

New Catholic Charities Refugee Services director

Ken Palermo brings abundant enthusiasm for service and support to his new role as director of Catholic Charities Refugee Services.

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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

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Bishop: Choose to be grateful and put that into action



By Jay Nies

Hearts and minds that are full of gratitude have no room for a sense of entitlement in relation to God or other people.

Gratitude is a sign of faith and of salvation having dawned upon those who recognize how truly good God is and has always been.

“Now is the time to count our blessings!” Bishop W. Shawn McKnight told several hundred people gathered at the Missouri Farm Bureau headquarters in Jefferson City the morning before Thanksgiving Day.

Bishop McKnight was the keynote speaker at the 43rd annual Cole County Prayer Breakfast.

“I am grateful for the gift of my faith, of my Church, of my family and friends, of our gem of a community here in mid-Missouri, and the gift of our country,” he stated.

He said that as a Christian and a Catholic bishop, he knows the importance of having a grateful heart and frame of mind, “especially when we are faced with the challenges of life.”

“And despite all that I find difficult and challenging in the world, in my family and circle of friends — even in my Church — and in myself, I choose to count my blessings and to thank God for all the good that is there,” he said.

Bishop McKnight talked about growing up in a large Catholic family in Kansas, with traditions evolving as older relatives pass away and younger ones spread out and establish their own traditions.

“Now that I am older, I have come to appreciate some of the deeper meanings and values we hold as Americans when we gather as a nation in our

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight gives the keynote address at the 43rd annual Cole County Prayer Breakfast in Jefferson City. He focused on gratitude, even in times of difficulty as a manifestation of faith.

— Photo by Jay Nies

Fr. Fields, Fr. Viviano preach messages at Ecumenical Thanksgiving prayer services

By Jay Nies and Becky Holloway

Father Robert Fields challenged an ecumenical assembly to spend Thanksgiving Day and every day like a day in eternity: with a heart filled with gratitude to God.

“That’s what we’re going to be doing in heaven, thanking God for allowing us to be there with Him!” Fr. Fields stated at a prayer service the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving Day.

The priest preached the message at this year’s Clark County Ministers Association Thanksgiving Service in the Kahoka United Methodist Church.

About 40 people representing various local congregations — including St. Michael Parish in Kahoka and Shrine of St. Patrick Parish in St. Patrick, of both of which Fr. Fields is pastor — attended.

Many local ministerial alliances organize ecumenical Thanksgiving prayer services in the days leading up to the holiday.

These services have become a long-standing tradition in ar-

reas of this diocese and offer a rare opportunity to gather and pray united with members of other Christian congregations.

The services usually include several Bible readings, prayers and hymns of thanksgiving. Offerings of money and canned goods are usually taken up to help people in need in the community.

Congregations take turns hosting the services and leading the singing, and pastors take turn preaching the message.

Fr. Fields proclaimed a reading from the Letter to the Colossians (3:12-17), concluding with: “And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

“This reading and the other readings that were chosen for the service remind us how bountiful God is,” Fr. Fields stated.

He said modern culture encourages people to create a

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NAME _____

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CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

NEW PARISH _____

OLD PARISH _____

11/25/22

Pray for deceased priests

Nov. 27 — Fr. Vincent A. Linnebur, Sacred Heart, Columbia (2007)

Dec. 9 — Fr. Thomas L. Waickman, St. Joseph, Louisiana; and Mary Queen of Peace, Clarksville (2010)

Festival of Lights at national shrine in Laurie

Thousands of colored lights adorn the National Shrine of

Mary Mother the Church in Laurie in anticipation and celebration of the coming of Christ.

The 30-acre shrine is open to drive-through visitors from 5 to 10 p.m. daily through Jan. 8 for this year's Festival of Lights.

The illumination includes a walkway of lit flagpoles and the 14-foot-tall, open-arms statue of Mary, Mother of the Church.

The focus is on the Holy Family and the birth of Christ.

The festival has been a Lake-area tradition for over 40 years.

The display is free to all, but donations are appreciated.

thenationalshrineofmarymotherofthechurch.com

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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
Publisher

Jacob Luecke, Director of Communications
jluecke@diojeffcity.org

Jay Nies, Editor
editor@diojeffcity.org

Kelly Martin, Advertising
advertize@diojeffcity.org

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Senior Bookkeeper



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a full-time senior bookkeeper with advanced bookkeeping and elementary accounting work in the maintenance, review and analysis of detailed financial records throughout the entire accounting cycle. This individual will perform a variety of moderately complex to advanced bookkeeping/accounting tasks and procedures. Experience with general ledger, investments, insurance administration and payroll is strongly desired. Employer offers a comprehensive benefit package including health, dental, vision, and matching 403b retirement plan.

Experience with Sage Intacct accounting system would be considered a plus. Knowledge and preparation of worksheets and financial statements and general ledger account classification is required.

Qualified candidates should send their resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Vigils for scheduled execution

The State of Missouri plans to execute Kevin Johnson at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Bonne Terre.

Mr. Johnson was convicted of murdering a St. Louis area police officer in 2005.

Catholic teaching strongly opposes the use of the death penalty because it disregards the sanctity and dignity of human life.

Several observances to give witness against the execution and in favor of reconciliation and alternatives to the death penalty will be held in Jefferson City on the day of the scheduled execution.

A respectful protest will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the corridor outside the Governor's Office (Room 216) in the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City.

A peaceful, silent vigil opposing the execution will be held from 5-6 p.m. on the sidewalk across from the Missouri Supreme Court Building, 207 W. High Street in Jefferson City.

The public is invited to take part in any and all of these observances.

Paragraph 2267 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, as updated in 2018, states: "The Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,' and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide."

Pope Francis stated in his 2015 address to the U.S. Congress: "I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes."

Pope St. John Paul II, while offering Mass in St. Louis in 1999, called for a consensus to end the death penalty, declaring it to be "both cruel and unnecessary."

For more information about the vigils, call 573-301-3529.



Official Decree of Appointments

The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, hereby makes the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:

PRIESTS

Reverend Wayne M. Boyer, acceptance of retirement from Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Owensville and St.

Alexander Parish, Belle; effective Nov. 30, 2022.

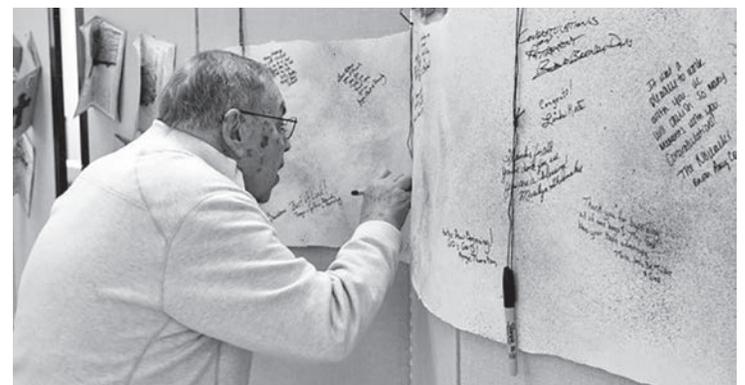
Reverend Derek J. Hooper, from leave of absence to Associate Pastor of St. George Parish, Hermann, Church of the Risen Savior, Rhineland, Immaculate Conception Parish, Owensville, and St. Alexander Parish, Belle; effective Nov. 21, 2022.

Given at the Chancery this 10th day of November in the Year of our Lord 2022.

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

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

Prayers and thanks for Fr. Wayne Boyer



TOP: Friends and parishioners bid thank you and farewell to Father Wayne Boyer, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Owensville and St. Alexander Parish in Belle, during a retirement celebration and luncheon Nov. 20 in the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall. More than 100 people attended. **BOTTOM:** Deacon Donald Warden signs the "prayer wall" during Fr. Boyer's retirement celebration. Fr. Boyer will retire from active ministry on Nov. 30.

— Photos by Dennis Warden

Bishop, priests offer Memorial Mass for their deceased predecessors



Priests of the Jefferson City diocese celebrate Mass with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight for the repose of the souls of deceased priests of this diocese.

— Photos by Jay Nies

By Jay Nies

The Holy Spirit has summoned an impressive array of individuals, personalities and temperaments to the Priesthood throughout the decades of this diocese's existence.

"Some were here when the diocese began, coming here or maybe finding themselves here when it was formed out of the existing dioceses of the State of Missouri," stated Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia and diocesan vicar for priests.

"Some are native to the diocese; others came to us from other states or as missionary priests from other countries," he noted.

Some ministered for many years here, others for only a short time before being called

back to the Lord.

"Some served for decades in one parish and became local legends," Fr. Cordes pointed out. "Others served in many parishes over the course of their Priesthood."

"Some were known for being outstanding preachers, teachers, pastors, homilists, confessors or models of other aspects of the Priesthood," he said.

"Some are referred to as characters, others as saints — some both!"

But all of those priests, living and deceased, have one thing in common.

"At the heart of the Priesthood and of each priest's ministry is the celebration of the Eucharist among the people we are called to serve," Fr. Cordes reminded Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and his brother

priests of this diocese.

Fr. Cordes preached the homily for this year's Mass for Deceased Priests, celebrated Nov. 9, during the Octave of All Souls, in St. Andrew Church in Holts Summit.

Bishop McKnight presided at the Mass. A large contingent of priests of the diocese concelebrated.

"Today," said Fr. Cordes, "we gather to remember and give thanks for and pray for priests who ministered here ahead of us."

"Most of all," he continued, "we are here to pray for them."

"No more sadness"

Fr. Cordes noted that the priests of the past, like their present counterparts, manifested great faithfulness but also sinfulness.

"And whatever that process of getting to heaven is, it is good and important for us to pray for all of those who have gone before us," he said.

He pointed to the reading from 2 Maccabees, in which the book's author honors praying for the dead and believing that they will be raised up again.

Likewise, the reading from Revelation pointed to an eternal state of existence "where there is no more sadness, no more tears, no more suffering, no more meetings, no more irate people, no more complicated decisions to make."

"All of those things pass to the side, leaving only the fullness of joy, the fullness of glory in the presence of God," said Fr. Cordes.

"And it is that journey, that destination, that we believe those who have passed in faith will go to," he stated, "and that our prayers will help them eventually get there."

It's important to keep pray-

point when we will be listed among the deceased priests of the Diocese of Jefferson City, we will join them in that place of eternal light, happiness and peace that we believe is our destiny," he said.

More photos from this event have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, cathmo.com. Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.

"Receive their souls"

Together, the assembly prayed for God to admit the priests who had died to the company of saints, raise up their earthly bodies on the last day, and grant them a share in the Heavenly Liturgy they celebrated diligently in this life.

ing "that that will happen soon," he said.

Fr. Cordes invited his fellow priests also to reflect on those who have gone before them and ask the Lord to be inspired by their example and their memory.

"As we pray for them, may they inspire us to faithful ministry, to faithful Priesthood, so that as we eventually reach that

"May the prayers of those who cry to You benefit the souls of Your servants, O Lord," Bishop McKnight prayed. "Free them from all their sins and make them sharers of Your redemption. Through Christ, our Lord."

After Holy Communion, Monsignor David Cox, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in

See PRIESTS, page 19



Bishop McKnight's Calendar

NOVEMBER

Nov 27 Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Parish, 2 pm, Jefferson City

Nov 30 Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Board Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery

DECEMBER

Dec 3 Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery

Dec 6 Council of Deans Meeting, 10 am; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery

Dec 7 Helias Catholic High School Board Meeting, 11 am, Chancery; Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, noon, Catholic Charities Center, Jefferson City

Dec 12 Missouri Catholic Conference Meeting, 2 pm, virtual

Bishop McKnight's December prayer intention for our Local Church

During the holiday season, may our self-centeredness be replaced with generosity; our frustration with compassion; our anxieties with patience; and our intolerance with understanding. We pray to the Lord.

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

Durante la temporada navideña, que nuestro egocentrismo sea reemplazado por generosidad; nuestra frustración con compasión; nuestras ansiedades con paciencia; y nuestra intolerancia con comprensión. Roguemos al Señor.

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

Communal reconciliation services for Advent

Advent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Here is a partial list of Advent communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out. Additional services will be added to updated online versions of this article as they are publicized.

Boonville — Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church

Brookfield — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Canton — Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7 pm, St. Joseph Church

Columbia — Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church

— Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 7 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center

Edina — Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 pm, St. Joseph Church

Ewing — Monday, Dec. 19 at 7 pm, Queen of Peace Church

Hannibal — Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 pm, Holy Family Church

Hermitage — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 pm, St. Bernadette Church

Holts Summit — Monday, Dec. 12 at 7 pm, St. Andrew Church

Jefferson City — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

— Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7 pm, St. Peter Church

Kirkville — Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 pm, Newman Center Chapel

Lake Ozark — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Church

Laurie — Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 pm, St. Patrick Church

Macon — Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Marceline — Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 pm, St. Bonaventure Church

Meta — Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7 pm, St. Cecilia Church

Palmyra — Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church

Pilot Grove — Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7 pm St. Jo-

seph Church

Russellville — Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 pm, St. Michael Church

St. Anthony — Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 pm, St. Anthony of Padua Church

St. Elizabeth — Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm, St. Lawrence Church

St. Martins — Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7 pm, St. Martin Church

Sedalia — Sunday, Dec. 18 at 4 pm, St. Patrick Chapel

Shelbina — Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 pm, St. Mary Church

Taos — Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church

Wardsville — Thursday, Dec. 1 at 6 pm, St. Stanislaus Church

Warsaw — Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6 pm, St. Ann Church

Advent is a perfect opportunity for small acts of evangelization

By Jennifer Brinker

St. Louis
Advent is a time of preparation that connects our hearts and minds to the coming of Christ at the end of time and the celebration of His birth on Christmas.

Advent comes from the Latin “*advenio*,” meaning “to come.”

The Church focuses on the coming of Christ at the end of time in the first several weeks of Advent; in the latter part of Advent, the O Antiphons (Dec. 17-24), we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord.

The liturgical color for Advent is purple, just like Lent. Both seasons prepare us for great feast days.

While Advent is not, strictly speaking, a penitential season, traditionally some penance and fasting was encouraged as a way of preparing for the joy of Christmas. This penitential dimension is expressed through the color purple, decorating the church and altar in a restrained manner, and the use of the organ and other musical instruments in a similar

moderation.

The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, which comes from the first word of the Latin Entrance Antiphon for this day, meaning “rejoice.” The color rose is used, instead of purple, to heighten our awareness of the joyful coming of our Lord.

