

Graduating seniors reflect on past, future

Members of the Class of 2023 at Sacred Heart and Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic high schools share what's on their minds, hearts. Pages 6 and 7



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The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

June 23, 2023 • Vol. 66 No. 26

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Hispanos católicos, alentados a tomar su misión



Cientos se unen al obispo para la Misa en la catedral recientemente renovada
Se les insta a ser agentes de comunión, unidad, evangelización

This report is published in English at the bottom of this page

Por Jay Nies

“Una familia, una fe, una Iglesia.”

Las palabras del Obispo W. Shawn McKnight resonaron fuerte y claramente en la renovada Catedral de San José en Jefferson City.

“Bienvenidos a su Catedral, la iglesia madre de la diócesis, y que ha sido recientemente renovada”, exclamó en español dirigiéndose a cientos de católicos hispanos de toda la diócesis.

Esto se dio el 18 de junio, día en que las parroquias de estos 38 condados celebraron la fiesta del Corazón Inmaculado de la Bienaventurada Virgen María, patrona de la diócesis.

“Sepan que ésta es nuestra casa”, comentó el obispo a los fieles, algunos de los cuales habían viajado hasta tres horas.

Fue la primera Misa ofrecida en español en la Catedral después de su rededicación el 5 de mayo, luego de una extensa renovación de 16 meses.

“Somos una familia de una fe, de una Iglesia”, declaró el obispo.

“Nuestra familia está ricamente bendecida con personas de diversas culturas e idiomas de varios lugares del mundo entero”, afirmó. “En esta diversidad, encontramos apoyo espiritual”.

“Nos pertenecemos los unos a los otros como hermanos y hermanas en Cristo”, dijo.

Cientos de católicos Hispanos peregrinan de parroquias cercanas y lejanas para una Misa en español ofrecida por el obispo W. Shawn McKnight el 18 de junio en la recientemente renovada Catedral de St. Joseph en Jefferson City. Fue la primera Misa en español en la Catedral después su nueva dedicación el 5 de mayo.

— Foto por Jay Nies

Hispanic Catholics told to claim their mission, urged to be agents of unity, evangelization

Hundreds join bishop for Mass in newly renovated Cathedral

By Jay Nies

“Una familia, una fe, una Iglesia.”

“One family, one faith, one Church.”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight's words echoed loudly and clearly through the renewed Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

“Welcome to your Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese, which has recently been renovated,” he proclaimed in Spanish to hundreds of Hispanic Catholics from throughout the diocese.

It was June 18, the day on which parishes in these 38 counties observed the feastday of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, patroness of the diocese.

“Know that this is our shared home,” the bishop told the people, some of whom had traveled up to three hours.

It was the first Mass offered in Spanish in the Cathedral

since its May 5 rededication, following a comprehensive, 16-month renovation and renewal.

“We are one family of one faith, of one Church,” the bishop declared.

“Our family is richly blessed with people of various cultures and languages, from various lands throughout the entire world,” he stated. “In this diversity, we find spiritual support.”

“We belong to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ,” he said.

United in diversity

Buses and vehicles from all over the diocese began arriving around noon for the 1 p.m. Mass.

Many children attended.

Confessions were available in Spanish.

People prayed and sang aboard five buses from various

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MOVING? If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or complete the online form at diojeffcity.org/update-individual-contact-information. Allow two weeks.

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06/23/23

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



The Chancery office of the Diocese of Jefferson City seeks a Chief Financial Officer who can ensure consistency, transparency, and simplicity in the financial systems of the parishes, schools and Chancery. As a member of the Bishop's cabinet, the CFO provides clear and timely communications of financial and other information throughout the diocese, maintaining confidentiality where appropriate.

The CFO is responsible for providing, developing and maintaining financial accountability standards and ethics for all diocesan entities in order to promote respect and trust among parishioners. The CFO directs, manages and supervises the financial operations of the Chancery, in conjunction with the Bishop and the members of the Corporate Board, as well as manages the diocesan assets and advises management in financial operations.

The full job listing can be found at diojeffcity.org/cfo. To apply, email resume to Brent Morton, Vice President, Catholic Recruiter Associates, Brent@CatholicRecruiter.com.

Multiple position openings



Interparish School
EST. 1960

Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School in Columbia, Mo. is seeking several individuals to fill positions for the 2023-2024 school year. If interested in any of these positions, please email Elaine Hassemmer at ehassemmer@ol-lisk8.org.

Music/Band Instructor (Part-Time) — For middle school students. Applicants should have a background in music education. Active practicing Catholic preferred. Pay based on experience.

Food Prep Position — Assist in lunch preparation, serving and clean-up. Qualifications include love of children, ability to lift 50 lbs., and stand for extended periods. Active practicing Catholic preferred. Hours are 7:30am-1:30pm. Pay based on experience.

Cafeteria Supervisors — Three adults needed to supervise/assist students during lunch, sweep floors and wash tables between lunch shifts. Qualifications include love of children, ability to lift 50 lbs., and stand for extended periods. Active practicing Catholic preferred. Hours are 10:30am-1:30pm.

Speech Pathologist (Full-Time) — Assist students identified with speech and/or language disabilities/delays. Qualifications include advanced degree in Speech-Language Pathology or Communication Disorders; Mo. licensure in Speech-Language Pathology, eligible for a Speech-Language Pathology Student Services Certificate; effective human relations and communication skills. Active practicing Catholic preferred, and previous experience as a speech-language pathologist in a school is preferred. Pay based on experience.

Trip from Hermann to Perryville shrine

DATE: June 28
TIME: 7:30 am - 6 pm

Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland and the St. Anne's Ladies Sodality is organizing "A Blessed Day in Perryville" trip on Wednesday, June 28, including the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (amm.org), historical St. Mary's of the Barrens Church, and Missouri's National Veterans Memorial (mnmfund.org), all in Perryville.

The \$75 cost per person includes transportation and lunch.

The trip will include a guided tour of the shrine and church, along with access to the Rosary Walk, grotto, The Mound and Bishop Rosati's log cabin.

The bus will depart from Hermann at 7:30 a.m. and is scheduled to return at 6 p.m.

Since the building of the Shrine Chapel in 1929, the church of St. Mary's of the Barrens has served as the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. The church is also part of a former Catholic seminary.

St. Mary's has been the historical seat of the American Vincentians since its establishment in 1818.

Contact Tammy Bruckerhoff at 573-690-1965 for information.

The Catholic Missourian

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

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

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
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Pray for deceased priests

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

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

June 29 — Fr. Stephen S. Sandknop, St. Joseph, Canton (1976)

July 5 — Msgr. Ralph G. Kutz, St. Aloysius, Argyle (2000)

July 8 — Msgr. John H. Dreisoerner, Sacred Heart, Eldon (1999)

Coordinator of Liturgical Ministry

Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, Mo., has an opening for a part-time (20 hours) Coordinator of Liturgical Ministry. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic registered in a Catholic parish; proficient in playing keyboard and/or guitar; knowledgeable in Church music and liturgical rituals and ceremonies; organizational and management experience; and proficient in editing software and communication technology. Contact Sacred Heart Parish Office at 573-443-3470 or bhead@sacredheart-church.org for job description. Resumes may be emailed to bhead@sacredheart-church.org.

Coordinator, Stewardship/Planned Giving



The Chancery office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a Coordinator of Stewardship and Planned Giving. This person is responsible for assisting the Director of Stewardship and the Director of Development and Missions in implementing the Bishop's vision of spirituality of stewardship throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City, which covers 38 counties in central and northeastern Missouri.

Responsibilities include: preparing presentation materials and strategic briefings for deans and pastors; planning, coordinating and executing events and activities; providing administrative support for the departments; working closely with the directors as a team partner to recognize donors and convey the impact and importance of the spirituality of stewardship.

Practicing Catholic in good standing and bachelor's degree is preferred. Event planning and management is desired.

Qualified candidates can apply on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or send resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

Early Childhood Center Staff



Immaculate Heart of Mary Child Development Center in Jefferson City, Mo. is seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to join our team as Early Childhood Center Staff. A successful candidate is committed to providing a safe, Christ-like environment for the children, where they are loved, safe, and encouraged to learn. As part of our center, you will play a crucial role in providing a nurturing and educational environment for young children. Your primary responsibilities will include engaging in age-appropriate activities, ensuring the safety and well-being of children, promoting their social and cognitive development and maintaining a positive atmosphere within the center.

Qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent; early childhood education certification or relevant coursework preferred; previous experience working with young children in a childcare or educational setting desirable; practicing Catholic; First Aid and CPR certification (or willingness to obtain). This job description is a general outline of the duties and qualifications typically associated with the Early Childhood Center Staff role. Responsibilities may vary based on the specific needs and policies of the center. Ability and willingness to complete other training is necessary. Starting pay is \$15 per hour. For a detailed job description and to apply, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/29nznxdf>.

