS photo/courtesy  
Sainthood Cause  
of Carlo Acutis



High school young women take part in this year's Camp Siena experience July 18 at St. Patrick Church and the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church in Laurie. Usually four days long, this year's free event was a one-day retreat on the theme, "Be YOU-tiful: Catholic Femininity in High School and Beyond."

— Photos by Kris Hartman

 Find us online @ **CATHMO.COM**

## Honoring an unexpected visitor



Children perform for Pope Francis, who made a surprise visit to their summer program in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall July 20. About 100 children of Vatican employees are attending the program for the month of July.

— CNS photo/courtesy Play It

Catholic News Service

Oxford, England

Carlo Acutis, a London-born Italian teenager who used his computer skills to foster devotion to the Eucharist and will be beatified in October, offers a model of sanctity for Christians in a new era of lockdowns, a British Catholic who lived with his family said.

"What's struck me most is the exceptional simplicity of his formula for becoming a saint: attending Mass and reciting the Rosary daily, confessing weekly and praying before the Blessed Sacrament," said Anna Johnstone, a professional singer and longtime friend of the teen's family.

"At a time when new lockdowns could separate us from the sacraments, he'd encourage people to see the Rosary as their domestic Church and find shelter in the heart of the Virgin Mary," Johnstone told Catholic News Service.

Acutis, who died of leuke-

mia in 2006 at age 15, will be beatified Oct. 10 in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy.

The ceremony had been postponed from spring 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic to allow more young people to attend.

The teenager developed a database and website that chronicle worldwide eucharistic miracles.

Johnstone said Acutis was convinced "good could be achieved through the internet."

She said Catholics worldwide had found the information he disseminated "massively affirming" during the global coronavirus pandemic.

"He would urge young people today to avoid bad aspects of social media and fake news, and to go to confession if they fell prey to it," said Johnstone, a Cambridge University theology graduate who also acted as governess to Acutis' twin siblings, born four years after his death.

# God gives Solomon a wise heart

By Jennifer Ficcia

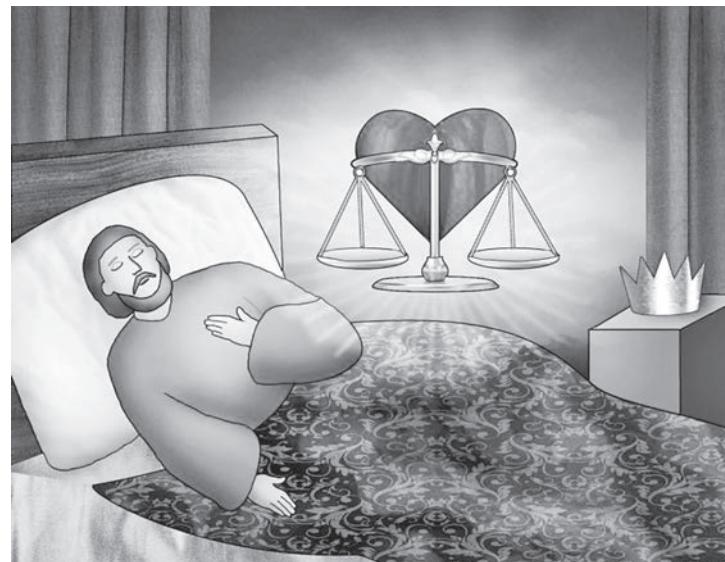
Catholic News Service

Not long before he died, King David fulfilled a promise that he had made to his wife Bathsheba.

Even though their son, Solomon, was one of David's younger children, David made Solomon his successor as king of Israel.

David advised Solomon to keep God's statutes, commands, ordinances and decrees as written in the law of Moses so that Solomon would succeed in whatever he did.

After David died and Solomon established his kingship, the new king went to Gibeon to sacrifice on the high place there. At that time, the people sacrificed on the high places



because a temple had not yet been built for God.

While Solomon was in Gibeon, God appeared to him in a dream.

"Ask something of Me and I will give it to you," God said.