Advent acts of evangelization

First week of Advent

Day 1: Do something nice for your neighbors. Bring a small gift at the holidays or offer to do something for them, such as an errand or raking leaves.

Day 2: Pray for someone by name. Ask God for opportunities to share the faith with that person and trust His timing as you build a relationship with him or her.

Day 3: Open the door for someone.

Day 4: Go out into the world — literally. Find a way to connect with someone outside of your immediate circle

of friends and family. A small conversation about a faith tradition or an invitation to a Church event are ways to evangelize.

Day 5: Write a letter to your parent or grandparent telling them how much you appreciate something they did.

Day 6: Share a story about why faith is important to you. It’s hard to argue against a lived experience.

Day 7: Forgive yourself for any mistakes you’ve made and confess them in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Second week of Advent

Day 8: Take a walk and pray the Rosary for someone.

Day 9: Befriend a stranger.

Day 10: Reach out to someone you haven’t talked to in a while.

Day 11: Compliment your spouse or another family member.

Day 12: Make a donation to a Society of St. Vincent de Paul or thrift store.

Day 13: Let go of old grudges.

Day 14: Praise a child to the parents while the child is present.

Third week of Advent

Day 15: Tell someone you forgive them.

Day 16: Be kind to someone you dislike.

Day 17: Say “good morning” and “thank you” to public service workers (bus drivers, police officers, mail carriers or firefighters).

Day 18: Listen to a friend who vents with problems. Just listen.

Day 19: Write a letter to your former schoolteachers and tell them how much they influenced you.

Day 20: Pray for people in cars next to you at stop lights and ask God to give them peace.

Day 21: Instead of hosting a holiday party, host a service project to benefit others in need.

Fourth week of Advent

Day 22: Bring cookies or sing carols to the residents of a nursing home.

Day 23: If you’re a boss, be extra kind and generous to employees.

Day 24: Offer to organize a regular Rosary — invite your neighbors to pray together outside.

Day 25: Encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. Go to Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament or attend a weekday Mass. Look to Him for strength as you share His Good News with others.

Day 26: Volunteer for your parish. Offer to be a confirmation sponsor for a young person in your parish who doesn’t have someone to sponsor them.

Day 27: Display Catholic art in your home. This can open the door to conversation about faith.

Day 28: Write and mail a letter to a family member or friend.

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

This article is republished with permission.

Palermo is new director of Catholic Charities Refugee Services

By Jay Nies

Ken Palermo has had a sergeant's stripe tacked to the bulletin board at every job he's ever worked.

It's from the uniform of his dad, a retired west suburban Chicago police officer.

"It's a constant reminder to me that no matter how difficult a situation might get, it's never as hard as his semi-bad days were," said Mr. Palermo, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's (CCCNMO) new director of Refugee Services.

He sees Refugee Services as a bridge between people who need help, and a community that is eager to welcome them.

"The best thing I've found about the Columbia and Boone County area is that it's so diverse and welcoming and open to serving people who are in dire need," he said.

Formerly an office of the Jefferson City diocese, Catholic Charities Refugee Services is the only agency in Central Missouri that resettles refugees, having welcomed more than 4,000 over the past 45 years.

With a 28-member staff working in Columbia, Refugee Services provides essential services to arriving refugees, with the most intensive level of services taking place in the first six months after arrival.

It is part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Catholic resettlement network.

All of these refugees, who leave their homes out of legitimate fear of death or serious injury, are thoroughly vetted for security through multiple federal departments, including the U.S. State Department.

Most arrive here with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Resettlement services through Catholic Charities are funded by both government grants and private donations and include: finding and helping to pay for suitable housing, used furniture, clothing and food; providing English-language instruction, driver's training and employment strategies and placement; and offering interpreter services, health care facilitation,

community information and referral, and extensive case management/counseling.

If he were working in private industry, Mr. Palermo would describe Refugee Services' commodity as "human beings who bring something of great value to our communities."

"How they grow and flourish has a lot to do with how we do our job and how well we document that in order to be accountable to our supporters and show them how darned-good of a job we're doing," he stated.

"150 percent"

Mr. Palermo brings abundant experience, enthusiasm and focus to this new role.

"My leadership style is very much servant-based," he said. "I can't lead my staff to do the work unless I do the work also. I don't need to be an expert — in fact, I'm never the expert in the room. But I do need to have an understanding of how all the pieces fit together here so we can make the best decision as a team."

He succeeds Samantha Moog, who led Catholic Charities Refugee Services through a time of rapid expansion in order to resettle hundreds of displaced people following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan last year.

"I got here just as this organization was coming out of crisis mode with the flood of people from Afghanistan, along with the slow burn with Ukraine," said Mr. Palermo.

He lauded the agency's response to the crisis: a marked increase in staff and resources, and a sustained commitment "to provide for the humanitarian response when people showed up and put out the many, many fires."

"They've done a great job with that," said Mr. Palermo. "They delivered 150 percent of what was needed to welcome people to our community, to get them resettled and employed and acclimated to our culture and all that comes with it."

A vast and generous network of community sponsors throughout Central Missouri helped Catholic Charities Refugee Services settle almost

400 refugees in the area within the past year and provide the necessary follow-up services.

"We can always learn from our experience," he said. "Everyone here has demonstrated how to learn from what we're doing and from what we've done, so we'll be ready for whatever the next big challenge will bring," he said.

COVID-tested

Mr. Palermo previously worked for 27 years in public health and social services serving Missourians statewide. He spent the past 14 at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

That put him on the front lines of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm very proud of our efforts to create awareness about something that could really hurt people," he said.

As he was also the state registrar for Missouri Vital Records, any person in the state who died during that time has his name on their death certificate.

"I take that very personally, because so many of them were preventable," he stated.

COVID made for hard but meaningful work.

"My takeaway from all of that is that people who have the passion and dedication no matter the obstacles, keep going forward, trying to lean forward and into things to do the best they can with what they have," he said.

"It also reinforced for me how humor in stressful times can be a game-changer," he added.

Mr. Palermo said no two of his first 90 days at Catholic Charities have been alike.

"Every day is different not only because of my learning curve but also the nuances of what a new family might need while arriving, or shortly after arriving, or at any time during the cycle of their resettlement program — it's always changing!" he said.



Ken Palermo

On his third day at the helm, he went to Columbia Regional Airport to join in welcoming a family that Catholic Charities was helping to resettle in the area.

"Here they are, half a world away from where they came from," he recalled. "And we stood there, smiling when they walked up. And despite being exhausted and having spent almost 24 hours in the air, they smiled right back at us."

Right away, a connection was forged.

"I think we'd all be in a better place if people would just smile at each other more often," he said.

Parental guidance

Mr. Palermo grew up on Chicago's busy West Side, "with the hustle, the bustle, constant movement, everyone at 90 miles an hour, where trees were not as plentiful as they are here."

His mom grew up in Bourbon, Missouri, and his grandparents eventually moved to a small farm in Franklin County.

"I spent most of my summers in Missouri," he recalled. "I ran cattle, I ran hay. I knew those 80 acres like the back of my hand, I could identify every kind tree."

His mother often told

him that whatever he did in life, he should work to make himself indispensable.

His dad showed him what commitment to the community looks like.

"I grew up knowing that at any moment, I would hear a radio go off, and a gun belt go on and the clink of the keys," Mr. Palermo recalled. "And there he was, running toward what everyone else was running away from."

Mr. Palermo majored in Political Science at what is now Truman State University in Kirksville.

He started his career in public health as a disease intervention specialist.

"That's how I cut my teeth in public health," he said. "I would be the one to go out as a complete stranger and to talk to people about exposure to STDs or HIV."

"The compassion one needs to muster in talking about behaviors or potential outcomes from choices that are made — that's not an easy task," he said.

"To be a listening ear no matter the circumstances and really listen without coming off 'judgy,' and offer information on how to improve things — you learn all of that quickly," he added.

During an outbreak of the Zika virus, which is borne by mosquitos, he set out with university students from southwest Missouri to trap mosquitos for testing.

He did the same in gathering ticks and on one occasion drew blood in the front seat of his car to help verify that a concerned individual hadn't been exposed to a virus.

"I've always said, I can't supervise the work unless I know how to do the work," he said.

"Reset point"

Mr. Palermo was exhausted after the pandemic and exercised his option to retire from the state.

See PALERMO, page 23

Register to retire as president of Sacred Heart School in Sedalia

By Jay Nies

Mark Register Ed.D. had spent his entire time at St. Peter School in Jefferson City waiting to become a Crusader at Helias Catholic High School.

One night during his freshman year there, his dad came home and said, "We're moving to Sedalia."

"I thought the world was coming to an end," said Dr. Register, president of Sacred Heart School in Sedalia and a member of that school's Class of 1975.

"But God knew what the plan was," he continued. "And thankfully so, because I feel so blessed to have had Sacred Heart in my life all this time."

Dr. Register sees his pending retirement — his second — as just another part of that same plan.

"My last day of service as president ... will be June 30, 2023," he wrote to Sacred Heart School families, graduates and fellow St. Vincent de Paul parishioners on Oct. 20.

"I've said many times, I'm one of the lucky few who found out what they were supposed to be doing and where they were supposed to be doing it — and got to be there and do it," he stated.

Supported by St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, Sacred Heart School is the only Catholic school in the Jefferson City diocese to offer pre-kindergarten through high school.

Dr. Register taught there from 1985-92, returned as principal in the 93-94 school year, retired in 2013, and came back as principal in 2017.

The parents of many of the current students had him as a teacher, coach or principal, and some of those parents went to school with his children.

"I'll be 66 in July," he said. "It's time for younger people to take it on."

He and his wife Julie M. (Habing) Register have been married for 37 years. They have two sons, two foster daughters, and 10 grandchildren.

Register was quick to point out, "None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of my wife Julie. She made so many sacrifices over the years so that I could effectively fill my role as school leader. I am so grateful to her!"

"My wife and I feel blessed that we were able to raise and educate our children at Sacred Heart," he said. "We now look forward to the same wonderful opportunity of the Sacred Heart experience for our grandchildren in the years to come."

"Some really cool things"

Dr. Register studied education at what is now the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, with an emphasis on special education and physical education.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education from UCM and a doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

He taught for three years in Clinton, Missouri, before returning to Sedalia and accepting a job in client support at



Mark Register Ed.D., president of Sacred Heart School in Sedalia, welcomes a visitor to his office, circa 2014. — Photo by Liz Suter-Van Leer

the sheltered workshop there.

After a couple of years, he volunteered to assist with some of the coaching duties at Sacred Heart.

He officially joined the faculty in 1985 as a religion and physical education teacher and a high school coach.

He then served as principal of Ss. Peter and Paul School in Boonville, which he calls "a great school in a beautiful community."

"I told them when I interviewed there that there was no reason I wouldn't stay unless Sacred Heart came open, because that's home for me," he recalled.

That opening occurred in 1993. He got hired as principal at Sacred Heart and remained in that role for 21 years.

"I worked hard and got to do some really cool things," he said. "I was blessed in every way. It was a great way to spend a career."

Over the years, he helped strengthen relationships between the school and the larger Sedalia community and helped maintain the school's commitment to promoting Catholic spirituality and a distinctly Catholic worldview, along with academic and extracurricular excellence.

He helped usher-in distance learning in partnership with the MIT-E ITV consortium. Many dual credit opportunities were also expanded through UCM, Central Methodist College in Fayette and State Fair Community College in Sedalia, offering new options for students seeking college credit while still in high

school. He said some of his most exciting times at Sacred Heart came during the planning, fundraising, construction and furnishing of a major addition to the school building, including more classrooms, an administrative suite, a commons area and a new gym.

The first phase, including the new gymnasium, commons, main offices and music room, opened in the fall of 2005. The second and third floors, with classrooms, computer lab and new art room, were completed and opened in the fall of 2009.

"That kept us all busy, but it also put an exclamation point on our efforts to show the community that we plan to remain a viable educational entity in Sedalia and that Catholic education is going to continue to thrive here," he stated.

Called by name

Dr. Register has made a point of learning every student's name by heart.

"I'd say I probably know all of their names from K through 12," he said. "The preschool and daycare children are always a little tougher."

His favorite part of each day involves standing at the cafeteria entrance to the school from 7:30 to 7:50 each morning, greeting the students as they arrive.

"The kids are what I'll miss the most," he said. "I love being in the hallways and talking to them about the ballgames and maybe about getting that algebra grade up."

His first retirement, begin-

ning in 2014, wasn't really retirement, although it felt like it.

He served for three years as intake manager for the Center for Human Services, a local assistance provider for people with disabilities and their families.

"I was working 40 hours a week, no nights and no weekends," he said. "After being principal for all those years, that kind of felt like a part-time job."

His original teaching certification was in special education, and he's always had a place in his heart for people with disabilities.

"I enjoyed the work," he stated. "I could've stayed there and been very happy. But sometimes, God has a different plan for you."

Dr. Register's successor in administration at Sacred Heart accepted another position outside Sedalia in 2017.

Friends and parishioners started kidding Dr. Register about coming back to Sacred Heart.

"One thing led to another," he recalled. "Then, Paul Beykirch, chairman of the Sacred Heart search committee, gave me a call."

Dr. Register accepted the invitation to join the school's newly-reconfigured administrative team, eventually introducing the President-Principal leadership model.

He worked with the current and previous pastors, school families and the diocese on a plan to keep the school financially viable for years to come.

"I've gotten to be very close to Fr. Joe (Corel, the current pastor) and developed a tremendous respect for him," said Dr. Register. "He's a very bright guy and very much wants our school to succeed. He wants us to be very Catholic."

The better part

One thing Dr. Register knows will remain constant is the school's unflinching Catholic identity.

"I've been fortunate to gain a much greater appreciation for that as the years go by," he said.

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Holy Family students in Hannibal take joy in honoring veterans

By Jay Nies

Holy Family School alumna Air Force Airman 1st Class Breanna Gonzalez was back in Hannibal in full uniform to help her siblings, their classmates and the rest of the school celebrate Veterans Day.

She wound up helping students work out a glitch in the audiovisual equipment before the program began.

"It's what she did in middle school, and that's what she does now — specializing in computers," said Holy Family middle school math and science teacher Melissa Flaspohler, coordinator of Holy Family School's annual tribute to military veterans and their families.

"We're a team and a family here at Holy Family," she said.

The school's sixth- through eighth-graders spent weeks learning, preparing and practicing for the event, which involved songs, prayers, dramatizations and audiovisual presentations.

The whole school joined in honoring their distinguished guests the morning of Nov. 10, the morning before Veterans Day.