July 9-16 vigils in parishes — part of National Eucharistic Revival

Relics of St. Manuel González, Blessed Carlo Acutis to be reposed in eight churches

By Jay Nies

To receive the fullness of Christ and be transformed and configured into his likeness — as individuals and as the universal Church.

That is the purpose of Holy Communion, as saints throughout history have been testifying with their lives.

The relics of two men who proclaimed that reality in this life and now experience it fully in heaven will be brought to this diocese July 8-16 for veneration and intercessory prayer.

Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel González García will arrive the afternoon of July 8 and will be reposed in the following locations:

- July 9 — Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City;
- July 10 — St. Patrick Church in Rolla;
- July 11 — St. Peter Church in Marshall;
- July 12 — St. Patrick Church in Laurie;
- July 13 — St. Brendan Church in Mexico;
- July 14 — St. Joseph Church in Westphalia;
- July 15 — St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville; and
- July 16 — St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

“This is an opportunity for us to shine a spotlight on the Eucharist and walk in that light for a while,” said Father Daniel Merz, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish and chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

People from throughout

the diocese are encouraged to make pilgrimages to these churches on the appointed days and take part in the related prayer vigils.

Seminarians who are discerning a possible call to Priesthood will be present at each location.

The vigils are part of the National Eucharistic Revival the U.S. Catholic bishops initiated last year to reinvigorate belief in and devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament: the Eucharist.

St. Manuel González García (1877-1935) was a Spanish priest and bishop who came to be known as the Bishop of the Tabernacle. He preached and wrote ardently and compellingly on the Eucharist and founded religious communities devoted to cultivating Eucharistic spirituality.

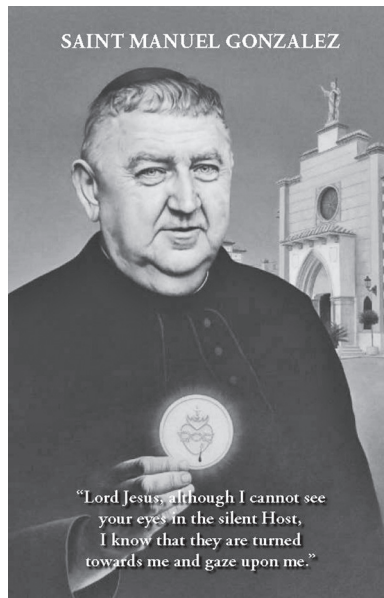
Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006), who died of leukemia at age 15, centered his life on the Eucharist in order to grow in his relationship with Jesus. He used his technological prowess to develop a website to highlight Eucharistic miracles.

Both are seen as models for the Eucharistic Revival.

Fellowship divine

Each hosting parish will coordinate activities related to the Eucharist in the context of St. Manuel’s and Blessed Carlo’s examples.

Some will offer Votive Masses honoring the saints, others may organize processions with the relics to various parts of their church buildings. Others might schedule Holy Hours or the praying of the Liturgy of



the Hours in the presence of the relics and the Most Blessed Sacrament.

“Another suggestion is that after people venerate the relics and learn about the saints and adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, they be given opportunities to go out to visit people who are sick or homebound, or help out at a soup kitchen or take part in some other Corporal Work of Mercy,” said Fr. Merz.

“That is the quintessence of Eucharistic Revival: worshipping the Body of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and building up the Mystical Body of Christ out in the community,” the priest stated.

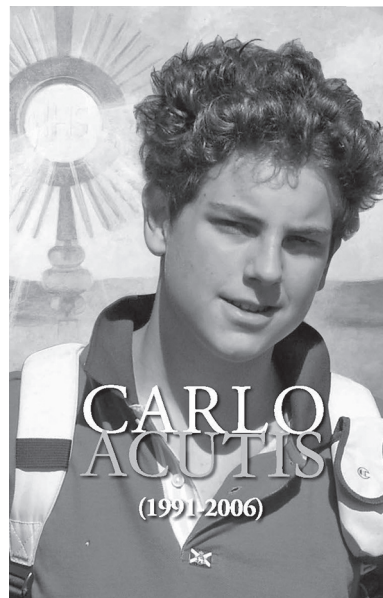
He suggested that parents bring their children to one or more of the vigils — possibly those that are closest to home, or maybe some farther away that have personal or historical significance.

He offered two reasons for praying and worshipping God in the presence of relics of saintly witnesses.

“One is our faith in the Resurrection, and the other is the Communion of Saints,” he said.

“In showing reverence for the remains of two people whom the Church has determined are in heaven with God, we’re honoring a physical part of them that will share in the Resurrection on the Last Day,” he stated.

Additionally, “in the Communion of Saints — which unites the Church in heaven, the Church undergoing purification in purgatory, and the Church here on earth — we’re connected to these people in a



powerful way through the Sacraments, through God’s grace.”

Fr. Merz said praying in the presence of relics helps unite our prayers with those being offered by the saints in heaven.

It’s similar to but more powerful than praying in the presence of an artistic depiction of a saint.

“This isn’t just an image of someone,” the priest stated. “It is a physical part of them that remains with us.”

The focus, therefore, is less on the relics themselves than what they represent.

“Namely,” said Fr. Merz, “they are a foreshadowing of the Resurrection we all hope to experience, and our communion with all the saints in God.”

Gonna’ rise again

Relics are holy objects that are associated with saints who now live in God’s presence.

Veneration of the earthly remains of saints is a spiritual practice dating back to biblical times and the early centuries of

the Church.

“It’s an ancient part of our Catholic faith,” said Fr. Merz.

“We’ve always honored the relics that remain with us of those who went before us and lived heroic virtue,” he stated. “And we’ve always honored the Communion of Saints and their influence on the Eucharist.”

Relics are tangible reminders that all people, including saints, first exist in flesh and blood in this physical realm before God summons them to the next life.

Catholics venerate relics in recognition of the fact that God has worked through a saint, and that an object associated with a saint is holy and can help lead people to God.

Reference to an early form of relics can be found in the New Testament, when a woman was healed by touching the hem of Jesus’ garment (Matthew 9:18-26) and when cloths touched by St. Paul were used to heal the sick and drive out demons (Acts 19:12).

A more developed use of relics began during the widespread persecution of the early Church, when the faithful would retrieve the bones of martyrs and place them under the altar for Mass.

To this day, Catholic churches place first-class relics underneath church altars, a practice inspired by Scripture in Rev. 6:9-11.

Presence in action

Fr. Merz pointed out that St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo not only promoted belief in and

See RELICS, page 23



Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

JUNE

Jun 23 Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee Meeting, 10 am, Virtual

Jun 24 Regional Encuentro Mass, Savior Pastoral Center, 11 am, Kansas City, Kansas.

Jun 26 Funeral Mass of Bishop McKnight’s Stepfather, Gary Schaffer, 10 am, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Wichita, Kansas

Appointments are not normally scheduled in the month of July.

Bishop McKnight’s June prayer intention for our Local Church

For our seminarians preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Orders; that they may grow closer to Christ the High Priest to be faithful teachers of doctrine, fervent priests of sacred worship, and servant-leaders of our community of faith.

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

Por nuestros seminaristas que se preparan para el Sacramento de las Órdenes Sagradas; para que puedan acercarse más a Cristo, el Sumo Sacerdote, para ser fieles maestros de la doctrina, fervientes sacerdotes del culto sagrado y siervos-líderes de nuestra comunidad de fe.



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

Catholic Media Association honors Mark Saucier for reflections

Mark Saucier has received national recognition for his perennial reflections in *The Catholic Missourian*.

The Catholic Media Association (CMA) awarded him second place in the “Best Regular Column — Scripture” category of the 2023 Catholic Press Awards.

The awards, which highlight work published by CMA members in 2022, were announced June 9, during this year’s CMA convention in Baltimore.

Commenting on the three reflections submitted for consideration on Mr. Saucier’s behalf, the CMA judges stated: “Exceptional retelling of scripture in a relatable human scope. Succinct summary effectively reveals the value and power of human endeavor when it aligns with scripture.”

The three submitted reflections were: “High and mighty,” published Feb. 18, 2022; “Open-ended” from April 1, 2022; and “What you did not do” from Sept. 3, 2022.

“Tucked away in an inconspicuous corner of each issue our paper is a psalmist, scholar, observer, purveyor of wisdom and compassionate friend, all rolled into one,” said Jay Nies, editor of *The Catholic Missourian*.