"O Lord, my God, You have made me, Your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I

am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. ... Give Your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge Your people and to distinguish right from wrong," Solomon replied.

God was very pleased with Solomon's answer.

"Because you have asked for this — not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right — I do as you requested," God said. "I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

God didn't stop there, however.

"In addition," God said,

"I give you what you have not asked for: I give you such riches and glory that among kings there will be no one like you all your days. And if you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as David your father did, I will give you a long life."

When Solomon awoke, he went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, sacrificed burnt offerings and communion offerings, and gave a feast for all his servants.

**Read more about it...**

**1 Kings 3**

1. Who talked to Solomon in a dream?

2. What did Solomon ask God for?

## Bible Accent

Why didn't King David build a temple for God?

In 1 Chronicles 17, we read that King David had a conversation with the prophet Nathan.

"See, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under tentcloth," David remarked.

Nathan told David that God was with him and to do what was in his heart.

But that night, the word of God came to Nathan.

"Go and tell David my ser-

vant, 'Thus says the Lord: It is not you who are to build the house for Me to dwell in,'" God told Nathan.

God said that when David died, he would raise up one of David's sons and establish his kingdom.

"He it is who shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever," God wanted David to know. "I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to Me... I will maintain him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his

throne shall be firmly established forever."

In 1 Chronicles 22, we read that David began to collect the materials that would be needed to build a temple. And he also summoned his son Solomon and commanded him to build a house for the Lord once he became king.

## Trivia

Which of David's older sons thought he would become king? (Hint: 1 Kings 1:5)

Answer: Adonijah.

## Saint Spotlight



The eldest child of Scottish immigrants, St. Mary Helen MacKillop was born in Australia in 1842. Mary worked with children as a governess. With encouragement from her priest-adviser, she founded Australia's first religious order, the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Taking the name Mary of the Cross, she worked to open women's shelters, as well as schools and orphanages for poor, rural children. The order was approved by the Pope in 1888. Mary died in 1909 and was canonized in 2010. We remember her on Aug. 8.

## Puzzle



Using the hints provided, circle the correct answer to each question about King Solomon.

- Who tested Solomon's wisdom? (1 Kings 10:1)  
Queen of Sheba or King of Egypt
- In what year of Solomon's reign did he begin to build the Temple? (1 Kings 6:1)  
fourth or eighth
- How many proverbs did Solomon utter? (1 Kings 5:12)  
3,000 or 2,000
- How many years did it take Solomon to build the Temple and his home? (1 Kings 9:10)  
12 or 20



Answers: 1. Queen of Sheba; 2. fourth; 3. 3,000; 4. 12

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# Books give advice on raising children in a culture that devalues faith

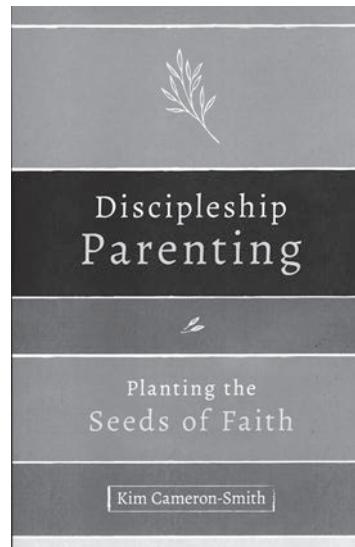
*Discipleship Parenting: Planting the Seeds of Faith, by Kim Cameron-Smith. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Indiana, 2020). 252 pp., \$18.95.*

*Raising Upright Kids in an Upside-Down World: Defying the Anti-Parent Culture, by Ray Guarendi. EWTN Publishing (Irondale, Alabama, 2019) 135 pp., \$14.95.*

By Allan F. Wright  
Catholic News Service

Kim Cameron-Smith cuts through a great deal of fluff that's out there in the Christian/Catholic parenting world and gets to the heart of the matter in her book titled *Discipleship Parenting*.