"We really respect the veterans for what they have done and what they do," said eighth-grader Dylan. "I don't think I respect anyone more than I respect them."

"When the veterans came out, you could really tell how our tribute was affecting them," said eighth-grader Maggie. "I'm glad we got to show them our appreciation."

"I think it's important for us to honor them because some veterans didn't get treated right," said eighth-grader Kohen. "We need to show them the respect they've always deserved."

Kohen was referring to some who served in the Vietnam War in the 1960s and '70s, which was unpopular and led to public protests.

Expressions of gratitude

The school got the word out for the ceremony through the parish and local veterans' organizations.

The students welcomed and thanked the veterans as they arrived at the school gym.

They set a table in the reception area with an empty chair

and place setting, to remind all of prisoners of war and those who are missing in action.

Members of the American Legion presented and retired the colors. Students held the U.S. flag and flags representing service members who were prisoners of war or who are missing in action.

They sang a song for branches of the military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Guard — and held flags representing each branch.

Students in the cast represented people who served in the Revolutionary War through recent conflicts involving U.S. service people.

Students demonstrated the proper folding of the flag, explaining the symbolism behind each of the 13 folds.

"It went very well," said Mrs. Flaspohler. "The kids got to interact with all the veterans. They were awed by the kindness of the veterans. They were happy to hear their stories."

Expressions of faith and gratitude abounded.

"We started with the Sign of the Cross and ended with the Sign of the Cross," said Mrs. Flaspohler. "A lot of the songs we sang were prayerful. Our faith is intertwined through the program, because we're so grateful to God for Veterans. Were it not for them, we would not be here."

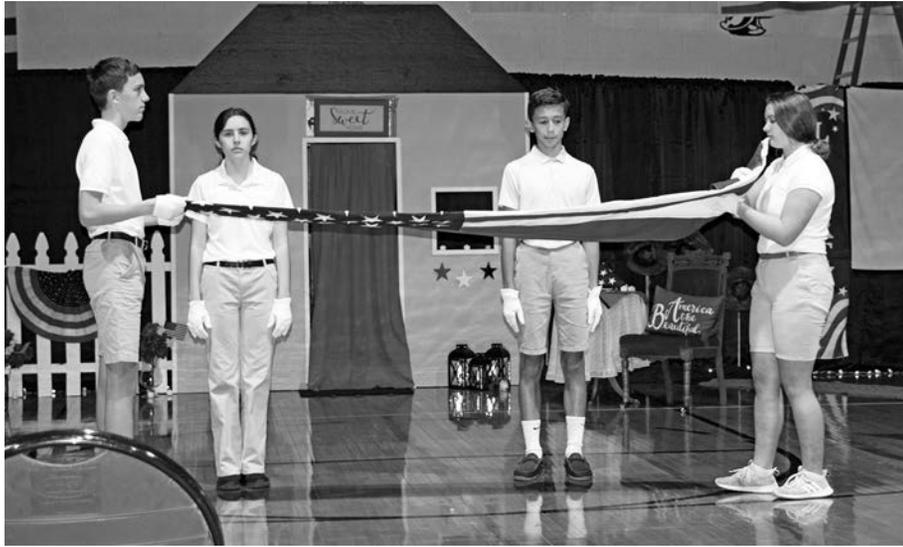
Eighth-grader Erin sang a closing prayer to the tune of "Taps."

"I remember looking up and seeing how it had everyone in tears," she said. "It was astonishing to see how much it meant to them. I think it took them back to when they were in Korea or Vietnam, or whenever they were deployed away from home."

Maggie was also taken aback by the veterans' reactions.

"It was really neat to see their faces and how emotional some of them got when they see how they're being recognized and know that we're not going to forget them," she said.

Learning opportunities



Middle school students at Holy Family School in Hannibal demonstrate the folding of the U.S. flag and explain the significance of each of the 13 folds during the school's veterans celebration the day before Veterans Day. — Photo by Sara Hooley, principal

Veterans who are members of Holy Family Parish worked with the middle-schoolers ahead of time, teaching them how to salute and how to fold the U.S. flag properly.

They also talked to the middle-schoolers about what it was like to serve in the military — some in combat zones during wartime — and explained the symbolism of their uniforms.

"It's a good history lesson for the students," said Mrs. Flaspohler.

Dylan helped put together a digital slideshow and play it back during the Veterans service.

"Before this, I didn't know much about the wars Americans have fought in, when they were, the monuments, and who served," she said. "And now after having helped to create this, I'm a lot more familiar with it."

Several of the students and adult participants have veterans in their families.

Both of Kohen's grandfathers were in the National Guard.

Maggie's father served for 23 years in the Air Force.

"Today, I wore his uniform to surprise him during our program," she said.

Erin's cousin is a Marine deployed in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in Western Africa.

"The couple of times he's been back, I've been amazed to see how he changed from being this 18-year-old boy when he got deployed, to being a man," she said. "He stands straighter and is much more respectful. He's doing what he loves."

back," she said. "Our maintenance staff has been working extra hard. We've had other people in the community come in. A lot of adults were helping for hours and hours to get this in."

Not just one day

Erin said she and her classmates have been attending Veterans Day events at school each year since kindergarten — except sixth grade, due to COVID-19.

"Back when we were younger, we didn't really understand how impor-

tant it is," she said. "But here we are now, our last Veterans Day as students here, and I'm really happy to be a part of it. It really does feel like it brings everything together."

Maggie said the celebration was worth all the work that went into preparing for it.

"When we put up all the stuff for the program, it may take us a few days, and it may take us a few hours to take it all down, but it sticks with the veterans for I don't know how long," she said. "I'm glad we

See VETERANS, page 19



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QUESTION CORNER

Saints in the Old Testament / Scolding from pulpit

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



This column originally ran in 2015.

Q. Figures from the Old Testament are never referred to as saints. Were there no saints in those days? (Albany, New York)

A. Your question is an excellent one, and the answer is a bit complex. It is true that, in the Catholic Church, Old Testament figures have not been formally canonized and given the title of "saint." I suspect that this has to do with the historical process by which that title came to be assigned.

In the earliest centuries of the Church, only those who had been martyred for their faith were commemorated liturgically on their anniversaries. St. Martin of Tours, who died in 397, was probably the first nonmartyr assigned a feast day. Since then sainthood has generally been ascribed to people who provided outstanding examples of lives modeled after the teachings of Jesus (which would exclude those who lived before Christ).

Does that mean that we cannot pray to Old Testament figures or seek their intercession? By no means. The word "saint" is commonly taken to mean someone who followed the will of God and is now in heaven. Surely, Moses and Elijah are safely there, since they appeared with Jesus on Mount Tabor at the Transfiguration.

Catholic churches of the Eastern rite (Greek or Byzantine, for example) do, in fact, celebrate specific feast days for Old Testament figures: Joshua and Moses, Daniel, the seven Maccabee brothers, etc.

The "Roman Martyrology," a compilation of those honored as saints includes such notable Old Testament figures as Isaiah, Abraham and King David. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* also has this to say in No. 61: "The patriarchs, prophets and certain other Old Testament figures have been and always will be honored as saints in all the Church's liturgical traditions."

So, the great figures of the Old Testament, though never formally canonized by the Latin-rite Church, are worthy of our devotion and our imitation.

Q. What is the reason behind some sermons sounding like a scolding and some being so uplifting? Our new pastor is the complete opposite of our former priest, and I hate being scolded. I need instead to be given a positive message to carry me through my week. (City of origin withheld)

A. The reason is that a parish priest is father of a spiritual family. As with any family, people need occasionally to be chided, but mainly to be encouraged.

A case in point: A couple of weeks ago at a parish nearby, the celebrant reprimanded those who were leaving Mass early. (Before the dismissal rite — in fact, while coming up the aisle after receiving Holy Communion — more than a dozen individuals were heading straight toward the doors.)

The celebrant remarked that such an early exit disrespects not only the Lord but those who are still trying to worship. His comment created a bit of a stir; some were surprised by its directness, but one woman was heard to remark, "It's about time somebody said something."

In my mind, it's a question of balance. Once in a great while, you can do something like that. But for the most part — as you mention — worshippers need to know that God loves them and that, on the whole, they are pretty decent people.

Papal Audience November 23, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on discernment, we now consider the experience of spiritual "consolation," that sense of deep inner joy, a gift of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to sense God's comforting presence and providential care in all things, even in moments of trial and difficulty. St. Ignatius compares this grace-filled movement of the heart to a drop of water on a sponge: quietly and in full respect for our freedom, the Lord confirms us in faith and hope and confident trust in His undying love. In the lives of great saints like Ignatius, Edith Stein and Therese of Lisieux, we see how experiences of spiritual consolation not only bring profound interior peace and conviction, but also grant the strength to accomplish extraordinary things in God's service. The sign of an authentic consolation is precisely the serene, fruitful and lasting peace that it brings. Discernment is needed to distinguish true consolations from those that are false, shallow and self-indulgent; in our spiritual journey, may we always heed the sound advice of St. Bernard, who urges us to seek the consolations of God, and not the God of consolations.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims taking part in today's audience, especially those from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Upon all of you I invoke the joy and peace of Christ our Lord. God bless you!



Bishops request clemency for Kevin Johnson, scheduled to be executed Nov. 29

By Jay Nies

Missouri's Roman Catholic bishops are among the religious and civic leaders asking Gov. Mike Parson to commute the death sentence of Kevin Johnson, who was convicted of murdering a St. Louis area police officer in 2005.

Mr. Johnson is scheduled to be executed on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

"We appeal to you as the Governor of the state to take a stand for life, healing and mercy," said the signatories of a Nov. 9 letter to Gov. Parson.

They include Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski 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.

Those who signed the letter acknowledged that Officer William McEntee's death was a tragic waste of life, and assured his family of their prayers.

"Sadly, no punishment will restore him to his family," they noted.

They said the case against Mr. Johnson is filled with grossly ineffective counsel and racist prosecutorial policies.

They noted that the murder occurred in response to Mr.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will give a reflection on the death penalty during an online prayer vigil on Friday, Dec. 2. It will be livestreamed on the Facebook page of the Catholic Mobilizing Network ([facebook.com/CMNEndtheDeathPenalty](https://www.facebook.com/CMNEndtheDeathPenalty)), an organization dedicated to ending the death penalty and promoting restorative justice.

Johnson's 12-year-old brother's death after having an asthma attack while Officer McEntee was carrying-out a search warrant of the family's home.

"Witnesses attest to the fact that Officer McEntee kept Joseph's mother from attending to her son, stressing the need to search the house," the letter states.

"Two hours later," the letter continues, "officer McEntee responded to a call in the neighborhood. Kevin approached him and shouted, 'You killed my brother,' before shooting officer McEntee several times."

The signatories noted that Mr. Johnson's court-appointed lawyers failed to put before the jury substantial evidence that would have mitigated the crime — including that Mr. Johnson had a frontal lobe impairment brought on by head injuries; had a mental health history of hearing voices; had suffered and witnessed severe physical and sexual abuse and neglect during his childhood; and had attempted suicide.

In addition to the specifics

of this case, the signatories expressed concerns "that the use of the death penalty promotes revenge as a principle of justice to resolve social problems."

They requested that Gov. Parson convene an independent board of inquiry to examine the appropriateness of Mr. Johnson's death sentence or, as an alternative, commute Mr. Johnson's sentence to life without parole.

Also signing the letter were: Jamie Morris, executive director and general counsel of the Missouri Catholic Conference; Right Rev. Martin Field of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri; Right Rev. Deon K. Johnson of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri; Elyse Max, chair of Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty; Barbara Mecker of the Loretto Community; Jane Fidler-Hoffman of the Religious Coalition Against the Death Penalty; Mallory Rusch of Empower Missouri; and Sisters Ellen Orf and Carolyn Pozarich of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon.

A new Thanksgiving meaning

By Sr Constance Veit, Isp



Thanksgiving will soon be upon us with its cornucopia of beloved traditions — from pilgrim scenes to turkey, pumpkin pie, parades and football.

Today, however, the warm, nostalgic sentiments once associated with this holiday have been overshadowed by our 21st century indictment of the first Thanksgiving as a regrettable example of colonialism and the oppression of Indigenous peoples.

Whatever our political preferences or historical perspective, on November

24 millions of people across America will pause from their regular weekday routines, we Little Sisters included.

But how will we choose to spend the day? As believers there is much we can celebrate this Thanksgiving without getting caught up in historical retellings, political debates or even football.

Looking back at a different page of Thanksgiving history, I learned that when George Washington proclaimed the first national celebration of Thanksgiving in 1789, he didn't even mention the events of 1621.

He called for Americans to devote the first Thanksgiving “to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all good that was, or that will be.”

Revisiting and relitigating The Second Vatican Council

By Greg Erlandson

Catholic News Service



Since most Catholics alive today have no lived memory of the Second Vatican Council, it remains surprising that it is — at least for some — still debated, defended or despised with a pas-

sion one might wish reserved for more productive spiritual witness.

A variety of commentators of various stripes and even Pope Francis himself have weighed in to mark the council's 60th anniversary, including Ross Douthat, a Catholic columnist for *The New York Times*.

Douthat takes his characteristically bleak view of the Church's contemporary state, opining that the council was (a) necessary, (b) a failure and (c) impossible to undo. Something there for every faction to choke on.

In assessing the council, it is difficult not to get caught up in the narratives that erupted simultaneously with the council itself.

Efforts to shape the agenda even before the council fathers gathered, efforts to interpret what they intended even as they met and efforts to debate what next to do when it ended: These narratives are all still evident in the debates we are having today.

Most Catholics, of course, are blissfully unaware of these debates, but they are still fought almost as passionately as during the first years after the council itself.

The Francis pontificate is increasingly being shaped by this fight, as some try to pit St. John Paul II or retired Pope

Benedict XVI against Francis, with the council as the particular battlefield for waging a larger war.

How we remember or understand the past shapes much of what and how we debate now. I am distrustful of commentaries that tend to idealize the pre-Vatican II Church.

In fact, the fissures in faith and practice were already visible, in Europe, but also in the United States. A perusal of Catholic journals from the mid-20th century will see columnists bemoaning declining religious fervor and practice, as well as increasing divorce and contraception rates.

Educated laity chafed at a heavily clericalized Church, and lay guilds and movements were growing. Complaints about mediocre liturgies coincided with movements agitating for more use of English and other vernacular languages.

At the same time, two world wars, the Shoah, the rise of communism, the collapse of colonialism, an accelerating consumer culture — all of these tectonic shifts impacted religious life and challenged the Church's response.