“We’re grateful for the CMA’s recognition of the hard work and insight Mark puts into every reflection he writes,” said Mr. Nies. “And we’re all the more

grateful to Mark for consistently figuring out new ways to challenge us, build us up and make us think. It just keeps getting better.”

Mr. Saucier, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, has been a fixture of *The Catholic Missourian’s* Viewpoint page for 23 years.

He served for many years as diocesan communication director and most recently as director of the Missions Office before retiring in 2020, after 43 years of employment with the Church.

He continues to write the reflections in retirement.

A pastor in northern Missouri asked him in the Jubilee Year 2000 to write a series of short spiritual reflections to be published during Lent in a local newspaper.

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

They quickly became a highly sought-out feature.

He has now written more than 800 reflections, none more than 400 words in length.

An archive of his work since 2018 can be found online at catholicmissourianonline.com/mark-saucier.

“Doing the columns has changed me,” Mr. Saucier stated in 2020. “It has made me much more intro-

spective. It’s made me pay closer attention to the significance of people and events in my life.

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

His topics range from Scripture to theology to literature to current events to everyday conversations and experiences.

Offerings that generate the strongest feedback focus on experiences such as the birth of a grandchild, the sickness of a parent, the death of a friend or the arrival of a new phase in life.

“Most people, as least those of a certain age, can relate to those kinds of experiences,” he said in 2020. “So, it’s not about me, it’s about people seeing these kinds of things in their own lives.”

Ana Rodriguez-Soto, chairwoman of the CMA Awards Committee, said the entries that receive honors each year reflect the wide variety of topics covered by CMA member publications.

“Catholic journalists focus on people — all God’s people — and how God’s presence in the world is made visible through them and with them and in the outstretched hands of those who call themselves Catholic and Christian,” she stated.

Papal nuncio mentions Catholic Charities as example of synodality in the service of evangelization

Orlando, Florida

OSV News

Pope Francis’s representative to this country came and saw the work of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, and he talked to the nation’s bishops about what he saw.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio, addressed the U.S. Catholic bishops at their spring assembly June 15, six weeks after coming to Jefferson City to rededicate the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

He encouraged the bishops to continue working toward Pope Francis’s vision of a synodal Church — one that habitually and deliberately listens to people at every level of society.

“Recently, when I visited a diocese for the rededication of the Cathedral, the first thing I was shown was the new Catholic Charities facility, which houses a food pantry, class-

rooms, basic health services, and immigration assistance,” the archbishop stated.

He noted that in his travels throughout the United States, he had recognized how valuable such charitable service organizations are to bishops and the people of their dioceses.

“The whole world, including the Holy See, knows the magnitude of the charitable work that is done by the Church in the United States,” he told the bishops.

“I’m sure every one of you could say something about the charitable services that your own dioceses are offering, and what great work they are doing,” he said.

He emphasized that such work doesn’t happen without sodality — “people who immerse themselves in the local reality, who enter the lives of those



Archbishop Christophe Pierre, right, apostolic nuncio to the United States, tours Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri’s (CCNMO’s) Client Choice Food Pantry in Jefferson City on May 4, with Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, CCCNMO interim executive director, and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. Six weeks later, Archbishop Pierre mentioned what he saw in an address to the U.S. Catholic bishops. — Photo by Jay Nies

on the peripheries, and who help them navigate to a better life.”

He spoke to the bishops about the Vatican’s vision for how embracing synodality — with Jesus Christ as their “true north” — can help them carry out the Church’s evangelizing mission with their people.

“The purpose of walking this synodal path is to make our evangelization more effective in the context of the precise challenges that we face today,” Archbishop Pierre said

in his June 15 address.

The archbishop referred to Pope Francis’ homily opening up the Synod of Bishops nearly two years ago, remarking that “synodality” is a way of being church following the example of Jesus Christ.

He listed three key ways: “encounter with the Lord and one another”; listening to people, particularly the religious and existential concerns behind their questions; and “discern(ing) with them” what

change is needed “to live a more abundant life.”

Synodality, he explained, “is a way of being Church that allows us to discern the path on which the Spirit of God is calling us.”

He assured the U.S. bishops that synodality “is not a new ‘program’; nor is it a disguise for a plan to change Church doctrine.”

He explained that “Jesus Christ and his kingdom are the ‘true north,’” but the Church can only find its proper path when bishops “immerse ourselves in the reality of our people and listen carefully to the questions and concerns of their hearts.”

“Like Christ himself, we must go on mission into the world with an openness to discovering what is actually there — not merely imposing what we already know,” he said.

The Church must “engage with people’s real experiences,” he said. That way, he added, “If they ‘come to church’ to encounter Christ, it will be because Christ has first come to them. Let us, therefore, be ambassadors for Christ.”

Peter Jesserer Smith, national news and features editor for OSV News, and Kate Scanlon, a national reporter for OSV News, contributed to this report.

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Some guidance in asking “Am I being called to the Diaconate?”

This the last in a series of articles on the Permanent Diaconate.

By Deacon John Schwartz

Is a calling and a vocation the same thing?

We tend to use the terms interchangeably. While they are similar in nature, there is a distinction between the two.

A calling is universal. The Father calls each of us to a greater life through his Son, Jesus Christ.

In the Baptism ritual, we hear that through our baptism we are to live out our calling “as a member of Christ — Priest, Prophet, and King — unto eternal life.”

A vocation is individual. It is how we each respond to God’s calling.

It is deeply personal. God speaks to each of us in our heart and shows us his will. He directs us to the life that he wants us to pursue in order to help build the kingdom of God on earth.

“Thy will be done”

We use the word “discernment” to describe the process of determining God’s will.

Unfortunately, there is not a menu to choose from or a list of options from which we can select. In addition, we are not likely to have a supernatural experience like St. Paul had on his trek to Damascus or like Moses had on Mount Sinai.

Yet, God does talk to us.

Through the Holy Spirit, he gives us cues, promptings and spiritual movements.

On the back cover of the most recent issue of *Columbia* magazine, Sister Mary Rafqa Boulos shares her own discernment process.

As a teenager, she attended a discussion about vocations. Afterward, she felt that perhaps God was calling her to religious life, but she quickly dismissed it.

God did not give up on her. As Sister Mary Rafqa said, “God gradually opened my heart as I grew in knowledge of him and his merciful love for me.

“When we are open to God’s will,” she continued, “he makes himself known to us in a very personal way. His invitation persisted, and through prayer and the sacraments ... I

came to realize his will and my vocation with much joy.”

The key for Sr. Mary and for everyone that seeks the vocation to which God is calling them is to open one’s heart, cultivate an avid prayer life and frequently turn to God’s sacramental grace ... especially the grace that comes to us from the Holy Eucharist.

Unique vocation

When we think of vocations, our thoughts are immediately drawn to those who choose the Priesthood and religious life.

One’s service to the Lord in building the kingdom of God can also be realized through married life and single life lived out in the laity.

The vocation to the Permanent Diaconate is somewhat unique in that it affords a married man to live out two distinct but complimentary vocations; that of husband and father and that of clergy.

The Permanent Diaconate also allows single men to configure their lives in the model of Jesus, the Servant.

In both cases, it allows a man a wonderful opportunity to consecrate the rest of his life to the Lord.

“Am I being called?”

Has God given me cues and promptings that this is something that he wants me to pursue?

Like Sr. Mary, have I opened my heart to God and prayerfully discussed it with him?

Many deacons find that they receive insight to God’s will from other people.

For many, the first thoughts of pursuing the Diaconate came when another person asked, “Have you thought about the Diaconate? You know ... you would make a good deacon.”

Abundant harvest

A vocation to the Diaconate becomes a beautiful means to consecrate one’s life to the Lord and to pursue the calling to follow him.

A vocation to the Diaconate allows a man to:

- be rewired and configured to Christ the Servant;
- live out his life in service and charity to others as a witness to Christ;

•assist the pastor in caring for the parish community;

•be a conduit for the laity to the pastor and vice versa; and

•be the face of Christ to those experiencing profound grief and struggles.

We recall the passage in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus said:

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

The Diaconate represents an incredible means to work in the vineyard of the Lord.

Have you wondered about the Diaconate and sensed that you have a calling to it?

If so, you are not alone. Currently, close to 14,000 men are active in diaconal ministry in the United States.

In the Diaconate formation program, the stages of discernment and aspirancy allow a person to devote significant time and effort into opening their hearts to God and listening to what his will is for them.

If God is calling a person to the Diaconate, a transition takes place. The opening question seems to be, “God, show me that you are calling me to the Diaconate.”

But as the feeling intensifies, the question transitions to, “God, show me that you are not calling me to the Diaconate.”

“Why me?”

Often, a person feels unworthy and shies away from truly discerning God’s call.