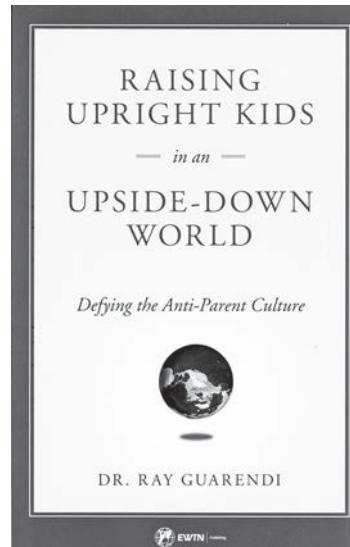
She asserts that raising your children for heaven must be the goal for every Catholic parent in a society that asks much more shallow questions and is more concerned with superficial concerns.



She puts forth the mission of Catholic parents in the introduction, "The Great Commission of Parenting": "Our mission must be to raise children who know and love God. Our mission is to raise children with searching hearts who continue to grow spiritually for the rest of their lives. Our mission is to raise children who possess a heroic fidelity to the truth, so they cannot help but share that message with others."

This is a monumental task, but it's the only real task that supersedes everything else a parent does.

The home is the real seminary where faith can be nurtured and fostered and throughout history many saints had a home life where the faith



was both taught and caught by the witness of holy parents and Church communities.

Non-theologians can breathe easy as she begins with the building blocks of discipleship, which she describes as love, balance, play, merciful discipline, empathy, radiant faith and a strong marriage.

Throughout each chapter, she speaks to why these building blocks are so important and she beautifully explains the psychological and developmental aspects of a child's growth during their childhood.

"As Catholics, we know that no model of human flourishing is complete if it leaves out a consideration of the transcendent," she writes.

She uses her extensive background at Oxford and Harvard University to show parents what happens when a child is "securely attached" as a young adult and what being

## Movie Ratings

 <b>A-II</b> Adults and Adolescents	Artemis Fowl (PG) Mr. Topaze (not rated)
 <b>A-III</b> Adults	First Cow (PG-13) Flannery (not rated) Greyhound (PG-13) Irresistible (R) The Outpost (R) 7500 (R) Wasp Network (not rated)
 <b>L</b> Limited Adult Audience	Da 5 Bloods (R) The King of Staten Island (R)
 <b>O</b> Morally Offensive	Saint Frances (not rated)

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.

"insecurely attached" looks like as a young adult and how it reveals itself in faith or lack of faith.

This book is highly recommended for any parent who desires first and foremost to raise their children for heaven.

Ray Guarendi, EWTN radio host, prolific author and parent of 10 adopted children, challenges parents to raise "upright kids in an upside-down world."

Guarendi confronts the mindset of our culture that continually asks parents to lower the bar and expectations for children while caving to the peer pressure of collective parent group think.

What makes parenting even more difficult is that misguided advice comes from the lips of so-called experts who have rarely been challenged on their views.

The heart of this book wages war on the overuse and misuse of cellphones, social media, computers and television, which is the "upside-down world" he writes of.

The reader will admire Guarendi for his sensible stance on how these devices should be used, but what is needed, according to him, is

not so much good sense, but courage.

Any parent of a child under 18 will recognize the ever-present electronic devices that are part of our "new-normal" worldwide.

Guarendi states emphatically, "The culture doesn't value your values." How do you deal with grandparents who allow TV to be watched at their house when you forbid it? How do you parent children whose friends allow their children to own cellphones and you don't?

Readers will have to make the final judgment as to what's best and most prudent for their child in our tech- and information-driven world. Guarendi's book provides guidance and food for thought for those whose values are more in line with the Catholic faith than of society.

Also of interest: *The Divorced Catholic's Guide to Parenting*, by Lynn Cassella-Kapusinski. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Indiana, 2020). 200 pp., \$17.95.

Wright is principal of Koinonia Academy in Plainfield, New Jersey, and author of 14 books.

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## FR. DEBO

From page 7

### Full circle

Fr. Debo took seminary life one year at a time, often telling God, "If You want me to do this, I need You to help me."

Whenever he visited home, his family noticed him growing in confidence and sense of fulfillment.

He continued his studies at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, helping with hospitality and working in the library.