To not have held the council was not an option, as Douthat understands. Whether the council failed is what much of the debate now seems to swirl about.

Yet people who look at the statistics of declining religious practice in the West as proof of a failed attempt at *aggiornamento* cannot tell us how bad that decline might have been if the Church had done nothing.

The tsunami of change that was the 1960s (and continuing decades) might have been far more shattering if the

Washington asked Americans to unite in giving God sincere and humble thanks for His kindness and protection, for His Providence and manifold mercies, and for “the great degree of tranquility, union and plenty” that they enjoyed.

Sincere and humble thanks for God's mercies and Providential care, and for the relative peace and plenty that we enjoy — aren't these things we can all celebrate? This is not to say that our lives or our nation are perfect — far from it.

But despite a worldwide pandemic, a conflict that Pope Francis is calling a third world war, an international food crisis, natural disasters and ecological threats across our planet, we are still here.

Our lives are in God's hands and our every breath flows from His Provident love. Let us thank Him for our blessings, however small we may believe them to be.

Even as we thank God, there is something else we can do this Thanksgiving — let's ask ourselves how we might pay it forward by sharing our blessings with others.

The Collect, or opening prayer for the Mass to be celebrated on Thanksgiving proposes just this: “Father all-powerful, Your gifts of love are countless and Your goodness infinite; as we come before You on Thanksgiving Day with gratitude for Your kindness, open our hearts to have concern for every man, woman, and child, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service.”

Before we sit down to our Thanksgiving feasts let's mark the day spiritually by attending Mass, praying the Psalms of thanksgiving (Psalms 113-118), or at the very least, pausing with loved ones to give voice to our blessings, despite our difficulties.

And then let's decide together how

See SR. VEIT, page 19

REFLECTION

Making space for thanksgiving

By Mark Saucier

Thanksgiving is a busy day.

Hours in the kitchen preparing those favorite foods. Travel to make it home for that big meal, or multiple meals for many.

There's setting tables, doing dishes, lugging around those chairs you use only once a year.

And then the football on TV, the games in the yard, cards after dinner, or a movie for the kids.

It is so busy that sometimes our giving thanks gets short shrift. Sure, there is the obligatory grace declaring our gratitude before we eat — or at least a round of “what I am thankful for.”

Like the night prayers of little ones, we try to cover all the bases. We mention our family, our friends, and the generally good life we have been given.

And then we go back to eating and doing.

That's all good. The sacrifices we make and the fun that we have are unspoken proof of our gratitude.

The problem is that there isn't enough time to reflect on all that we have been given — not just what we have today, but the flow of boon and bounty from time immemorial that got us to today.

It took a star massive enough to attract the orbit of planets.

It took a mammoth collision between Proto Earth and a rock called Theia to form our earth and moon.

It took our planet landing in the “Goldilocks zone” — not so close to the Sun to have the searing heat of Venus or so far as to have the icescape of Mars.

It took the Great Bombardment, the eons of meteorite blitzkriegs to stir up the amino acids and heat the primordial soup for the beginnings of life.

It took a molten magnetic core to protect the atmosphere and make a habitable earth.

It took the Great Oxygenation for microbes to produce an environment to welcome breathable life.

It took our ancestors leaving the savannahs of East Africa to begin the history of human migration.

It took our distant forebears surviving ice ages, droughts, plagues, and constant wars, with an unrelenting hope.

It took chance meetings between men and women, marriages they staked their futures on, and uncounted generations of commitment to children to bring about grandparents, parents and finally us.

Given the millions of reasons over billions of years why we should not even be here, we should take a day, a week, or maybe a lifetime, to be grateful that we are.

See ERLANDSON, page 19

Encounter

How the social teachings of the Church help us realize our mission

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Lori Stoll

When I began working at Catholic Charities in 2020, our Executive Director, Dan Lester, would often use the term “Catholic social teaching: with our staff, referencing the body of Church teachings that serve as the foundation of our work at Catholic Charities.

And I’ll be honest, I’d heard the words “Catholic social teachings” before, but I wasn’t super familiar with what the teachings were, or what their significance was to my new agency, or myself as a Catholic.

I came to work at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri because I felt a call from the Lord to serve my community and Him, but there was still a lingering feeling that I was missing something I couldn’t quite

put my finger on.

But this concept of Catholic social teaching kept coming back up.

As I began to learn about these teachings and grow in my understanding of the mission of Catholic Charities, I also began to see how our work impacts our community — and how evident the teachings are expressed in each program and service we provide.

I began to see that not only do the seven Catholic social teachings of the Church underline everything we do here, but they also highlight everything I love about being Catholic.

Having been with Catholic Charities for some time now, it is clear to me that service to our community isn’t always just about those whom we serve.

This service also impacts

each of us, as staff, and our volunteers and supporters. In serving others — in participating in the ministry of Christ — these teachings are taking root and growing in each of us.

When we opened the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in the Spring of 2022 our ability to encounter our neighbors in Jefferson City increased rapidly.

In the interactions I have with our pantry members and volunteers, the Catholic social teachings began to come to the forefront again for me.

In response to that, I made it a point for myself to dive deep into these teachings so that I could share them with our student groups, volunteers and my team.

As my own understanding of these beautiful teachings grew, so did my desire to share them with others — then this perfect idea struck me.

We’ve always desired our reception area to be a friendly, welcoming space for our neighbors to feel important and cared for while they wait to shop in the pantry.

Showing hospitality to our pantry members has been important to us from the beginning, and what better way to do that than to welcome them with beautiful artwork that reflect the social teachings of the Church?

That’s when I found Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS’s artwork — each print embodying a Catholic social teaching so beautifully, so inclusively, that I knew it belonged in this welcoming space.

When our pantry members noticed them after we hung



Lori Stoll, Food Programs Coordinator at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, brought Brother Mark McGrath’s seven prints depicting Catholic Social Teachings to the waiting area of the central offices at 1015 Edmonds Street, to serve as a reminder that participating in the work of Catholic Charities is a participation in the ministry of Christ.

the artwork, so many conversations were started among our visitors and our staff.

Over the last few weeks, the artwork has given us this unique opportunity to talk about the social teachings of the Church while providing a warm welcome to our neighbors.

My hope is that every day when people walk into Catholic Charities to provide or receive services, they are reminded that they are participating in the work of Christ.

That has been true for me, and I think it becomes more evident for others when they have reminders like these beautiful icons to see the humanity in everyone we encounter as we carry-out our work at Catholic

Charities.

I would love for you to visit the Catholic Charities Food Pantry and see these incredible works of art for yourself!

We would be happy to set up a time for your family, group of friends, church, school or organization to learn about our client-choice food pantry and the volunteer opportunities we have at Catholic Charities.

If you’d like to set something up, I invite you to contact our Director of Volunteer Engagement, Chelle Smith-Vandergriff, or call us at 573-635-7719.

Lori Stoll, Food Programs Coordinator at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, an entity of the Diocese of Jefferson City, responds to the needs of people in 38 counties regardless of faith, culture, or situation. This includes services in mental health, food security, health and nutrition education, disaster preparation and response, family reunification through immigration legal services and resettlement of refugees. For more information, visit ccnmo.diojeffcity.org.

WHAT ARE CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS?

Catholic Social Teachings reflect the several key themes that make up the heart of the church’s work:

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Solidarity

Care for God’s Creation

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Wardsville veterans memorial dedicated, veterans honored in J.C.

By Jay Nies

A stinging wind grabbed hold of the flag being carried by an altar server in the procession, along with all the matching star-spangled banners lining the walkway.

They waved but never faltered.

Bundled-up students, families and local veterans were on their way from St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville to the parish cemetery.

There, Monsignor David Cox would bless the new Veterans Memorial.

“Remember, kids, it’s part of our penance,” said Msgr. Cox, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish and of St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend. “We’re going to offer being cold for the repose of the souls of all those who have died while defending our country and for those who have served in our Armed Forces.”

It was Veterans Day and the feast of St. Martin of Tours.

The day started with Mass in church.

After Holy Communion, a group of fifth-graders saluted veterans with a song called “Heroes,” including the words: “Heroes, that is what you are to me. ... You keep America strong, safe and free.”

“We praise our God for this great nation,” said their teacher, Connie Andrews.

“Brave and loyal men and women have steadfastly served in their chosen branch of the military,” she stated. “These brave men and women are our heroes.”

As the people left church, students handed out plastic soldiers, each with a tag reminding people to pray for those who are serving in the military.

The people followed Msgr. Cox and servers carrying the flag, a candle, holy water and the crucifix.

They processed through an avenue of flags from the cemetery gate to the mausoleum.

The people gathered around the granite memorial, inscribed with the names of deceased parishioners who served in the military.

Msgr. Cox thanked all the people who were responsible for having the memorial built.

He offered a prayer of blessing:

“Loving Father, we ask You to look down upon us today as we bless this memorial in honor of all of our veterans. We ask You to help us remember the price that is paid for the preservation of our freedom, especially our freedom of religion. We ask You to bless this memorial and also to bless the families of all those who mourn the loss of their loved ones who are buried here.”

The priest sprinkled holy water onto the memorial while making the Sign of the Cross.

He then led the assembly in praying an “Our Father,” a “Hail Mary” and a “Glory Be” for the repose of the souls of all veterans who are at rest in the cemetery.

They closed by singing “My Country, ’Tis of Thee.”

“You answered the call”

Not long thereafter, a Veterans Day Mass and prayer service began in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City.

The annual observance, sponsored by the St. Peter Parish Holy Name Men’s Association, has been a Capital City

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

tradition for over 60 years.

Military veterans, public-safety personnel and first-responders served in various liturgical roles.

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky, vicar general of the diocese and pastor of St. Michael

Parish in Russellville, presided at the Mass and preached the homily.

“Interestingly enough, we don’t use an apostrophe before or after the ‘s’ in Veterans Day,” he noted. “It’s Veterans Day, because it belongs to everyone.”

He spoke to the veterans about three words beginning with “H.”

•Heroes: “Every veteran is a hero or heroine. Your nation called, and you said yes. You answered the call of your country and went forth, no matter what the war or conflict was.”

•Honor: “Every veteran, in his or her own way, honors the nation. Every veteran honors the family. Every veteran honors God.”

•Hope: “There’s a reason people want to come to the United States of America. And this hope we have is based on our desire to make this country what is founded to be, truly: one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. And who defends that hope? The veterans.”

“We are grateful and give honor to every single living veteran today,” said Msgr. Kurwicky. “Being grateful that you’re a hero. Being grateful that you have honor. Being grateful that you’re a giver of hope. May our prayers today, and may the Eucharist that we receive today, give us the spiritual strength we

need to continue on.”

Sacrifices

After Holy Communion, St. Peter parishioner Jack Dayton gave a reflection and led the praying of the Veterans Day

“All those who served — not only those who died — have sacrificed and done their duty,” he noted.

“Veterans Day is where I can reminisce of the truly great sacrifices, and in some cases, the ultimate sacrifice that my brothers and sisters in service were willing to endure so that this country remains the land of the free and the home of their brave,” he said.

Members of the Knights of Columbus Dan C. Coppin and St. Jude Fourth Degree assemblies, dressed in full regalia, served as the honor guard for the prayer service.

Military veterans and members of various veterans’ organizations gathered in the center aisle of the church, holding flags and banners aloft and joining the assembly in singing the “Star Spangled Banner” and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the Samuel F. Gearhart Detachment of the Marine Corps League provided a Three Volley Rifle Salute outside the church before the playing of “Taps” on a trumpet in the choir loft.



LEFT: The students of St. Stanislaus School and a group of parishioners gather in St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Wardsville for the blessing of the new veterans memorial. **RIGHT:** Members of various veterans organizations hold U.S. flags and banners during the Veterans Day Prayer Service on Nov. 11 in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City.

— Photos by Jay Nies



Parish Music Director Nicholas Liese plays “Taps” on a bugle during the Veterans Day Prayer Service on Nov. 11 in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City.

Prayer.

“Veterans Day is a time to reflect on all the brave men and women among us who, at one time or another, put on the uniform and served to protect our country, our liberty and our lives,” he stated. “Every citizen owes a debt that can never be repaid, a debt to every veteran for their service and our freedom. However, we can honor them, be thankful for them and remember them.

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I.C. Parish in J.C. prepares to serve 1,000 Thanksgiving meals

By Ryan Pivoney

Preparing a Thanksgiving meal takes hours.

Preparing a Thanksgiving meal for about 1,000 people takes days.

Volunteers from Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City began preparing turkeys around 5 a.m. on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Roughly nine hours later, the group of 15 volunteers finished up for the day.

The parish was anticipating between 850-1,000 people to get a free, hot Thanksgiving meal at its 14th annual holiday feast and fellowship event.

The menu included serving

turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, yams and dessert from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday.

Dine-in, carry-out and delivery options were available.

Parishioner Mike Schnieders was among the crew firing up the ovens at 5 a.m. He and the other volunteers roasted and deboned 50 turkeys throughout the day.

The turkeys weighed 926 pounds altogether, which Schnieders said will likely net about 460 pounds of cooked meat.

Bruce Ring, whom Mr. Schnieders refers to as the head cook, said the most difficult

part of cooking 50 whole turkeys at once is thawing them.

"It takes forever to thaw the things," Mr. Ring, the former owner of Zesto Drive-in and a champion barbecuer, said with a chuckle.

Immaculate Conception volunteers have prepared its Thanksgiving turkeys the Sunday before for years, Schnieders said.

Time is spent cooking turkeys in ovens and electric roasting pans, removing meat from bones, putting the turkey meat into pans with gravy to prevent drying and storing the pans in a donated refrigerated trailer.

Sunday's prep work unfolded like an assembly line. Some volunteers cleaned the birds and pulled out their necks and gizzards while others added a full stick of butter, salt and pepper to each before cooking.

"I can only get this kind of help on Sunday," Mr. Schnie-

ders said. "You know, Monday and Tuesday folks got to go back to work. There's way too much going on Wednesday, so this just works."

I.C. Parishioner Patricia Dohlman was busy preparing stuffing and rolls Wednesday, Mr. Schnieders said, but the rest of the sides and desserts are made on Thanksgiving Day.

The turkey is reheated in the oven Thursday before it is dished out onto plates.

"It's gotten down to a science now," Mr. Ring said.

"You have some down time where you're just waiting for stuff to cook, but for the most part it goes pretty quick," he continued.

Mr. Ring, who said he likes to think of himself as a worker bee in the Thanksgiving operation, has been around since the beginning. He said attendance at the meal has ballooned since the parish started doing it around 2008.