Frankly, we are all unworthy, but we soon realize that God “doesn’t call the qualified, he qualifies the called.”

This is evident in that the

Apostles were fishermen, tax-collectors, a zealot, and a tent-maker.

None of them were scholars of the law or gifted orators, but through them, Our Lord changed the course of history.

It is true that deacons are

again? Yes!”

Where to begin

If you have a feeling that God might be calling you into his service as a deacon, you should:

- discuss it with your wife, if married
- discuss it with your pastor, whose support you will need; and then,

•discuss it with deacons to gain more insight.

If you desire more information and understanding of the application and formation process, contact Deacon John Schwartz, Director of Diaconate Formation for the Jefferson City diocese, at jschwartz@diojeffcity.org.

God speaks to each of us in our heart and shows us his will. He directs us to the life that he wants us to pursue in order to help build the kingdom of God on earth.

tested in their ministries. God’s grace guides us as we walk with others on their journey.

In the process, deacons, like priests, experience the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. Yet, we are never alone in our efforts, as the grace of the Sacrament of Holy Orders sustains us.

Deacon Steve Javie of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia retired after a long career as an NBA referee.

He wanted in retirement to serve the Lord in a profound way. He found that vocation in the Diaconate.

Of his experience as a deacon, he said:

“Is it tiring? Yes.”

“Is it stressful? Yes.”

“Would I do it all over

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Charles Prather • Rick Prather
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Sacred Heart graduates told to “set the world on fire” for God

By Jay Nies

Abby Tippie clearly recalls her first day of kindergarten at Sacred Heart School in Sedalia.

“I remember walking into Mrs. Dove’s classroom and seeing all these new little faces — several I can look over and still see today,” Abby, Sacred Heart High School’s 2023 valedictorian, told her 21 graduating classmates.

“I’m deeply grateful for our time together and am proud of each and every one of you,” she stated at their high school graduation ceremony on May 21.

“I wish you all well in the same way that I would wish my own siblings,” she said. “And just like a family does, I believe all that you will accomplish great things.”

Mark Register Ed.D., retiring president of Sacred Heart School, noted that the class’s cumulative grade point average is 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Twelve of the 22 carried a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.

“Clearly,” said Dr. Register, “there is an environment present that makes success a priority and drives learning.”

The Class of 2023 selected Debbie Bolin, who retired last year after 27 years as the school’s campus minister, to give the commencement address.

She pointed to Bible passages that reveal God to be a generous but watchful investor.

“If we have been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge and time, it is expected that we use these well to glorify God and to benefit others,” she stated.

She said this year’s seniors did that in many ways during their time at Sacred Heart.

“You are a true gift to our community and are leaving this school a better place,” she said.

She addressed each senior by name, along with an affirming story or observation.

“Graduates, always remember that God and all of the people here today and the people who could not be here are your base, are your support, and we are here for you!” she said.

“Change the world”

Two nights before commencement, the graduating

seniors processed into Sacred Heart Chapel for their Baccalaureate Mass.

“Brothers and sisters, it is good that we are here!” said Father Joseph Corel, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County.

He invited the seniors, seated at the front of the lofty gothic edifice, to stop and reflect on their years in the Sacred Heart family.

“Thank you, God, for these memories and creating us to enjoy them and having the talents to be able to achieve such great moments!” he said.

He asked the seniors also to consider the moments when they carried part of Jesus’s cross with them.

“These are just-as-important opportunities to grow in faith, hope, trust and see what we are made of when God made us,” he noted.

Looking ahead, he urged them to remember that they are graduating from school, not from their faith or from growing in their relationship with God and following his plan.

“Rely on the Lord and not just on your own abilities,” the priest instructed. “Trust God and he will give you all you need to accomplish his will.”

He reminded the seniors that God has a mission for each person, which will bring happiness, joy, peace and fulfillment.

He urged them to pray every day for help in deciding how to spend the rest of their lives.

“Then, do your part of following the mission God has in mind for you and change the world,” he said. “Set the world on fire for him!”

What friends are for

Sacred Heart is the only Catholic school in the diocese that includes kindergarten through high school.

Graduating seniors Caitlin Carrico, Tanner Damlo, Laura Granados and Michael Marquez reflected after Mass on their time at the school.

Caitlin and Michael started there in kindergarten, Tanner started in first grade, and Laura arrived in time for third grade.

Their years at Sacred Heart have yielded valuable lessons.

“I learned that I can always



Members of Sacred Heart High School’s Class of 2023 attend their Baccalaureate Mass in the Sacred Heart Chapel on May 19.

— Photo by Jay Nies

count on my friends, no matter what,” said Caitlin. “Knowing I have that kind of support system has taught me so much about how to become a bigger person outside of school.”

Tanner, who played varsity baseball and basketball, learned the importance of prayer by praying at the start of every class, every practice and every game.

“Learning about our faith in class and taking that out onto the field or on the court, that’s important to me,” he said.

Tanner said he’ll miss the tight community he experienced at school.

“You know everybody when you walk the halls,” he said. “You know every face.”

Kaitlin said she’ll miss the teachers.

“They’re very kind and always willing to work with you and help you, no matter what,” she said.

Laura said she’ll miss how welcoming the school is to everyone.

“You come here for the first

day and you already feel like you’ve been here for years,” she said. “I really like that.”

Michael will miss the friendships he’s spent the past 12 years building.

Caitlin said she plans on maintaining those friendships.

“None of us are going too far away, and I think we’re all still going to hang out every summer and stay in touch and meet up once in a while,” she said.

And when they do, “we’re going to be able to talk like we’ve been together every day, like we have been for all these years,” she said.

Tanner said he plans on taking his relationship with God with him “out into the real world.”

“Because over the past 12 years, we’ve been able to learn about our religion openly,” he said. “We haven’t had to hide it, which has been a really good opportunity for us.

“We got a good start with our faith, and we can take that and continue to grow with it,”

he stated.

Laura said she and her classmates taught each other how to be present to each other, through good and bad times.

Michael believes those close friendships will be helpful “when we’re all out there trying to find ourselves and find our own way.”

“We can take the lessons we’ve learned from those significant relationships, like what they meant to us, and put them toward our new relationships that we’re going to form when we’re adults,” he said.

“No matter what”

Tanner plans to study engineering this fall at the University of Central Missouri (UCM) in Warrensburg.

Laura plans to study nursing at the University of Missouri (MU) in Columbia.

Caitlin plans to study speech pathology at UCM.

Michael plans to study nursing at MU.

All four said they plan to remain Catholic.

“This school has helped me build on faith,” said Caitlin, “and being here since kindergarten has taught me a lot and has helped me realize that the Catholic faith is leading me in the right direction.”

“I really like how they’ve taught us that God will always be there for us, no matter what, and no matter what we do,” said Lauren.

She appreciates how her teachers took tough questions about the faith seriously and went out of their way to answer them.

“We can have free discussions of different religions and points of view, and tie it all up. God is always with us and wants what’s best for us,” she said.

Caitlin asked for prayers for her wellbeing and that of her classmates, and for them to have the motivation to follow through when things are difficult.

“Leaving our parents and all of that — it’s going to be hard,” she said.

Laura asked for prayers for the graduating seniors to make good friends, feel safe and welcome and learn whatever they need to learn in college.

See SACRED HEART, page 14

“You are loved” –

Tolton Catholic Class of 2023 told to go “teach the Good News”

By Jay Nies

“I could not have asked for a better group of people to go through high school with.”

Alexis Hammes spoke from the commencement platform to her fellow graduating seniors of Father Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia.

“Our new journeys will be a big change from the tight-knit community we are used to here at Tolton,” she stated, “but I do not doubt that we will all adapt accordingly.”

Joining Alexis on the platform for the school’s May 14 Commencement Exercises were: Monsignor Robert Kurwicki, vicar general for the diocese; Erin Vader Ed.D., diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools; Daniel Everett Ed.D., president and principal; Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and president of the Tolton Catholic Board of Directors; and Father Michael Coleman and Father Ignatius Nimwesiga, chaplains.

Graduating senior Andrew Fallis led the assembly in a prayer of gratitude for the school, the faculty and staff, the graduating seniors’ families, their friends, the hardships they’ve weathered together, the jokes and happy memories they share, and God’s love, “which has been made evident through the relationships we will carry with us beyond these walls.”

Msr. Kurwicki encouraged the graduating seniors to remain grateful to God, to keep setting and meeting new goals while helping others to do likewise, and to give relentless witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all circumstances.

“Go out and teach the whole world the Good News!” he told them.

“Amazing things”

Alexis recalled how the Class of 2023 became more tightly bonded after returning to in-class instruction after the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We tend to thrive in the face of adversity,” she observed.