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

On May 13, 1995, in St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, now deceased, ordained him to the Holy Priesthood.

"Everything kind of swoops over you and engulfs you," said Fr. Debo, "and you think of all the people who didn't live to see the day, and the smiles on the faces of all the people there who did."

His grandparents had all died by then, "but my parents and my great-aunts and uncles were there, and people I knew who were carrying-on our family legacy," he said.

He served as associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia until he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph parish in Salisbury in July 1998.

In 2002, he became the first diocesan pastor of St. George parish in Hermann since its founding by Franciscan priests 150 years previously.

He also became the first non-resident pastor of Church of the Risen Savior parish in Rhineland, which includes the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

In Hermann, he and about 25 parishioners decorated the massive former Franciscan monastery for Christmas each year and hosted tours through Advent.

He is pleased to have been able to help get the beautiful hospitality venue known as Val-



entine Hall built near the shrine in Starkenburg.

"We all worked together on that," he said. "It was a success because we did it slowly and meticulously and relied heavily on the grace of God."

In 2015, he became pastor of Holy Family parish in Freeburg and Sacred Heart parish in Rich Fountain.

One of his great-grandfathers was active in Sacred Heart and is buried in the cemetery.

"I can see his headstone from my rectory," said Fr. Debo.

Freeburg was home to Fr. Luetkemeyer, now deceased, and Sr. Benita, both of whom had helped him early in his priestly discernment.

"So in a way, I'm back where I started," he said.

### Simple gifts

Fr. Debo believes being Catholic means more than doubling down on doctrine.

"I want to be a witness and bear the Good News of Jesus Christ," he said. "When I reflect on the lives of the saints, which I like to do often, I try to consider, 'How can my Priesthood set a better example for people?'

He called to mind what his spiritual director at Kenrick once told him: "At the end of every day, do something that makes you laugh."

"That means, capture the moment and live as joyfully in the Lord as you can!" he said.

He believes beauty in all aspects of Catholic worship helps draw people into deeper communion with God.

"Liturgy is supposed to be exceedingly beautiful," he noted. "I've been very fortunate to have people in all of my parishes who understand that and appreciate it and go out of their way to do it well."

He makes a point of preaching homilies that challenge himself, hoping to grow in faith and knowledge with the people entrusted to his care.

He relishes his role as confessor and agent of God's abundant mercy.

"I'm never more humbled than when I'm in the confessional and visiting with people in their most vulnerable state," he said.

He's committed to helping people recognize Jesus "even in the most stressful disguises."

"Because of the challenges and rough spots we've been through collectively and as individuals, we need to pray for the strength every day to serve the Lord in even the simplest and most minuscule ways," he said.

### You're welcome

Fr. Debo has held tightly to the charism of hospitality modeled by the Benedictine monks and sisters he met in the seminary.

"Receiving each guest as you would receive Christ — that has been a central theme of my Priesthood and my life," he said.

He relishes preparing meals and gathering people around the table who might not otherwise share each other's company.

"It's always about connecting people and helping them get to know each other," he said.

His rejoicing was tinged with grief while he celebrated Mass nearly alone during Holy Week and Easter because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's more than me standing *in persona Christi*," he said. "It's about all the people standing there with me — seen and unseen."

He looks gratefully back at the steadfast, faithful consistency his parents and grandparents modeled for him, the kindness and candor fellow Wellsville and Martinsburg

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, July 26

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
1 Kgs. 3:5, 7-12  
Ps. 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130  
Rom. 8:28-30  
Mt. 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

### Sunday, Aug 2

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Is. 55:1-3  
Ps. 145:8-9, 15-18  
Rom. 8:35, 37-39  
Mt. 14:13-21

### Monday, July 27

Jer. 13:1-11  
(Ps.) Dt. 32:18-21  
Mt. 13:31-35

### Monday, Aug 3

Jer. 28:1-17  
Ps. 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102  
Mt. 14:22-36

### Tuesday, July 28

Jer. 14:17-22  
Ps. 79:8-9, 11, 13  
Mt. 13:36-43

### Tuesday, Aug 4

St. John Vianney, priest  
Jer. 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22  
Ps. 102:16-21, 29, 22-23  
Mt. 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14