"It's probably a bad thing that that many people need to have a free dinner, but it's a good thing that you've got a lot of people that you're helping get a good Thanksgiving meal," he said.

As of four days before Thanksgiving, nearly 500 people had called to ask for meal deliveries, Mr. Schnieders said. He said he's expecting a similar number in combined dine-in and carry-out meals.

The parish served about 850 people last Thanksgiving, which was down from prior years. About four years ago, Mr. Schnieders said Immaculate Conception served about 1,200 meals.

"I think there's more people doing this," he stated. "I think there are more churches doing this. At least that's why I think the trend has gone downhill."

The meal isn't restricted, he added, so anyone and everyone is welcome to grab a meal to go or take a seat at the shared table.

The Jefferson City Police Department were to be among those getting a Thanksgiving meal from Immaculate Conception. Mr. Schnieders said the department is set to get 25 meals this year.

"Bring it on," he said. "Let's take care of them. If nobody's

See MEALS, page 13

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DIOCESE OF Jefferson City

Christmas concert in Taos

DATE: December 4
TIME: 2-3:30pm

The St. Francis Xavier

Contemporary Choir and the St. Francis Xpressions Youth Choir in Taos will hold a Christmas concert to

help support Taos native Erin Sprenger's upcoming year on mission with NET Ministries Australia.

It will be from 2 to 3:40 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 in St. Francis Xavier Church, 7319 Route M in Taos.

Ms. Sprenger will also talk about this Catholic organization and answer questions.

Free-will offerings will be accepted.

Salisbury parish mission

DATE: December 4-8
TIME: 7 pm

Father Tony Stephens of the Fathers of Mercy will lead an Advent parish mission from Sunday through Thursday, Dec. 4-8, in Salisbury.

The theme will be: "Deepening Our Eucharistic Devotion" Evening talks will be given each evening from 7 to 8 p.m. on Sunday through Wednesday, with Exposition and Bene-

diction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, in the St. Joseph School Gym.

The Sacrament of Confession will be available from 6 to 6:45 p.m. and after each evening talk.

The Closing Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m., followed by refreshments.

All are invited and welcome to attend any or all of the talks.

Topics will include: "Wasting Time with the Lord"; "The Eucharist Aiding Family Holiness"; "Eucharistic Miracles Aid Our Faith"; "Breathing Fire Like Lions" and "Our Lady and the Eucharist."

fathersofmercy.com/team-members/fr-tony-stephens/

JCRATI volunteer training

DATE: November 29
TIME: 6 pm

Volunteer training for Jefferson City Room at the Inn (JCRATI) volunteer training will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the Catholic Charities Center, 1015 Edmonds St. in Jefferson City.

JCRATI is a low-barrier emergency winter homeless shelter and has been created as part of the Jefferson City Homeless Task Force. Many volunteers are needed to staff the shelter in order for it to open in January.

MEALS

From page 12

cooking them a Thanksgiving meal, we will."

"It's important to love your neighbor," Mr. Schnieders continued. "It's important to take care of your neighbor. That's what Jesus said, take care of each other. So that's what we're trying to do, we're trying to take care of each other."

He said the Immaculate Conception parish has really embraced the Thanksgiving meal as an annual tradition.

In addition to volunteering their time to prepare and serve food, members of the congregation donated non-perishable food items and cooking supplies. From donating canned goods to delivering meals, Mr. Schnieders said hundreds of people contributed to make the meal a success.

"They sign up and they donate every bit of it," he stated. "I usually don't have to buy very much, maybe some yams but that's about it."

Parishioner Anna Kolb said she volunteered to break down turkeys Sunday to help those in need and the elderly who may not be able to cook a Thanksgiving meal or have a family.

She said everyone deserves some sense of community and a place to go to celebrate the holiday with others.

"I just think it's a really cool event," Ms. Kolb said. "You see a lot of people come together — people bringing food, people volunteering."

By Thanksgiving morning, the multipurpose room of Immaculate Conception becomes "a machine in motion," according to Schnieders.

Volunteers manage each

portion of the service, from greeting people getting a meal to delivering those who can't make it in person.

About 90 percent of the meals are gone within an hour and a half, Mr. Schnieders said.

"It's like a vacuum," he said. "It kind of gets your heart rate up and then it's almost over and you're going, 'Whew, what just happened?'"

"This incredible parish, which I have the privilege to pastor — they teach me what it means to be a parish," said Father Matthew Flatley.

Mr. Pivoney is a reporter for the Jefferson City News-Tribune (newstribune.com), which published a version of this article Nov. 21. This version is published with permission.



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All Souls Day, Month of Remembrance provide occasions to think, pray about the last things

By Jay Nies

Nothing, not even death, can sever the sacred bond God created among all members of His Church.

It is incumbent on all believers to pray for the people who have died and are on their grace-fueled journey to eternal perfection with God in heaven.

Catholics pay special attention to this reality on All Souls Day and through the waning days of the Church year.

“If you take All Souls with All Saints, it’s kind of a celebration of the whole Church — the Church Militant here on earth, the Church Suffering in purgatory, and the Church Triumphant in heaven,” Father Colin Franklin, pastor of St. George Parish in Linn and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Frankenstein said at Mass on the Commemoration of All Souls, Nov. 2.

It comes the day after the Feast of All Saints, Nov. 1.

“First, we celebrate the saints and are reminded to seek the intercession of the saints in times of need,” Fr. Franklin stated in his homily. “Then, we call to mind the opportunity we are given to pay that favor forward and pray for those in purgatory.”

Catholics understand that they must not only remember their loved ones and all who have gone before them, but also take up the work of praying for them in the face of death.

“In this way, we see the whole circle of cooperation in the beautiful work of salvation,” Fr. Franklin said.

Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, offered Mass at an outdoor altar in the city’s oldest Catholic cemetery, recently restored, on an inconspicuous bluff overlooking the Missouri



LEFT: Father Jeremy Secrist, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, elevates the Blessed Sacrament during Mass in the recently restored St. Peter Cemetery 1, in which burials took place from the 1840s until about 1880, on All Souls Day.

RIGHT: Students of St. George School in Hermann join Father Philip Niekamp, pastor of St. George Parish in Hermann and Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland, for Mass in St. George Cemetery in Hermann for All Souls Day.

— Photo by Jay Nies

— Photo from the St. George Catholic School – Hermann, MO Facebook page

River.

The altar dates from the 1940s, during the pastorate of Monsignor Joseph A. Vogelweid, PA.

Fr. Secrist noted in his homily that the Eucharist and every other salvific effort of the Church is rooted in the life, passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

“And because of the connection we have as the Lord’s people, as His Church, that then extends to each and every one of us, the members of His Body,” Fr. Secrist noted. “Just as Jesus Christ, Himself, was triumphant over sin and death, so, too, through our connection to Christ, we believe that death is not the end for us, nor does it destroy the bonds that have been forged in our lives.”

“Yesterday, on All Saints, we celebrated with great joy the Church Triumphant, those who have won the great battle of life on this earth and through their response to God’s grace are now sharing in the fullness of life in heaven,” he said.

“But today, we commemorate the Church Suffering, the Church in purgatory. Those who have passed from this world but are still waiting to enter into the joys of heaven. So, it’s contingent upon us, the Church here on earth, to continue to pray for them.”

It is a gift that all people, regardless of how full of life they may be today, will one day rely on as they take up the inevitable journey from this life to

the next.

“Let us be aware that both in life and in death, the Lord Jesus is near to us,” said Fr. Secrist. “Marked by prayer, marked by our remembrance of our loved ones and of those who have gone before us, because one day, there will come that time in which we will sleep in the dust of the earth, awaiting the resurrection. And all of these, the faithful of God, are awaiting the resurrection of the Savior right now.”

“A cleansing”

A tray of candles shimmered before the altar of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia the night of All Souls Day.

Parishioners had taken turns speaking the names of loved ones and lit candles in their honor during the General Intercessions at Mass.

“We remember and give thanks and pray for our loved ones who have passed before us and for all who have departed this life,” said Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

He pointed out that Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church fill believers with hope for all that comes after death.

Referring back to the first reading (2 Maccabees 12:43-46), he reiterated that there is goodness, purpose and value in praying for those who have died, in order to assist them on the way to fullness of union with God.

Many who have died have already completed that journey; others are still on their way.

“And it’s not a question as to whether or not the souls in that process are going to get there,” said Fr. Cordes. “It’s a cleansing, it’s a purification, it’s a preparation process on the way to fullness of union with God.”

He noted that praying for loved ones after they die is also a good way to stay connected with them in a very real and meaningful way.

“It’s good for us tonight to think about them, to give thanks to God for the gift they were and are in our lives and to lift them up in prayer, trusting that they will enter into the fullness of union with God — that place of light, happiness and peace — where there are no more tears, no more suffering, no more sense of loss, but only eternal life in the presence of God,” he said.

“While we can”

There are moments that change everything — sudden occurrences that bring everything that’s really important into focus.

“Today, on All Souls Day, our Church creates a liturgical space where such moments are transformed into worship, where the unshakable reality of death, the terror of judgment, can be turned to a good spiritual purpose,” Father Dylan Schrader, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia and St.

Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk, stated in his homily during Mass that evening.

He addressed the uncomfortable reality upheld by the Church that heaven is neither an automatic nor foregone conclusion.

“God, for His part, wills that all be saved, and further makes salvation really possible for each and every person in their real circumstances,” Fr. Schrader noted. “But salvation is salvation — namely, being rescued from something, being snatched out of the clutches of something — in this case, eternal perdition.”

Absent God’s intervention, all would be lost.

So, what is the crucial, deciding factor?

“Our Church teaches that it is to die in a state of sanctifying grace,” the priest answered. “It all boils down to that.”

Particular judgement for each person comes at the moment of death.

“Those who die in a state of mortal sin — that is, without the repentance that would restore them to a state of grace — are eternally cut off from the vision of God,” Fr. Schrader explained. “They suffer the torments of the eternal loss that we call hell.

“In sharp contrast,” he noted, “those who die in a state of grace are assured of eternal union with God — the direct, face-to-face vision of God in

ALL SOULS

From page 14

end of this present world, the resurrection of the body, glorified, sharing in the radiance of the soul, transfigured by eternal life.”

When a person dies in a state of sanctifying grace but is still not spiritually perfect, they are assured of eternal salvation and entry into heaven, “but those imperfections have to be dealt with,” said Fr. Schrader.

“Not even the smallest sin is allowed in heaven, nor is the smallest desire to sin or attachment to sin,” he said. “All of that has to be purged, it all has to be addressed. And that’s the work of God’s mercy.”

In a supreme act of compassion, God takes away all remaining obstacles to being fully united to Him.

“In that process of purification, that process of becoming perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect, is not finished in this life, it can be finished out after death,” said Fr. Schrader. “So those who die in a state of grace but are still imperfect are purged, purified in a process we call purgatory — where the merciful fire of divine love refines the souls of the just, like silver and gold.”

Since the Church’s earliest days, Catholics have understood that they can and should assist in this process with their prayers.

“The commandment to love and to pray for our neighbor extends also to the souls of the faithful departed, who are undergoing final purification and who can really be helped by our prayers,” said Fr. Schrader.

At the same time, it behooves the faithful to “remember that your judge is also your Savior.”

“Reconcile with Him before the end,” Fr. Schrader advised. “Do His works while it is still day, because night is coming.”

He added that the fleeting pleasures of this world “never look so good in the light of eternity.”

“Not that the good things of this world are bad,” the priest stated. “We don’t have to live in



Father Francis Doyle, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Marshall and St. Joseph Parish in Slater, celebrates a bilingual Mass on All Souls Day in St. Peter Church in Marshall, assisted by Deacon Pedro Almazan. Following the homily, the parish took time to remember each of the parishioners who passed away in the last year. Their names were read and a representative of the family was given a lit candle to take and keep. The act of lighting a candle in honor of those who have passed away is a tradition that allows us to honor the deceased’s life and memory. It also reminds us that Christ came to bring light into darkness and that light triumphs over the darkness of death.

—Photo by Ron Sayer, president of the St. Peter Parish Pastoral Council

misery and drudgery. We simply have to remember what St. Paul says: This world is passing away. We are not home here, so let’s not get too comfortable.

“The time we’re given in this life is our time of pilgrimage, a time to develop our relationship with God, in which to live in a state of grace that flowers into glory in the next life,” he said. “Let us do the works of God while we can, and turn to Christ, our Savior — calling upon Him and asking for His mercy while we have a chance.”

“Light into darkness”

Father Robert Fields, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Kahoka and Shrine of St. Patrick Parish in St. Patrick, offered Mass in the Shrine of St. Patrick.

“We pray for all who are in process of being purged,” he stated.

He pointed out that some of that is taking place in this life.

“For someone who is in the late stages of Alzheimer’s, we may ask, ‘Why are they still hanging on?’” he said. “Maybe, that’s their purgatory on earth.”

In Marshall, members of St. Peter Parish brought a photo or memento of a loved one who has passed on, and placed it on a Table of Remembrance in St. Peter Church.

Father Francis Doyle, pastor of St. Peter Parish and of St. Joseph Parish in Slater offered

passed away is a tradition that allows us to honor the deceased’s life and memory,” stated Ron Sayer, president of the St. Peter Parish Pastoral Council.

“It also reminds us that Christ came to bring light into darkness and that light triumphs over the darkness of death,” he said.

“Countless chances”

In Mary’s Home, more than 1,500 electric tea lights illuminated Our Lady of the Snows Cemetery in Mary’s Home the night of Oct. 31, the Vigil of All Saints.

In keeping with an old German tradition, students of Our Lady of the Snows School placed lights at the burial places of loved ones and ancestors, along the paths and at the resting place of Father Patrick Shortt, former pastor.

In Hermann, Father Philip Niekamp urged the students of St. George School to pray for those in purgatory so that their time of accommodation will be short and they will soon be

with God in Heaven.

“This is a day when we celebrate the truth that no one is so sinful that they are outside of the scope of God’s love,” Fr. Niekamp, pastor of St. George Parish in Hermann and Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland, said in his All Souls Day homily.

“Everyone has the chance to experience that love — countless chances, in fact. Anyone who turns to the Lord at any point in their lives can receive it,” he said. “For anyone who has not closed himself off completely from God’s love, this promise extends even beyond death. This is the heart of the Church’s teaching on purgatory.”

“All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation,” he said. “After death, they undergo purification in purgatory, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.”

This report includes information from Ron Sayer, president of the St. Peter Parish Pastoral Council in Marshall, and from the St. George Catholic School-Hermann, MO Facebook page.