Father Tolton Regional Catholic High School’s Class of 2023 gathers for a photo with Father Michael Coleman and Father Ignatius Nimwesiga, school chaplains, May 12 after their Baccalaureate Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia.

— Photo by Annie Williams

She lauded their teachers and coaches for giving them challenging instruction and taking a personal interest in helping them succeed.

She said the past four years have shown “that my class is capable of anything we set our minds to, and we can tackle any challenge that comes our way.”

Graduating senior Molly Gibson urged her fellow graduating seniors to take risks, embrace and learn from failure, and always remember the people who helped them become who they are.

“Be willing to try new things, even if they scare you,” she told them. “You never know where they might take you.”

She thanked all the families and faculty members, and encouraged her classmates to treasure the memories they had made together.

“I am so proud of each and every one of us,” she said. “I cannot wait to see the amazing things I’m sure each of us will accomplish.”

“Never forget”

Among the awards presented to the graduating seniors were:

- the St. Paul Service Award to Ashley Wilkerson, who completed the most hours of community service during her four years at Tolton Catholic;

- the Fr. Coleman Award to Luke McBee and Ava Lawless, for exemplifying the spirit of

the school;

- the Bishop Gaydos Award to Molly Gibson; and

- the school’s highest honor, the Fr. Tolton Award, to Ashley Wilkerson.

Both the Bishop Gaydos and the Fr. Tolton awards are for exemplifying the school’s mission.

Dr. Everett reminded the graduating seniors of how proud the faculty and administrator are of them.

“We know you will accomplish wonderful things in the years ahead, and we truly hope you’ll stay in touch with your extended Trailblazer family,” he told them. “And, never forget, You Are Loved.”

Fr. Coleman, the school’s longest-serving chaplain, closed the ceremony with an Irish blessing and lively exchange of “God is good ... all the time!”

“Sense of family”

Graduating seniors Katelyn Ankemman, Andy Brouder, Jacob Hoernschemeyer and Macie Parmer took time to share some recollections of their previous four years, a few days before graduation.

Katlyn said her time at Tolton Catholic has been filled with great experiences and the best friends she’s ever had.

Andy said the most unexpected thing about his time at Tolton Catholic was the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought life to a halt during the spring of his freshman

year.

“A lot of the very simple things we enjoy in high school, like going to football games or having school assemblies, the absence of those things is a lot more noticeable than their presence. So don’t take them for granted,” he said.

Macie said she learned a lot about herself and what her relationship with God means.

“Because you come in the building and you know all the people, and when you step out, it’s who you are, it defines the impact you make on the world,” she said. “And if you have God with you, you can do so much more.”

“That’s something I learned here,” she said, “that with God, all things are possible.”

Jacob said the two things he’s cherished most during his time at Tolton Catholic are faith and community.

“Going to Mass with my family used to be just about all the time I’d spend in prayer with God,” he said. “Now, I actually incorporate it into my everyday life. Prayer, reading the Bible whenever I can and bringing verses to share with other people.”

Macie said she cherishes having gone to school in “a place you don’t have to be ashamed of your faith.”

Andy said he quickly got comfortable with “the unmistakable sense of family that this place has.”

“It’s just close, really comfortable and a really loving and

supporting environment to go through high school in,” he said.

Macie said she’ll miss her friends, many of whom she started in kindergarten with at Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School.

“Change is obviously hard, and I’m glad I went to Tolton because it helps ease the change, because God is with you and you’re reassured of that,” she said.

Kaitlyn will miss the community she’s been a part of for the past four years — and the years before that.

“Seeing the same people has been very comfortable and has allowed me to grow as a person, to kind of come out of my shell,” she said.

Andy will miss the teachers who have become like members of his family.

“You can tell that the teachers care very much about their students,” he said. “It gets to where I really want to go to this person’s class, I really enjoy going to this person’s class because the class is interesting but also because the teacher is so great and so interesting, too,” he said.

Jacob said he’ll miss friends, faculty, and especially seeing his younger sister every day at school.

“I just pass her in the hallways and give her a smile and that means a lot,” he said.

Important choices

Macie found a deeper relationship with God in her time at Tolton Catholic, and she plans on taking that with her into the next phase of her life.

“Having that relationship wasn’t pushed on us but was highly encouraged,” she stated. “Now, we’re adults and we have to choose that relationship with God, rather than have someone help us.”

It will be work, but she’s convinced it will be worth it.

“Just being able to stand with God and be on that rock and say, ‘I’m not budging; my morals and my principles are not budging,’ is something I learned here,” she said.

Jacob plans to go to Saint

QUESTION CORNER

Can an 'ecumenical Catholic service' satisfy our Sunday obligation?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: If a Catholic attends a Catholic Ecumenical Church on Sunday, can that be considered a fulfillment of one's Mass obligation for Sunday? (Location withheld)



A: I'm not familiar with what a "Catholic Ecumenical Church" is. But the short answer to your question is that anything other than a normal Catholic Mass would not fulfill one's Sunday obligation.

The Code of Canon Law refers to the Sunday obligation in canon 1247, which states: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass." Canon 1248, 1 then goes on to give specifics with regard to what "counts" as Mass attendance: "A person who assists at a Mass celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the feast day itself or in the evening of the preceding day satisfies the obligation of participating in the Mass." (Note that in this context, to "assist" at Mass simply means to attend Mass with prayerful devotion, i.e., to pray actively those parts of the Mass which are proper to the lay faithful. It doesn't necessarily mean "helping" with the Mass by taking on a role such as a lector or altar server.)

"Anywhere in a Catholic rite" means that any Catholic can satisfy their Sunday obligation by attending Mass in any Catholic church anywhere in the world, whether that be the Latin (a.k.a. "Roman") Catholic Mass most familiar to us in North America or the eucharistic liturgy of one of the many Eastern Catholic churches.

Canon 1248, 2 tells us that "If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church or other sacred place [...] or that they devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family, or, as the occasion permits, in groups of families."

However, you cannot fulfill your Sunday obligation by participating in a Catholic "word and communion" service, by spending time in family or personal prayer, or even by watching a livestream or televised Mass, if it would have been realistically possible for you to physically attend Mass in person that day.

If it truly is impossible to get to Mass — whether due to illness, inclement weather, or some other truly serious reason — the Sunday obligation would not be binding in that instance, so the recommendations for other types of Sunday prayer in these scenarios is basically the Church's law reminding us that when we legitimately can't get to Mass, we still ought to observe Sundays as a special day of prayer in some manner.

Q: When I was in RCIA, the instructor said of confession: "Unless it's something unusual, weekly Eucharist reception is sufficient for forgiveness. There's no need to bother the priest with your daily, petty, minor sins." Could you comment? (Brandenburg, Kentucky)

A: Catholics are required to go to confession at least once a year during the Easter season if they have serious sins to confess. But of course, in the spiritual life we're never encouraged to just stick to the bare minimum. Regular and frequent confessions have always been encouraged, although the ideal frequency will depend on the individual and their specific needs. For some of us, weekly confessions could be very appropriate.

The Church acknowledges what is traditionally termed a "devotional confession," where a person confesses relatively minor,

See QUESTION, page 19

Flag Day parade in Palmyra



Members of St. Joseph Parish in Palmyra take part in the Palmyra Flag Day Parade on June 10.

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

Correction

An article about Helias Catholic High School's 2023 graduation included an incomplete list of names for graduating seniors receiving recognition for hours of community service.

Five graduates received the John Baptist De La Salle Service Award for contributing 500 or more hours of service over their high school years: Danielle Buker, Joseph Oliveras, Kaitlyn Palmer, Kambria Quinn and Landrey VanOvershelde.

Eleven received the Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger Award for contributing 100 or more service hours in 2022-23: Danielle Buker, Antoniah Douglas, Lauren Gassen, Bridget Hollingsworth, Emma Komoroski, Joseph Oliveras, Kaitlyn Palmer, Kambria Quinn, Isaac Rackers, Landrey VanOvershelde and Alyssa Wobbe.

We apologize for the oversight.

Fr. Tolton presentation in Lake Ozark

DATE: July 7
TIME: 7 pm
DATE: July 8
TIME: 10 am

Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark will host a reflection on Venerable Father Augustus Tolton on Friday, July 7, and Saturday, July 8.

The presentation will be at 7 p.m. on Friday evening and will be repeated at 10 a.m. on Saturday in Our Lady of the Lake Church, 2411 Bagnell Dam Blvd. in Lake Ozark.

All are welcome to attend.

Born before the Civil War into a family of enslaved people in part of what is now the Jefferson City diocese, Fr. Tolton overcame grave difficulties toward becoming the first recognizably Black Roman Catholic priest in the United States.