### Wednesday, July 29

St. Martha  
Jer. 15:10, 16-21  
Ps. 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18  
Jn. 11:19-27 or Lk. 10:38-42

### Wednesday, Aug 5

*The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major*  
Jer. 31:1-7  
(Ps.) Jer. 31:10-12ab, 13  
Mt. 15:21-28

### Thursday, July 30

St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor of the Church  
Jer. 18:1-6  
Ps. 146:1b-6ab  
Mt. 13:47-53

### Thursday, Aug 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord  
Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14  
Ps. 97:1-2, 5-6, 9  
2 Pt. 1:16-19  
Mt. 17:1-9

### Friday, July 31

St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest  
Jer. 26:1-9  
Ps. 69:8, 8-10, 14  
Mt. 13:54-58

### Friday, Aug 7

St. Sixtus II, Pope, and companions, martyrs; St. Caijan, priest  
Na. 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7  
(Ps.) Dt. 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41  
Mt. 16:24-28

### Saturday, Aug 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor of the Church  
Jer. 26:11-16, 24  
Ps. 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34  
Mt. 14:1-12

#### The Holy Father's prayer intentions for July:

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

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parishioners showed him, and the patient wisdom his teachers and the Precious Blood Sisters of O'Fallon helped reinforce for him in his youth.

reminders.

He likened the calling to Psalm 42:2 — "As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for You, O God" — and to St. Augustine's prayer, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

"If it's something God is putting on your heart and mind, then keep reaching for it," said Fr. Debo. "It's well worth it."

## The heavens declare the glory of God



The sun sets over historical Assumption Church in Cedron, near the Prairie Home Conservation Area. Mass is tentatively scheduled to be offered in Assumption Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 15. The church is located on Cedron Road, about half a mile north of Hwy. U on Hwy. D in Moniteau County. The once-thriving Cedron parish, which closed in 1991 and became part of neighboring Annunciation parish in California, was among the earliest Christian congregations in the county. It was the seventh parish in the

Missouri River Valley founded by Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias, often referred to as the Apostle of Central Missouri. For information, contact Friends of Cedron Coordinator Mary Sue Fontana at [mskfontana@gmail.com](mailto:mskfontana@gmail.com). — Photo from the Friends of Cedron Facebook page

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## Fr. Dandi's mission



Father Donardo "Dandi" Bermejo, a priest of the Diocese of Kalookan in the Philippines, works with the staff of Works of Mercy Center to prepare and distribute rice packages to four nearby communities, namely: Hacienda Guicay, Patlagan, Purisima and Sitio Tangkong. This came near the end of a government stay-at-home order due to COVID-19. "We were able to give around 600 packages of rice to families living in these communities," said Fr. Bermejo. "And they were so happy. The smiles on their faces radiated not only joy, but hopefulness in spite of the pandemic, and sincere gratefulness to God for all the blessings received." Fr. Bermejo served for 10 years in the Jefferson City diocese before founding the St. Joseph the Worker Mission to the Sugarcane Plantation Workers in Negros Occidental with support from the Diocese of Jefferson City.

— Photo from the Fr. Dandi's Connections Facebook page

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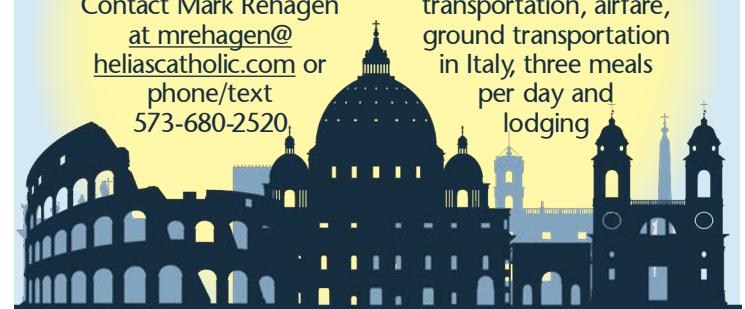
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