More than 1,500 electric tea lights illuminate Our Lady of the Snows Cemetery in Mary’s Home the night of Oct. 31, the Vigil of All Saints. In keeping with an old German tradition, students of Our Lady of the Snows School placed lights at the burial places of loved ones and ancestors, along the paths and at the resting place of Father Patrick Shortt, former pastor.

— Photo by Jay Nies



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

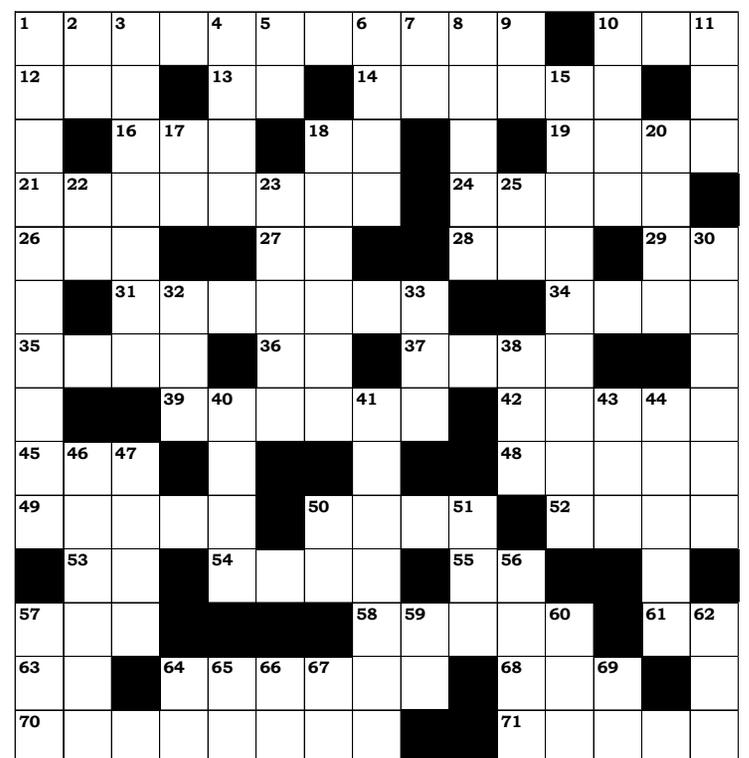
1. William Clark, of the Lewis & Clark Expedition (1804-1806), became a very ____ leader in the early history of St. Louis and Missouri.
10. "The ____ was a good-natured beast who knew not only the route but all of the spots with the tastiest grasses," —*Catherine & the Sybil*, Sharan Newman.
12. Indicating birth name.
13. Not OT.
14. Birds that are a symbol of the U.S.
16. *Agnus* ____; Lamb of God.
18. "Faith gives ____ the power to believe in what I do not understand," —*The God Who Comes*, Carlo Caretto.
19. "Remember, the storm is a good opportunity for the ____ and cypress to show their strength and stability," —Ho Chi Minh.
21. Clark tried to broker peaceful relations between settlers and Am. Indians but Missourians saw him as too sympathetic to the Indians so he lost the ____ in 1820 to be the first Governor of the new State of Missouri.
24. County Seat of Knox Co. and home to St. Joseph Parish.
26. "Death, after all, is the common expectation from birth. Neither heroes ____ cowards can escape it," —*Dead Man's Ransom*, Ellis Peters.
27. Boob tube.
28. 19th of 26.
29. The Green Mountain State

- (abbr.).
31. In 1822, Pres. Monroe made Clark Superintendent of Indian _____. That made him in charge of the U.S. Gov't. policy of Indian removal farther west.
 34. "But you shall not eat any of the following that only ____ the cud or only have cloven hoofs..." (Deuteronomy 14:7).
 35. "'Tis better to bear the ____ we have than fly to others that we know not of," —William Shakespeare.
 36. Related to Ct. or St.
 37. Sandwich cookie.
 39. "Jean Vianney (wanted) to be a priest but only if he might try to be a holy priest; to settle for less would be like air wanting to be air without ____," —*The Cure of D'Arts Today*, George W. Rutler.
 42. Part of NASA.
 45. ____ *de plume*; an author's pen name.
 48. Though there was nothing officially written down, there was a ____ agreement that he was to repay the loan.
 49. A dark spot: Clark treated his ____, York (who was part of the Expedition), harshly after their return but eventually freed him.
 50. Over the years, Clark had amassed an extensive collection of Indian artifacts, which made his ____ a must-see attraction for visiting dignitaries. Regrettably, this rich resource of history/culture of frontier Mo. and the West did not survive his death.
 52. The tax ____ on the ballot did not pass.
 53. "Private carriages leaving the city are commonplace. There ____ nothing so invisible as the ordinary," —*Sherlock Holmes and the Devil's Grail*, Barrie Roberts.
 54. "She returned his passport with his boarding card folded inside it. Accompanying this act was a smile as bright and cheerless as ____," —*Fatherland*, Robert Harris.
 55. Abbr. before a physician's name.
 57. ____; a pharmacy chain.
 58. Desert watering hole.
 61. The Golden State (abbr.).
 63. Abbr. meaning "in other

- words."
64. The angel of God appeared to Joseph exclusively in ____.
 68. In tennis, a score of "love" means zero or ____.
 70. "Then the whole ____ of them arose and brought him to Pilate," (Luke 23:1).
 71. Wm. Clark died at age 69 in 1838; a 35 ft. obelisk on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River in St. Louis marks his ____.

DOWN

1. As they say, the road to hell is paved with good ____.
2. Cornhusker State (abbr.).
3. In 1807, Pres. Thomas Jefferson appointed Clark brigadier general of militia of the Mo. Territory and ____ Agent for the western tribes. Clark licensed & promoted commercial fur trade with the Indians, built Ft. Osage on the Mo. River (near KC), & joined the St. Louis, Mo. Fur Co.
4. "A family is a ____ composed not only of children but of men, women, an occasional animal, and the common cold," —Ogden Nash.
5. Bicycle riding alien.
6. High schooler.
7. Hawkeye State (abbr.).
8. Clark sympathized with the uprooted tribes and tried as best he understood to protect them but did ____ with & implemented the U.S. policy of Indian removal. He later considered it his worst failure.
9. ____ Bean; outdoor clothier.
10. "Do not plot to repeat ____; not even for one will you go unpunished," —Sirach 7:8 (2 wds.)
11. "____ promised to give her tears to God and to give everyone else only the smiles in her eyes," —*The Life of Elizabeth Leseur*, Lorene Hanley Duquin.
15. Clark, though likely a deist (belief in a distant supreme being) promoted religion: owned a pew in the Catholic Church and co-charted the first ____ Church west of the Mississippi.
17. Letters for European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union.
18. In 1813, Pres. James Monroe appointed Clark as



20. Main body of a Church.
22. ____ and behold!
23. Milan, home of Da Vinci's famous "Last Supper" mural on a monastery wall, is a major city in this country.
25. On a car designation, these letters stand for Drive Sport; it implies the car puts emphasis on aggressive performance rather than comfort.
30. Little ____ Bird's signature line was: "I tawt I taw a puddy tat!"
32. Letters for the Floating Storage & Offloading (____) system, the primary method for offshore oil & gas transfers to tankers.
33. Clark was a devoted family man with a large and adopted family; considered generous and a good friend. He fulfilled a promise to Sacagawea to legally adopt her ____ and give him an education in St. Louis.
38. Abbr. for 19th book of the Bible.
40. American superhero film series based on Marvel Comics.
41. "...the year is transfigured by the Liturgy. The ____ of salvation is at work within the framework of time..." —*Catechism of the Cath. Ch.*, #1168
43. King topper.
44. Clark was very ____ minded, being a Trustee of the city of St. Louis and co-founder of its first school

46. "Can a fig tree, my brothers, produce ____, or a grapevine figs?" (James 3:12).
47. Four Nez Perce Indians came to St. Louis to see their friend Wm. Clark, seeking the truth about the white man's religion. They met Catholic priests; attended ____; two of them, dying, were baptized and were/are buried in Calvary Cath. Cemetery in St. Louis.
50. Hi ____ crackers.
51. Sullivan and Bradley.
56. "...put a ____ on his finger and sandals on his feet," (Luke 15:22).
57. U.S. spy agency.
59. "Many things don't make sense unless you can stand back from them, and we can't stand so far back ____ does God," —*Tobit's Dog*, Michael N. Richard.
60. Abbr. for 28th book of the Bible.
62. ____ *Maria, gratia plena*; Hail Mary, full of grace.
64. Prefix for form or brief.
65. In education & libraries, letters for Reference Materials.
66. ____ (Elwyn Brooks) White; author of the children's book *Charlotte's Web* and co-author of *The Elements of Style*, the short classic on how to write well.
67. Not the NL.
69. At 13 million, the ____ metro area is the second largest in the U.S. (abbr.).

ANSWERS on page 19



301 Monroe
Jefferson City
(573) 635-6101

Charles Prather • Rick Prather
Tom Kummer

THANKSGIVING

From page 1

technology-saturated, me-first world for themselves.

"Yet, God is calling all of us to live a grateful, eternal life right now," said Fr. Fields.

He suggested turning off electronic devices and tuning out sporting events in order to have meaningful conversations over the Thanksgiving dinner table.

"I grew up in a day and age when kids were supposed to be seen and not heard, and we sat and listened to all the stories the adults shared with each other," he said.

"Looking back, I wish I had paid more attention to those stories."

"Here and grateful"

Father Anthony Viviano, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton and Annunciation Parish in California, preached

the message at the Tipton Ministerial Alliance's Thanksgiving service on Nov. 20.

St. Anthony Parish hosted this year's service.

Members of seven local churches joined together in recognizing the Source of all things in our lives and turning that gratitude into positive action in assistance to others.

The service brought together pastors, church leaders and members of congregations from most of the community's houses of worship.

Well known songs of thanksgiving dispersed throughout the service included "We Gather Together," "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" and "For the Beauty of the Earth."

Fr. Viviano, in his sermon, lamented the effect a lack of gratitude has taken on mod-

ern society.

"One of the reasons the world finds itself where it is, which I would call out of order, is that sense of gratefulness — thanksgiving — is no longer here, and entitlement has taken over," he said. "We have eradicated Christ from the public sphere."

Fr. Viviano shared the story of Blessed Solanus Casey, born on a farm in Wisconsin



Father Anthony Viviano, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Tipton and Annunciation Parish in California, preaches the message at the Tipton Ministerial Alliance's ecumenical Thanksgiving service Nov. 20 in St. Andrew Church.

— Photo by Becky Holloway

and one of 16 children of Irish immigrants.

He was known for his work with the poor and sick, and one miracle, a healing, has been attributed to God through his intercession in heaven.

Noting that Blessed Solanus, a Capuchin priest, was "a man for all people," Fr. Viviano said recommended studying his life and work.

"He said, 'When someone shows gratitude, that is the first sign of a rational being,'" said Viviano.

"As a rational being, we also have the ability to understand, 'I'm alive, I'm here, I'm grateful, and I had nothing to do with it,'" said Fr. Viviano. "I exist no matter the trials and crosses in life. I am here and I am grateful."

The priest said he hopes "that disposition can be a springboard for you and me to make us want to reach out and to care for one another,

which is what the Ministerial Alliance does."

He talked about his own blessings of growing up in St. Louis, as the oldest of five children to devout parents, and the blessings he has experienced in his life as a priest.

He told of the blessings he has seen from serving the "clients" of the Ministerial Alliance, people who have come to the local religious

community for assistance.

"I often wonder what were some of the roadblocks in their lives, what were the boulders they had to get over?" he said.

"It gives me great reason to reflect on the blessings of my life and what am I going to do about that?" he stated.

This week, the week of Thanksgiving, Viviano suggested that "we all take a personal inventory of the many blessings we have, truly thank the Lord for those, and allow them to be parlayed in reaching out to someone in need."

Baskets were available for the placement of donations to help the Ministerial Alliance in its work within the community and with transients who often pass through and need assistance to get to their destination.

Mrs. Holloway is editor of the Tipton Times newspaper.

REGISTER

From page 6

"Of course, you want to offer a good education, good extracurricular activities, good opportunities," he stated. "But Catholic is the reason we exist."

He's convinced that the school's faith identity will grow stronger and more distinct with the ongoing implementation of the diocesan pastoral plan and emphasis on the stewardship way of life.

"That's the part I hope people will cleave to," he said. "We want to help parents form good Catholic, Christian children to populate and influence the world for generations to come."

Dr. Register plans to stay active in the parish, including as a member of the newly-formed parish stewardship commission, and do some volunteer work.

"It will take time to get more fully into the stewardship mentality," he said.

He talked about the countless "leaps of faith" the faculty, parishioners and greater community have made to keep Sacred Heart effective and sustainable.

"What this community has done over the years to keep this school open and viable is nothing short of miraculous," he said.

"And that's going to have to continue."

"Things got better"

Sacred Heart alumnus and longtime faculty member Richard Bahner attributed much of the school's success and possibly its survival to Dr. Register's years of steady hand and diligence.

"Under his leadership, instead of daily fighting for its very existence, the school grew and prospered for the first time in over 20 years," Mr. Bahner stated. "Very few school leaders have been responsible for as much positive change in

the life of a school as has Mark Register."

Sacred Heart in Sedalia included one of a handful of parish-based high schools in central and northeastern Missouri when the diocese was founded in 1956.

Now, Sedalia has the only one.

"I think we had a bit of an advantage in that we had a somewhat larger population base," said Dr. Register. "There were also a lot of stubborn people here who weren't inclined to let go of it."

Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe, who led the diocese from 1969-97, favored keeping the high school open through the difficult times, which strengthened the community's resolve.

"Once we knew the bishop was on board, it made it easier for us to commit to continuing to make this available to our families," said Dr. Register. "And then things got better."

He looked back at how the "deep divide down Ohio Street" kept members of Sedalia's two former parishes and the Bahner mission in separate silos for decades.

Years of work at collaboration, spearheaded by laypeople and the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood who were pastors of the Pettis County parishes, culminated with a formal request for Bishop W. Shawn McKnight to combine the three parishes into one in 2019.

"Having a unified community of Catholics in Pettis County is very healthy," Dr. Register stated. "It's been great for our school and even better for our community."

Dr. Register lauded his fellow administrative team members, Principal Nancy Manning and Dean of Students Dr. Amanda Burdick.

"They're doing a good job," he said. "With them here, I am confident I'm leaving the school in good hands."