He is under formal consideration for being declared a saint.

Presenters in Lake Ozark will include Cheryl Shockley

and Forrest Tucker, both from Indiana.

Mrs. Shockley is a wife, mother and grandmother who converted to Catholicism in 1992 and became a secular Carmelite in 1994.

Following the loss of her youngest son to gun violence in August 2020, she and her husband founded the Jack Shockley Warriors for Peace, whose mission is to bring peaceful change to the world, one life at a time.

Mr. Tucker is a Secular Discalced Carmelite. He and his wife, Dawn, live in Danville, Indiana, and are member of Mary Queen of Peace Parish there.

A sculptor who works with various elements, mostly bronze, he created a sculpture of Fr. Tolton ministering.

Mr. Tucker is also a retired welder/fabricator for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and is a violinist in the Adult String Ensemble at Butler University in Indianapolis.

2nd Tuesday Masses in Starkenburg

The Historic Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows have its Second Tuesday Mass on July 11.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation begins at 11 a.m., with the Rosary at 11:40 a.m. in the stone chapel. Mass is at noon.

Lunch will be served in nearby Valentine Hall by the St. Anne's Ladies Sodality. Lunch is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Tickets may be purchased before Mass in Valentine Hall. Groups

of eight or more are encouraged to contact the parish office at 573-236-4390 or risensav@ktis.net for reservations by the preceding Sunday.

Future Second Tuesday Masses will be offered on Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and Nov. 14.

The shrine is located at 197 Highway P, Rhineland, 65069.

For information, visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org.

‘Find the heart of the work’: wisdom from Tomie dePaola

By Christina Capecchi



The U.S. Postal Service just released a stamp that bursts with nostalgia: an homage to the beloved author and illustrator Tomie dePaola. It depicts his best-known character, Strega Nona, who earned him a Caldecott Medal in 1976, clutching her pasta pot and smiling at her peacock.

The stamp inspired me to sift through my Tomie dePaola collection — his saint books, his condensed histories, his quirky stories and spooky tales. So much of Tomie’s Catholic upbringing appears in his richly colored folk art — the nuns and friars, the churches and baptisms — and the depiction of family life often mirrors his own Irish-Italian rituals.

Tomie treated young readers with intelligence, addressing their natural questions about life and death with books like *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs* and the hauntingly beautiful *The Clown of God*.

Painting in his New Hampshire studio

in a 200-year-old barn, Tomie worked out his own aging. Books like *Now One Foot, Now the Other* and *Quiet* celebrate a gentler, slower pace. The very titles of some later books capture his philosophy of life: *Angels, Angels Everywhere, Let the Whole Earth Sing Praise* and *Look and Be Grateful*.

Tomie was once asked to offer guidance for creators of children’s books. Advice for artists often doubles as advice for living. His response did not disappoint.

“If I look at my early things, it’s not there yet,” Tomie said. “I’m too full of myself, too full of showing off, showing how well I could crosshatch, for instance. I think that’s the progression of a young artist. You show off and then you — or I — suddenly find the heart of the work. I suddenly began to be faithful to the heart: the humor, the pathos, whatever is there.”

In the age of Instagram, not showing off can feel counter-cultural. We view other people’s lives as highlight reels filmed at golden hour and put to acoustic music. We are tempted to play along.

All ages are guilty. We show off on playgrounds and in boardrooms. We brag, we fake it, we one-up each other.

Overcoming the desire to show off is

a turning point in the spiritual life. It is the beginning. It’s a launching pad for all worthy endeavors — be it the development of a craft or a relationship. It enables us to say important things.

“I don’t know.” “I don’t like that.” “I’m scared.” “I need help.” “I was wrong.”

We can confess fear and remorse, and we can express delight and affection.

“I’m excited!” “I’m amazed!” “Wow!” “I love you!” “I want to be with you.” (My favorite kindergartener says this to me, and it feels like the ultimate compliment.)

There is freedom in reaching this point and also responsibility. We are free to simply embrace what is, rather than force what we want it to be.

But this doesn’t come easy. We must pay attention long enough and open our hearts wide enough to recognize the heart of the matter. And then, as Tomie

instructs, we must be faithful to it.

What is the heart of your work? What is the crux of your vocation when you step back and consider the big picture?

It’s not the to-do list, the meeting agenda, the meal plan. It’s not our commitments — that stuffy space between calendar and clock.

It’s none of the day-to-day shuffle.

It’s how we make people feel.

It’s how we spend our precious time, how often we laugh and pray and play, whether we notice the sunset and the birdsong and utter “how great Thou art.”

It’s not what we do but why we do it and who we are — our identity rooted in Christ, his beloved sons and daughters.

Find the heart and cling to it. Everything else will fall into place.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Becoming the mystery through the Eucharist

By Scott P. Richert
OSV News



Reading *My Son Carlo: Carlo Acutis Through the Eyes of His Mother* (recently released in English translation by OSV), I came across a passage from Carlo’s own writings:

“Like creation, the Passion continues. That is, until the end of the world, of this world.”

Sometimes, an insight of a saint is so obviously true that it may seem trite. Yet such obvious truths can also often be fodder for deep meditation. The Passion continues at every Eucharist, from the Last Supper, which prefigured Christ’s sacrifice on the cross the next day, down through every Mass and Divine Liturgy celebrated today, tomorrow and until the end of time. That much, any well-catechized Catholic knows.

United to the act of redemption

Yet so much is contained in that introductory phrase, “Like creation ...” It’s not just that many of us Catholics have had our intellects and imaginations so shaped by a reductionist scientific worldview that we have forgotten that God’s act of creation continues “until the end of the world, of this world.”

God is not the divine clockmaker of Enlightenment deism, who set everything in motion and never quit resting after the seventh day. His creative activity continues — a reality that we recognize when we speak of ourselves as “co-creators” with God (for instance, in sexual or artistic conception) but otherwise too often banish from our thoughts. Carlo reminds us of that reality, and that is important enough.

But there’s more. “Like creation, the Passion continues.” Christ’s sacrifice on the cross pays the debt of Adam’s sin and makes it possible for those of us who are baptized into Christ to live, once again, a life of grace. In that way, the Passion is a re-creation of a fallen world, as much a continuous creative action as creation itself. And because the effects of original sin, of that fall of our first parents, continue to distort creation, Christ’s act of re-creation must continue “until the end of the world, of this world.” After Adam’s sin, God did not abandon us but sent his only-begotten Son to restore us to life. And just as we continue to sin because Adam once did, Christ continues to save those who unite themselves to him in baptism and in his sacrifice on the cross, made present always and everywhere that the Eucharist is celebrated.

This is the heart of the sacred mysteries

REFLECTION

Rightfully ours

By Mark Saucier

The disciples, desperate for something more tangible than homespun allegories, asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

I wonder what their reaction was when he gave them the “Our Father.”

Were they relieved just to have a go-to text for prayer in groups?

Or did they notice the challenge of his words? You know, things like being judged on the scale of our own forgiveness, or allowing God’s will to trump our own.

When you think about it, the subversion begins with the very first words. Ironically, a modern parable may explain.

A man answered his doorbell and found a stranger standing there decked out with a scruffy beard, clothes that hadn’t seen the laundry in weeks, and a garbage bag hung over his shoulder.

At first surprised, the homeowner quickly regained his composure and asked, “Can I help you?”

“I hope so,” the man confessed. “I haven’t eaten today, and I was wondering if you might spare me some food.”

It didn’t take long for the man inside the door to check the needle on his moral compass.

“Just take a seat here on the porch while I go see what I can find,” he told his mendicant guest.

The homeowner went to his kitchen and rummaged through the refrigerator. There was some chicken he grilled a few days ago, a dish of rice that was still good, some baby carrots and an apple he found at the back of the drawer.

Returning to the porch, he gave his visitor the bag of food. The man responded with obvious gratitude and relief.

As he turned to leave, his host stopped him. “Before you go,” he said, “I’d like to pray with you.”

“Okay,” the man said hesitantly, “but I don’t know any prayers.”

“No problem,” his host replied, “Just repeat after me, ‘Our Father ...’”

“Your Father,” the man said.

“No. Say ‘Our Father.’”

“Your Father.”

“You don’t understand, it’s ‘Our Father,’ my Father and yours.”

“But if he were truly Our Father,” the homeless man pointed out, “then we would be brothers.”

“If I was truly your brother, you would invite me into your house. If we were brothers, you would have set the table and eaten with me, maybe even something besides leftovers. I am thankful for your kindness, but that alone doesn’t make us brothers.”

So, when we say, “Our Father,” who’s in our “Our” — and who’s not?

When we answer that question, we will have started to pray.

See RICHERT, page 19

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Breaking Ground: Resettled family looks forward to new home in Fulton



By Ashley Wiskirchen

To the applause of Fulton community leaders, neighbors, and Catholic Charities staff the Safi family — newcomers resettled in mid-Missouri last spring — broke ground on their nine-bedroom home to be built by River City Habitat for Humanity on March 30, 2020.

While the Jefferson City Habitat for Humanity affiliate is typically only allowed to pursue projects within Cole County, local community member and leader, Bob Hansen, told the council about the Safi family's journey to the U.S. and their need for affordable and safe housing for their large family.

Then, as the Habitat for Humanity's Executive Director Susan Cook-Williams put it, "If you know Bob, it's hard to say 'no' to Bob!"

Earlier that month Mr. Hansen received the highest

shoes for their children, to enrolling in local schools and accessing health care — the needs of newcomers are many, and the co-sponsors rise to the occasion.

Now, nearly 18 months after resettlement, many co-sponsors speak of the transition from "client" to "friend."

And as these life-long friendships blossom, the generational work of love each new individual and family bears fruit.

As children well throughout the crowd laughing and speaking in Pashto and English, Sheen Gul Safi expressed his



LEFT: Catholic Charities Refugee Services Case Manager, Sardar Sherzad (Left), stands with and interprets for Sheen Gul Safi (right), who addressed the crowd gathered with remarks of gratitude at the groundbreaking of the Safi family's home. **BOTTOM:** Ground is broken on the Safi home.

the speaking portion of the ceremony with a few final words.

"All right, we're very excited about this project — and I think it's going to be great," Ms. Cook-Williams said, "We're very excited to be in Fulton and having everybody here jump in and help us as well. But we couldn't be more excited about the house, but rather the home that it's going to be for the Safi family."

Catholic Charities Refugee Services has been welcoming newcomers and providing resettlement services in the

Diocese of Jefferson City since 1974.

In 2021 and 2022, Catholic Charities answered the call to welcome 289 Afghan evacuees in a historic effort to participate in Operation Allies Welcome, the national program that extended resettlement services to Afghan citizens who allied with and worked alongside the U.S. Government.

Community Co-Sponsors and Community partnerships, like those mentioned here with the Fulton Rotary Club and River City Habitat for Humanity have been instrumental in Catholic Charities' ability to welcome newcomers and

accompany them along the path of resettlement.

The Fulton Rotary Club's service with Catholic Charities as a Community Co-Sponsor has been recognized locally and nationally.

We invite you to learn more about our Refugee Services program, the scriptural call to 'Welcome the Stranger,' and opportunities in Community Co-Sponsorship online at ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/refugee-services.



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Rotary International honor, the Service Above Self Award from Rotary International's Board of Directors. Among key leadership roles within the Fulton Rotary Club, Central Missouri Community Action Fulton State Hospital, and others, Mr. Hansen has also served as a community co-sponsor alongside Catholic Charities since January of 2022.

Community Co-Sponsors are matched with newly arriving families welcomed by Catholic Charities refugee services to journey alongside them as they navigate rebuilding their lives in new communities.

Co-sponsors accompany newcomers throughout each facet of resettlement, including community orientation, education, healthcare, transportation, job readiness, cultural orientation, and more.

From learning new languages, to shopping for new

breaking ceremony with the help of his Catholic Charities refugee case manager and friend, Sardar Sherzad.

"I am so very, very thankful for the opportunity and the celebration of this project Mr. Safi said, we look forward to our future in this community."

While finding sustainable housing is a challenge faced by many local resettlement agencies across the U.S., finding housing for families with several children adds another layer of complexity.

The Habitat for Humanity home plan for the Safi family includes nine bedrooms,

which is a welcome relief to this family of 13.

Lacy Stroessner, Director of Catholic Charities refugee services also addressed the crowd remarking, "We are so, so excited for this family and we're so grateful for the community partnerships that made this happen. It's really a dream come true."

Just minutes before Mr. Safi, alongside outgoing Fulton Mayor, Lowe Cannell, and leadership with Habitat for Humanity broke ground with the first shovels full of soil, Ms. Cook-Williams closed



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Retreat director to fellow priests: Pursue holiness, avoid busyness

By Jay Nies

People were heaping accolades on Father John Vianney for the miraculous healings God was working through him.

The unassuming pastor finally had enough.

“He blamed the miracles on St. Philomena, a saint he had great devotion to,” recounted Father Brett Brannen, a longtime admirer of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests.

“He went so far as to say, ‘I told her she’s not allowed to do any more physical miracles here. She can do spiritual miracles, but no more physical miracles,’” said Fr. Brannen.

Then, almost as an afterthought, Fr. Vianney turned the responsibility back on his parishioners: “If a person has purity of heart, God will do many miracles through them.”

Fr. Brannen heard that story while leading a pilgrimage retreat for a group of priests from this diocese and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight in the village of Ars-sur-Formans, France.

Fr. Brannen said he’s certain that Fr. Vianney wasn’t referring to himself when speaking of purity of heart and miracles, “but it’s exactly what he did, and it’s exactly what happened.”

Ars-sur-Formans is where Fr. Vianney, known as the “Curé d’Ars” carried out his priestly ministry from 1818 until his death in 1859, offering daily Mass and hearing Confessions for up to 16 hours a day.

Possessing neither blinding charisma nor stellar intellect, he let God use him to transform a backwater of spiritual indifference into an epicenter of encounter and revival.

Fr. Vianney helped draw thousands back to the faith, mostly by living what he preached and dispensing God’s mercy in the confessional.

His witness became clearer and more focused as the years passed.

“A saint can say more in five words than I can say in 500 pages!” marveled Fr. Brannen, a priest of the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, who for the

past three years was director of spiritual formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

“My observation from reading lives of the saints,” said Fr. Brannen, “is that the closer the saints get to heaven, the simpler and the more silent they become.

“They realize that God is everything — that he’s so big and we’re so little,” Fr. Brannen stated. “That’s what makes them so simple.”

He believes that same simplicity should be the goal for every priest.

“The littler we get, the smaller in humility, the bigger God gets in us; the bigger Jesus gets in us,” said Fr. Brannen.

“So, the people don’t see us, they see Christ. That’s our goal: our union with God,” he said.

“The best news”

Fr. Brannen started giving priest retreats around 2008, when he was vice rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmetsburg, Maryland.

“It’s become sort of a vocation within my vocation, and I love doing it,” he said. “I love being with my brother priests. Any way I can help them, that’s what I want to do.”

Having previously served for 10 years as his diocese’s vocation director, he is returning to parish work following his three years at the Josephinum.

He said he could tell that the priests from the Jefferson City diocese want to be God’s good and holy servants.

“My message to the people of God in your diocese is that you have wonderful priests,” he said. “You’re very blessed.”

“They’re good men,” he continued. “Please pray for them and support them. Because we are Catholics, and Catholics need priests. We wouldn’t have the Eucharist without them.”

Fr. Brannen had previously been a pilgrim to Ars with a group of seminarians, but this was his first time there with fellow priests.

“What resonated with me most about our time together was that we can become the saints God created us to be,

wherever we’re sent,” he said.

“We have to become a saint in our own skins, with our own identities and our own vulnerabilities and our own wounds,” he said.

“We make ourselves radically available, and God does the work of making us whole again.”

He pointed to a lyric from “The Gambler” by Kenny Rogers: “Every hand’s a winner, and every hand’s a loser.”

“In the providence of God, every person has the grace and the ability to become a saint if they wish to,” Fr. Brannen

stated. “No matter who we are or where we’re from, no matter how much money, whatever our wounds, whatever.”

He extended the poker metaphor to something he once heard from the late Father Ronald Gillis, who taught at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary.

“He’d say Christianity is like sitting at a poker table with Jesus, and Jesus has all these chips and pushes them all into the middle of table and says, ‘I’m all-in for you,’” said Fr. Brannen.

“And I’ve got one chip in

front of me and I kind of push it forward and pull it back,” the priest mused. “All the while, Jesus just looks at each of us and invites us to be all-in for him.”

The priest repeated St. Teresa of Avila’s dictum that “the only mistake we ever make is taking our eyes off of Jesus.”

“Ultimately, if we can keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, then it doesn’t really matter what happens, because his resurrection is the best news in the entire universe, and it supersedes all

See ST. JOHN VIANNEY, page 14

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Monroe City and Indian Creek parishes' Memorial Day Mass

By Lindsay Benson Thome

On Memorial Day, May 29, members of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City and St. Stephen Parish in Indian Creek, as well as guests, nearly 100 in all, gathered at the Holy Rosary Cemetery for the celebration of Holy Mass.