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Need more info about an event or want to see more events?
Visit the diocesan EVENT CALENDAR at diojeffcity.org/events.
Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Nov. 26

Starkenburg, Sounds of Starkenburg concerts, 2 pm & 5 pm, St. Martin's Church Museum, with soup supper 1-5 pm, Valentine Hall

Dec. 2-3

Columbia, Sacred Heart Parish Christmas Bazaar, Fri 3-7 pm, Sat 8 am-3 pm, parish activity building

Dec. 3

Shelbina, K of C Farm Toy Show, 9 am-2 pm, Fr. Buhman Center

Dec. 4

California, K of C breakfast, 8-11 am, Annunciation Parish; **Taos**, Christmas concert & fundraiser, featuring the St. Francis Contemporary Choir & Xpressions Youth Choir, with free-will donation for Erin Sprenger's year on mission with NET Ministries Australia, 2-3:30 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church

Dec. 6

Jefferson City, Nativity at the Capitol, 11 am-3 pm, Capitol Rotunda and on the South Lawn

Dec. 7

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception parish Advent Soup Supper, 6:15-8 pm

Dec. 11

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am

Meetings/ Workshops

Nov. 29

Jefferson City, Jefferson City Room at the Inn volunteer training, 6-7 pm, Catholic Charities office, for info or to register email marytelthorst@hotmail.com or call 573-694-8918

Dec. 6

VIRTUAL, Marriage Prep Facilitators' morning refresher, 10:30-11:30 am, for info or to RSVP email faithformation@diojeffcity.org

Dec. 20

VIRTUAL, Marriage Prep Facilitators' evening refresher, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to RSVP email faithformation@diojeffcity.org

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

diciembre 3

Sedalia, Retiro para Cursillistas, 9 am-4 pm, Parroquia San Patricio, para más información contacte a Oswaldo Diaz al 660-829-5213 o por correo electrónico a deleono@sedalia200.org

diciembre 17

Jefferson City, Formación de Ministros de Comunión, 9 am-3 pm, oficinas de las cancellería, favor de registrarse por medio del siguiente link: diojeffcity.org/ministerio-hispano/formacion-de-ministros-de-comunion/. También puede registrarse por teléfono llamando al diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650.

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Nov. 27-29

Columbia, "On the Way to Jesus Christ," Sacred Heart Parish mission, with Fr. Blaise Czaja, CP, 7 pm each evening

Nov. 29

Jefferson City, "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room: An Advent to Remember," women's event, 6:30-8 pm, St. Peter Church's Hoog Hall

Dec. 4-8

Salisbury, "Deepening Our Eucharistic Devotion," St. Joseph Parish Mission with Divine Mercy Father Tony Stephens, 7 pm each evening

Dec. 13

St. Martins, "Praise, Pizza and Pitchers" evening of prayer and fellowship for adults 40 and older, second Tuesday of each month, 5 pm Rosary and Mass at St. Martin Church, followed by dinner at Pizza Haus, for info visit Facebook @Praise, Pizza and Pitchers

Liturgical

Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 & 18

Jefferson City, Advent sacred music & Sunday Vespers, 4-5 pm each Sunday, St. Peter Church

Youth & Young Adults

Dec. 6

St. Martins, "Pews and Brews" evening of prayer and fellowship for young adults in their 20s and 30s, first Monday of each month, 5:30 pm Adoration and Confession, 6 pm Mass at St. Martin Church, followed by fellowship at Last Flight Brewing in Jefferson City, for info visit Facebook @Pews&Brews

Dec. 7

Jefferson City, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult faith sharing group, first Wednesday of each month, 6-7:30 pm, Prison Brews, for info visit icangels.com/youngadults

Dec. 18

Jefferson City, Young Adult Mass, 3rd Sunday each month, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

GRATITUDE

From page 1

homes, with friends and family, to especially thank God for our blessings, each according to their own belief," he stated.

Bishop McKnight — whose episcopal motto translates to "Let us give thanks to the Lord" — said he chooses to be grateful for all the goodness he sees.

"Sure, there are a lot of challenges in all these places — including me — and there always has been," he noted. "But how we choose to respond can make a world of difference."

He pointed to the story in Luke and Matthew about Jesus healing the 10 lepers.

Only one of them returned to Jesus to give thanks.

"It was that healed leper's expression of gratitude that caused Jesus to say to him: 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well.'"

"A new era"

Bishop McKnight called to mind one of his earliest Thanksgiving memories — dressing up with his kindergarten classmates and reenacting the traditional story of the first Thanksgiving Day in this country.

"We were taught to celebrate the beginning of a new era and an ideal ex-

ample of harmony between peoples of different cultures, religions and languages," he recalled.

"We celebrated the fellowship that existed between the Pilgrims and the Native Peoples who helped one another succeed," he said.

That childhood activity was a good reminder of why it's important for the whole country to take time out to remember this nation's humble beginnings. Many immigrants past and present came to this land of promise and freedom to get away from religious persecution, famine and wars.

"The difficulties of life can help us to appreciate more the good things in life, as well as the opportunity to bring light into darkness," the bishop noted. "That is the lesson of that First Thanksgiving that we would do well to remember today."

He said deliberately recognizing other people's sacrifices and God's penchant for drawing light out of darkness is a great motivator for good.

"When we choose to be grateful in our actions, by placing the needs of oth-



ers before our own, even though we may not feel grateful at the time, those actions change us and those around us," he stated.

Cumulative blessings

The annual prayer breakfast is organized by the Cole County Chamber of Commerce's Community Committee.

Harvey Tettlebaum, past president of Temple Beth El in Jefferson City, offered a prayer for this country commonly prayed in Hebrew congregations. It blends passages from the Old Testament books of Deuteronomy and Leviticus

with phrases from the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

"We are grateful for the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that our founders ascribed to You, our Creator," he prayed. "We pray for their wisdom and moral strength, that we may be guardians of these rights for ourselves and for the sake of all people, now and forever."

A musical ensemble known as the Buffington Brothers, with piano accompaniment by Debbie Poire, sang a harmonious rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" and "The Lord's Prayer."

Legends Bank President John Klebba, a member of St. George Parish in Linn, said it was a pleasure to share prayer and fellowship with everyone present.

"You know, in what is unfortunately an increasingly agnostic world, it's refreshing for a group to put aside their political, religious, philosophical and other differences ... if only for a moment ... to come together in prayer and thanksgiving for all of God's blessings," he stated.

To submit **Baptisms, Birthdays** for ages 90 and older, **Anniversaries** of 10+ years in increments of 5 ONLY (e.g., 15, 25, 45 years, etc.), **Elections, Honors and Appointments**, please go to:

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

For marriages and deaths, please use the form at diojeffcity.org/update-information/ so that we may update our mailing lists and records.

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
Tom & Becky Loehner, 40 years
Mark & Melissa Becker, 30 years

Camdenton, St. Anthony
Bud & Carolyn Phillips, 65 years
Deacon Dick & Nancy VonGunten, 65 years

Jefferson City, St. Peter
Harold & Carolyn Ousley, 50 years

St. Clement, St. Clement
Leo & Mary Nell Brueggen, 50 years

Birthdays

Jefferson City, Immaculate
Conception — **Mary “Marie”
Buschjost**, her 95th on Nov. 16

Russellville, St. Michael — **Therese
Schepers**, her 94th on Nov. 25

ERLANDSON

From page 9

Church had not created a vision of engagement and renewal.

Both left and right have put their spins on the council and its aftermath. For Pope Francis, the council’s purpose was unique and historic: “To rekindle her love for the Lord, the Church, for the first time in her history, devoted a council to examining herself and reflecting on her nature and mission.”

We can agree this task is not completed, and perhaps the debate that continues is the Church wrestling with

Baptisms

Morrison, Assumption — **Millie Kay Rost**, daughter of Jason & Ashley Rost

Marriages

Hermann, St. George — **Aimie Brendel & Andrew Loehngig; Molly Munsinger & Jake Witthaus**

Deaths

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary — **Mary Jane Starke**

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Ann Theresa “Nancy” VanLoo**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Nadine Dellbringge; Marilyn Schmutzler**

a fuller understanding of her nature and mission. Perhaps this debate is necessary, even if it is wearying and divisive.

If so, then no better prayer would be the prayer to the Holy Spirit uttered by the council fathers 60 years ago:

“We stand before You, Holy Spirit ... / Teach us the way we must go / And how we are to pursue it.”

Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

Come fly with me!

Father Jason Doka (right), pastor of St. Martin Parish in St. Martins, gets into the spirit of Veterans Day at St. Martin School. A parent of one of the fourth-graders is a helicopter pilot and brought some flight suits to school and convinced Fr. Doka and a few others to model them.



SR. VEIT

From page 9

we might show “concern for every man, woman and child” in some concrete way, especially during the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

As I was reading up on the history of Thanksgiving, I discovered another moving document, this one penned by Gershom Medes Seixas, the spiritual leader of New York City’s first Jewish congregation and a contemporary of George Washington.

In response to Washington’s 1789 proclamation, Seixas preached to his congregation, “Let me recommend to you a serious consideration of the several duties already set forth this day: to enter into a self-examination; to relinquish your prejudices against each other; to subdue your passions; to live, as Jews

ought to do, in brotherhood and amity; to seek peace and pursue it. So shall it be well with you both here and hereafter.”

Is this not how we all ought to live?

Rabbi Seixas thus issues another challenge this Thanksgiving — to let go of our prejudices and pursue peace and amity, first with our brothers and sisters in the household of the faith, and then with all.

As we do so, let us offer our prayers, works, joys and sufferings to God so that He may use them, according to His will, as a lever to lift up this troubled world and restore life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

PRIESTS

From page 3

Wardville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend, and Father Michael Penn, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, read the names of priests of this diocese who died since its founding in 1956.

Between each section of names, the priests and people called upon the saints in heaven to receive their souls and “present them now to God Most High.”

The priests and bishop then chanted the “*Salve Regina*” — “Hail Holy Queen” — which the priests traditionally sing at the end of the Funeral Mass

for one of their own.

Deacon Edward Stroesser, who assists the pastor of St. Andrew Parish, and his wife Valda Stroesser accompanied and led the singing throughout the Mass.

Afterward, the priests gathered in the welcoming area of the church, where St. Andrew parishioners served them a meal.

Laughter filled the room as they shared stories and memories of priests they had ministered with and been inspired by.

VETERANS

From page 7

can provide that for them.”

Mrs. Flaspohler said Holy Family students know to thank veterans for their service, wherever they see them.

They also know to ask veterans in their families and their neighborhoods to tell their stories — and really listen.

“This has come to life, because we’ve known people,” said Mrs. Hoolley. “Talking about it, asking about it, knowing it’s our history and making ourselves aware.”

Erin said all of that means a lot to her family.

“My parents are going to call my cousin tonight,” she said. “And every time before we leave, we are very adamant to thank and praise God and we pray over him, not only for his safety but for him to continue doing what he loves to do.”

Mrs. Hoolley applauded the students for their hard work.

“I believe we are stewards of kindness here, and today, we lived that out in everything we did,” she said. “We expanded our school community out into

the larger community, and we hope they felt that love and kindness.”

Josie said she would keep the day’s experiences in her prayers that night.

“I thank God for veterans and for letting me go to this school and be a part of this program,” she said. “We all gave our all out there, and I thank God for letting me be a part of it.”

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Blessing of the Pets in Glasgow



Students of St. Mary School and the Little Saints Preschool in Glasgow celebrate St. Francis of Assisi's feastday Oct. 4 by bringing their pets or stuffed animals to school for a blessing. The preschoolers made bird feeders, and enjoyed eating animal crackers for a snack. — Photos from the St. Mary School Facebook page



Saints still striving

LEFT: Dressed as saints, students of St. Clement School in St. Clement visit the parish cemetery for All Saints Day.

— Photo by Father Henry Ussher, pastor

For all the saints!



Second-graders at St. Joseph School in Westphalia, dressed for All Saints Day, gather in the sanctuary of St. Joseph Church after Mass with Father Dylan Schrader.

— Photo from the St. Joseph School, Westphalia Facebook page

Fellowship divine

Students of St. Pius X School in Moberly take on the role of their patron saints for Mass on All Saints Day, Nov. 1, in St. Pius X Church.

— Photo from the St. Pius X School & Early Childhood Center Facebook page



Jesus tells the Apostles to watch for His return

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic News Service

One day, Jesus and the apostles were sitting on the Mount of Olives.

“What sign will there be of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” they asked.

“See that no one deceives you,” Jesus replied. “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many.”

Jesus said that some of the signs will be wars, famines and earthquakes.

“See that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end,” He said. “All these are the beginning of the labor pains.”

Jesus told His friends that they will then be hated, perse-



cuted and killed because of His Name.

He also said that many will be led into sin, and many false prophets will arise to deceive people.

“But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved,” Jesus said. “And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then

the end will come.”

However, Jesus said, the day and hour when all these things will happen is known only to God.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man,” Jesus said. “In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark.

“They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.”

Jesus then described two men in a field and two women grinding at the mill.

One of the men and one of the women will be taken, He said, and the other man and

the other woman will be left behind.

“Therefore, stay awake!” Jesus urged His friends. “For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”

“Be sure of this,” He continued, “if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into.

“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Read more about it... Matthew 24

1. What did the apostles want to know?
2. What did Jesus urge the apostles to do?

Bible Accent

In Matthew 24:45-51, we can read another parable about someone coming unexpectedly.

“Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time?” Jesus asked the apostles.

Jesus said the faithful servant is the one who gives out the food at the proper time when the master is not there.

“Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to

you, he will put him in charge of all his property,” Jesus said.

Then He described the actions of the unfaithful servant.

“But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is long delayed,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eat and drink with drunkards, the servant’s master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth,” Jesus said.

Trivia

Where did Jesus say those in Judea must flee?
(Hint: Matthew 24:16)

Answer: To the mountains.

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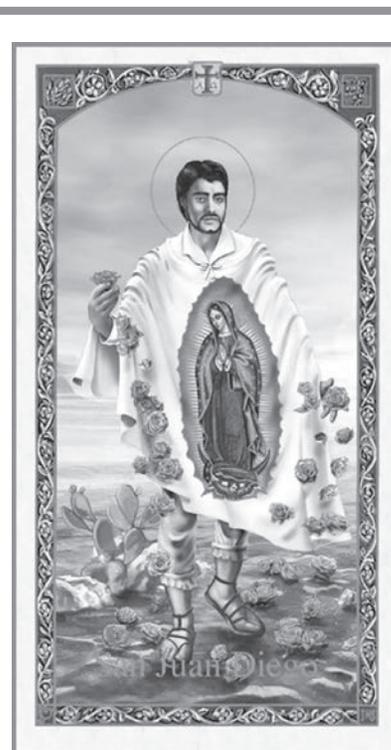
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Saint Spotlight

St. Juan Diego

St. Juan Diego was a native Mexican who was born near present-day Mexico City in 1474. He converted to Christianity and was baptized at the age of 50. On Dec. 9, 1531, he was walking to Mass when Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill. She asked him to petition the bishop for a shrine to be built there. The bishop asked for a sign, so Juan returned to the hill on Dec. 12,

1531. Mary told him to pick flowers blooming atop the hill and put them in his cloak to take to the bishop. When Juan opened the cloak, the flowers fell out and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorned his garment. Juan lived the remainder of his life as a hermit near the first chapel built on the hill. He died in 1548, and we remember him on Dec. 9.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences that can be found in Matthew 24.



1. A person in the field must not return to get his _____. (verse 18)
2. False messiahs and false _____ will arise. (verse 24)
3. And then the _____ of the Son of Man will appear in heaven. (verse 30)
4. And he will send out his _____ with a trumpet blast. (verse 31)



Answers: 1. clock; 2. prophets; 3. sign; 4. angels.

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Author, a former evangelical, 'reboots' message on movies for Catholic audience

The Message Behind the Movie — Reboot: Engaging Film Without Disengaging Faith, by Douglas M. Beaumont. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2022). 243 pp., \$17.95.

By Allan F. Wright
Catholic News Service

Douglas M. Beaumont is a former evangelical who joined the Catholic Church several years ago. A former professor in an evangelical Christian seminary, he has published a Catholic update and "reboot" of his 2009 book, *The Message Behind the Movie*.

In an age when Christians can access online websites that reveal the number of times profanity is used in a film, how many sexual scenes and sexual references there are and how many drug references, Beaumont provides a biblical framework in which a religious believer can evaluate a film, absorb the positive elements and use various aspects of the film in communicating the Gospel.

His ability to provide a balanced, well-thought-out view on the Scriptures and a positive point of view on a Christianity's ability to be "in the world" but not "of the world" is quite refreshing and encouraging.

The author loves movies and sees the value of the art form, the significance movies have in forming the values of our

culture and the practical opportunities they bring to find common ground with others in order to bring the truth of the Gospel and conversations on faith.

The author makes it clear that increasing our pleasure in movie watching is not the primary goal, but rather to learn how to evaluate a movie in light of Christian beliefs.

Analogous to great music or art that communicated an aspect of God's sovereignty or Christ's compassion for past generations, movies can do likewise.

This involves discerning the message of the movie revealed by its story, the structure and the assumed worldview of that story. Beaumont would argue that "only then can Christians evaluate whether the movie presents a strong Christian, non-Christian or anti-Christian worldview, which they can then respond to and use as a starting point for apologetics and evangelism."

By discussing the cinematic techniques and the genre considerations filmmakers use to communicate their ideas, this book helps Catholics and other Christians to become informed viewers. The book shows how to evaluate the stories that movies tell and how to discern what they say about reality, God and what it means to be human.

At the same time, he illustrates how movie watchers can engage in thoughtful, lively discussions not only about film but also about the big questions in life.

The book is organized in three basic "acts." Act One focuses on watching and understanding movies. Act Two discusses the evaluation process. Act Three explores what kinds of movies to watch and what kinds of movies to avoid. Ultimately, the author seeks to "show how we can all better interact with our culture by understanding the movies that shape and reveal it."

The author begins by setting forth the historical con-

text by which we knowingly or unknowingly evaluate entertainment. The two positions find their origins in Plato and Aristotle. Plato held that art is basically useless and may even be harmful.

Beaumont sides with Aristotle and writes approvingly: "An Aristotelian approach to movies needn't condone sinfulness; instead, it can recognize how central storytelling is to human experience and seek to accurately critique the messages that stories in films are communicating."

In Act Two, on evaluating and discussing movies, Beaumont encourages Christians to discern good and bad in mov-

ies. He prompts Christians to use movies as a starting point in sharing the Gospel message and to discern the philosophical angle that may "open doors to conversations which may clarify the faith." In Jesus' parables, the listeners are obliged to do the same.

In Act Three, on applauding and avoiding movies, the author not only has his eye on culture; he also rejects the sympathetic attitude that some Christians have toward postmodernity and positions himself in a school of thought that is focused on classical apologetics.

The book has excellent

See MOVIES, page 23

New book offers reasons, practical tips for fruitful confession

Fr. Héctor Pérez highlights advantages of frequent Confession and reparation

The sacraments are the principal channels of God's grace to His Mystical Body, the Church.

Among these is one that cleanses us of sin and restores us to friendship with God: Confession.

In *The Sacrament of Confession*, Father Héctor R.G. Pérez, a canon of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem guides readers through the process of making a good Confession and

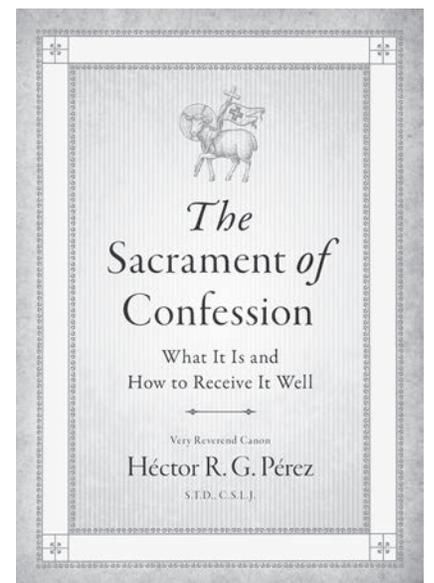
fruitful reparation for sins. He relates the numerous advantages that frequent Confession brings to one's soul and the steps to follow to obtain plenary indulgences.

In this useful, portable guide, Fr. Pérez writes: "In keeping away from Confession, a person foregoes a necessary means of salvation and healing. Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen would decry the millions of dollars spent by people on psychologists when a good, thorough confession would have been more efficacious. And free!"

Fr. Pérez lays out how to perform an effective examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments and the traditional teaching of the Church. He also highlights common pitfalls in the spiritual life and techniques for growing in holiness through aligning our will with God's will.

Moreover, Fr. Pérez explains what is meant by perfect contrition and the means by which it is attained, as well as how to make your Confession prudent, honest and brief.

Also featured in these pages are prayers to help you prepare for Confession, and to meditate upon after Confession.



The guide also includes lists of the precepts of the Church, the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, the beatitudes, and the theological and cardinal virtues.

"Due to original sin and concupiscence, we are born with a tendency to sin," Fr. Pérez commented. "Thankfully, God does not abandon us in this battle but provides us with the necessary means of salvation, healing, and peace."

Fr. Pérez emphasizes that our fidelity in receiving the Sacrament of Confession will fortify and refresh our souls, open our hearts to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and help repair our Church and our world.

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PALERMO

From page 5

Ten months later, he saw an ad online seeking a director for Catholic Charities Refugee Services.

"It sounded interesting but daunting," he recalled. "I didn't apply right away. But then I saw it again and thought, 'This is a sign.'"

After applying, he had a great conversation with CCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester, followed by two formal interviews with the agency's core leadership.

Mr. Palermo started work there Aug. 8.

"I've always been drawn to roles that involve serving as a leader and helping people," he said. "But coming to work for Catholic Charities — this comes from a deeper set of values. Being Catholic, this really rang a lot of bells for me. I'm very content despite it being an uphill climb."

The work is complex and requires acute attention to details.

"We're bound by the administrative guardrails from the (USCCB) and the federal government," he said. "The roles are laborious because of how we have to document things. When you're working with the federal government, if it's not on paper, it didn't happen."

He's pleased to be reconnecting with people he's worked with in the past, including local health departments and other community partners such as City of Refuge in Columbia, and other people involved in providing services to people in need.

He told his coworkers in Refugee Services: "I'll do all I can to help you do your job successfully and then maybe do mine someday."

He said the whole Catholic Charities staff has been "incredibly supportive," including people who have been involved

in refugee resettlement for years.

He tries to be present each time a new family arrives at the airport.

"The value I get from that seems to increase with each arrival," he said. "That's my reset point and a source of rejuvenation."

"Be kind"

Mr. Palermo noted that the people doing the work of Refugee Services carry a rich diversity of faith.

"We're Catholic Charities and we're a ministry of the Church, and we're driven by the principles of Catholic social teaching," he said. "But the collective passion here is rooted in any number of different manifestations of faith — even people who are questioning but are still driven by a collective compassion and desire to be empathetic and do what you can for fellow human beings."

"The universality of the higher cause of serving others is there, no matter what your faith is rooted in," he stated.

He's known on social media for sharing items that carry the #ChooseKind hashtag.

"Our relationships with each other — whether that's with a stranger or someone we know well, whether it's someone in-need or not, or someone we encounter through our faith or our ministry — they are ultimately what makes us better people," he said.

"People who draw us out of our personal spheres make us better," he said. "Bottom line: be kind!"

He and his wife have four daughters, all of whom inspire him to deeper concern and compassion.

Their oldest is planning her wedding; another graduated from the University of Missouri in May while recovering

from a catastrophic injury in March; another is in junior high and exhibits tremendous creativity.

Their 23-year-old has Down syndrome and special needs.

"For a human being to always be kind and loving and compassionate, regardless of the circumstances — that's who she is," said Mr. Palermo.

He said people can help by simply being friendly and welcoming to newcomers.

"You can decide every moment, whether you're sitting in traffic or waiting in line somewhere, to take the opportunity to be kind," he said.

People can also help by donating furniture, household items, clothing and money to the cause.

"There's a certain unfortunate sense to the fact that money makes the world go round," said Mr. Palermo, "but where we are, where we serve people, it gives us the most flexibility in the help we're able to give."

He asked for prayers for "continued love and patience as we work through challenges and continue to realize that no matter what lies before us, it is always surmountable in some context."

This December, Catholic Charities Refugee Services is again participating in CoMoGives, an end-of-the-year community fundraising campaign to support area non-profit organizations. You can support their work by visiting CoMoGives.org and searching for "Catholic Charities Refugee Services."

For additional assistance, the public is encouraged to sign up for online giving at cccnmo.diojefcity.org/give or mailing a check payable to Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri at PO Box 104626, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4626.

MOVIES

From page 22

insights into the production of a movie and ends with a commentary on the film, "The Truman Show." Parents should certainly have discretion over what is allowed in their households and the rating designation of a movie can be informative for age-appropriate viewing.

The reader will gain appreciation for the messages that are found within movies, which can be a starting point for dialogue with people of divergent faith backgrounds or no faith at all.

Wright is executive director of the New Jersey Family Policy Center in Trenton.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Nov 27

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is. 2:1-5
Ps. 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Rom. 13:11-14
Mt. 24:37-44

Monday, Nov 28

Is. 4:2-6
Ps. 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9
Mt. 8:5-11

Tuesday, Nov 29

Is. 11:1-10
Ps. 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Lk. 10:21-24

Wednesday, Nov 30

St. Andrew, Apostle
Rom. 10:9-18
Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 11
Mt. 4:18-22

Thursday, Dec 1

Is. 26:1-6
Ps. 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
Mt. 7:21, 24-27

Friday, Dec 2

Is. 29:17-24
Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14
Mt. 9:27-31

Saturday, Dec 3

St. Francis Xavier, priest
Is. 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps. 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Mt. 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for December:

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Sunday, Dec 4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is. 11:1-10
Ps. 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Rom. 15:4-9
Mt. 3:1-12

Monday, Dec 5

Is. 35:1-10
Ps. 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Lk. 5:17-26

Tuesday, Dec 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop
Is. 40:1-11
Ps. 96:1-2, 3, 10ac, 11-12, 13
Mt. 18:12-14

Wednesday, Dec 7

St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church
Is. 40:25-31
Ps. 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10
Mt. 11:28-30

Thursday, Dec 8

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Patronal Feastday of the US; Holyday of Obligation)
Gn. 3:9-15, 20
Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk. 1:26-38

Friday, Dec 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Is. 48:17-19
Ps. 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6
Mt. 11:16-19

Saturday, Dec 10

Our Lady of Loreto
Sir. 48:1-4, 9-11
Ps. 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19
Mt. 17:9a, 10-13

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Helping CCCNMO through iGiveCatholic and CoMoGives

By Jay Nies

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) hopes to benefit from the giving spirit and from two online options for putting it into practice.

•Contributions to CCCNMO's wide array of services can be made via iGiveCatholic through Nov. 29, which is known as Giving Tuesday.

•Gifts to Catholic Charities Refugee Services can be made

through CoMoGives through Dec. 31.

Links to both are being shared through the CCCNMO's Facebook and Instagram channels.

CoMoGives is a Columbia-based platform with links to over 150 nonprofit organizations in central Missouri.

Catholic Charities Refugee Services raised just over \$23,000 on CoMoGives last year, ranking it among the top 10 recipients.

This year's goal is \$25,000. "All funds we receive from CoMoGives will support our Refugee Services team, since they work out of our Columbia office," said Tori Stepanek, CCCNMO's senior director of development.

iGiveCatholic.org is a giving tool linked to Catholic organizations and ministries throughout the United States.

"This is our first year participating in iGiveCatholic," said Ms. Stepanek.

People using the site can click on a U.S. map to find participating organizations anywhere in the country.

CCCNMO hopes to raise \$25,000 through iGiveCatholic this year. Funds will be used to support the agency's programs and services.

"All of our programs are very much in need," said Ms. Stepanek.

Among them are CCCNMO's client-choice food pantry in Jefferson City that opened in March and now serves more than 400 people per week.

"We will likely see that number increase as cold weather sets in and we move toward the holiday season," said Ms. Stepanek.

The agency is also seeing in-

creased demand for health and nutrition programs, as well as counseling services.

People can tune-in to CCCNMO's social media outlets on Nov. 29 for updates.

"We'll be doing several live reports throughout Giving Tuesday from our food pantry and Refugee Services to highlight some of our amazing staff members and talk about their programs," said Ms. Stepanek.

"We're going to answer questions about how those funds are used, as well as how much the support means to people who are working those programs," she said.

facebook.com/cccnmo
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For Catholics, generosity and giving have a profound meaning. Next week we're uniting on **#iGiveCatholic** for **#GivingTuesday**. Simply scan this QR code to support our work in your community!




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of Central and Northern Missouri