Father Gregory Oligschlaeger, pastor of both parishes presided, with Audrey Lucas and Austin Shinn assisting as altar servers.

The parishes gather each Memorial Day in the cemetery, as weather permits, to pay respect to those who have left this world before them, and to pray for their souls to enter the fullness of heaven through

a necessary purification. For as it is said in Scripture: nothing unclean shall enter heaven (Revelation 21:27).

Receiving the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of our Savior, within the boundaries of the cemetery, allows the faithful the opportunity to connect with those members of the Body of Christ who have gone before them, and brings to mind the reality of their own resurrection day.

The tradition of celebrating Mass in this cemetery on Memorial Day goes back nearly a century, but its roots go much deeper.

In the first few centuries of the Church, Christians gath-



Nearly 100 members and guests of Holy Rosary and St. Stephen parishes gather for Holy Mass on Memorial Day in Holy Rosary Cemetery in Monroe City.

— Photos by Lindsay Benson Thome

ered around the graves of their deceased loved ones; many of them martyrs of the faith. They were buried in underground catacombs outside the city walls of Rome, and they were honored with the celebration of Mass. Their tombs would serve as altars.

To this day, relics of the great saints and martyrs are found within the altars of Catholic churches, cathedrals and basilicas throughout the world.

Like the fallen martyrs of the early Church, Catholics particularly remember those who bravely gave their lives

and protecting their countries.

As one Body of Christ, pilgrims on earth pray for those being purified, and those in heaven and on their way to heaven and pray for those still making their way home.

All holy men and women, pray for us.

Mrs. Lindsay Thome is a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City. A version of this story and photos were originally published in the Lake Gazette newspaper (lakegazette.net) in Monroe City.



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Procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



Father William Debo, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Rich Fountain and Holy Family Parish in Freeburg, leads a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament through the churchyard of Sacred Heart Church after Mass on June 10, the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Parishioners set up three outdoor altars for Benediction, Adoration, and the proclamation of God's Word. Many parishes uphold this centuries-old ritual of public worship and witness to Christ fully present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
— Photos by Jay Locker



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ST. JOHN VIANNEY

From page 11

the bad news combined,” he stated.

“We win”

Recalling the example of the Curé d’Ars, Fr. Brannen pointed out that people don’t need their priests to be super-smart or the greatest administrators.

“They just need us to know

Jesus and to bring Jesus to them,” he said.

He told the priests that what God is doing IN each of them is more important than what he is doing THROUGH them.

“And we can’t deny that the things he’s doing THROUGH you as priests are amazing — the transubstantiation, the for-

giving of sins, the preaching of the Word — these are things that have ultimate consequences every day.

“But the work that God does IN us, in our personal call to holiness, is even more important, and that is the greatest work in the Church,” he stated.

“Because that’s the primary call of every person: to be like Jesus.”

Fr. Brannen warned the

priests against the scourge of becoming habitually busy, which he said is an abbreviation for “Bound Under Satan’s Yoke.”

“Busy is a four-letter word that every priest should expunge from our vocabulary,” he said.

He noted that most people don’t call a priest when everything is going great; they often call him in times of difficulty or sadness.

“Our job is taking care of

God’s people,” he said, “and I think the greatest work of a priest is walking with them to Calvary and reminding them that Christ is risen and that this, too, will pass.

“We need to be good-news junkies,” he asserted. “Because Christ is risen, and therefore, we win.

“Now, we just have to be faithful and then live with him forever in heaven.”

SACRED HEART

From page 6

Tanner asked for prayers for everyone to know that “through the good, the bad and the ugly, God will always be there for us, no matter what.”

Michael requested prayers for his generation and all generations to come, “for us to have the strength and courage to follow their ancestors’ footsteps and always follow God.”

“Because that’s what he wants,” said Michael.

Contributing to this report was Chris Howell, a reporter for the Sedalia Democrat newspaper (sedaliademocrat.com).



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TOLTON CATHOLIC

From page 7

Louis University in St. Louis in the fall, to major in biology and play baseball.

“I’d like to do something either with dentistry or orthodontics or oral surgery or something like that,” he said.

Macie plans to attend William Woods College in Fulton to study elementary education and minor in sign language while playing soccer.

“Hopefully, I’ll do elementary education for a little bit and then be a stay-at-home mom,” she said. “To take care of the kids. Raise them well. Have a big family. Bring them to church.”

Kaitlyn plans to attend Truman State University in Kirksville, to major in psychology on the pre-dental track.

“I want to be a dentist,” she said. “I’m very interested in the pediatric side. Child psychology is a good basis so you can help them stay calm while you’re working with them.”

Andy plans to major in biology at the University of Missouri in Columbia, “with the hope of transitioning into something medical in the future.”

“Live for him”

Andy said he plans on taking his identity as a Christian into adulthood with him.

“The education and affirmation we’ve all received at Tolton is going to help us in college and give us a good solid foundation of truth and what’s right and wrong,” he said.

Katlyn said that having been given a solid foundation of theology and doctrine in grade school, she got to have open discussions at Tolton on matters of faith with people who have different perspectives.

“Thinking freely while still having that good core Catholic education — I think that will help me stay strong in my faith, even if there’s adversity.”

All four said they want to stay Catholic.

“Jesus died for us, we need to live for Him,” said Macie. “You can go about your life and not think about God, and try to find the worldly things to fulfill you, but nothing else except God will fulfill you.”

“You are naturally drawn to His love and mercy and forgiveness, and that draws you to the right people,” she asserted. “And I believe the structure that the Catholic Church brings, while it’s not always easy, it’s going to be the most beneficial.”

“I just find that specifically, among the different denominations of Christianity, Catholicism is where the most direct truth lies,” said Andy. “I find that it’s the central source of truth because of that original foundation that he put in place, and from that, everything else follows.”

They asked their fellow Catholics to continue praying for them.

“That society finds God,” said Macie.

“That we have success and bright futures ahead of us,” said Katelyn, “And that we are okay and maintain sanity through college.”

Jacob asked for prayers for safety, especially in light of several recent car wrecks involving young people.

Andy asked for prayers for him and his classmates to stay on the right path.

“With college, you’re going to meet all these new people, have all these different experiences and have all these opportunities to change directions and waver,” he said.



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UNIDAD

de la página 1

Unidos en la diversidad

Autobuses y vehículos de toda la diócesis comenzaron a llegar alrededor del mediodía para la Misa de la 1 p.m.

Asistieron muchos niños.

También se ofrecieron confesiones en español.

El pueblo de Dios oró y cantó a bordo de cinco autobuses de varias comunidades. Al llegar a la catedral, entraron en procesión mientras cantaban.

Un grupo de Sedalia y Marshall colocaron una estatua de la Santísima Virgen y ramos de flores frente el ambón.

Los sacerdotes concelebrantes incluyeron a: Monseñor Gregory Higley, Padre Thomas Alber, Padre Joseph Corel, Padre Francis Doyle, Padre David Veit, Padre Anthony Viviano, Padre Jeremy Secrist.

El Rev. Sr. Christopher Hoffmann, un diácono transicional que espera ser ordenado sacerdote el próximo año, y el Diácono Enrique Castro, director diocesano de Ministerios Hispanos e Interculturales y director ejecutivo del Departamento de Formación en la Fe de la diócesis, asistieron en el altar.

El Padre Brad Berhorst fungió como maestro de ceremonias.

Los diez diáconos de la diócesis se revistieron y participaron en esta celebración.

El Diácono Castro predicó la homilía, recordando a los católicos hispanos que son miembros integrales de sus parroquias y comunidades.

“La Iglesia nos necesita, nuestras parroquias nos necesitan y nos necesitamos unos a otros”, dijo.

Recordó cómo sus padres lo habían llevado a él y a sus hermanos en peregrinaciones a la catedral local y a los santuarios católicos de su diócesis en el centro de México.

“Esto es muy común en nuestros países de origen”, dijo. “Es parte de nuestra tradición ir y visitar estos lugares sagrados”.

De manera similar, María y José llevaron a Jesús al Tem-



El obispo W. Shawn McKnight saluda a la gente después de una Misa diocesana en Español en la Catedral de St. Joseph el 18 de junio. — Foto por Jay Nies

plo de Jerusalén, la morada de Dios con su pueblo, como parte de la costumbre de celebrar la Pascua (Lucas 2, 41-52).

Cuando se dieron cuenta que Jesús no estaba con ellos mientras regresaban a casa, se apresuraron a regresar a Jerusalén para buscarlo.

Específicamente, regresaron al Templo y lo encontraron allí.

“¿Por qué nosotros, como católicos, visitamos lugares santos?” preguntó el Diácono Castro. “Por la misma razón que María y José se apresuraron a regresar al Templo: para encontrar a Jesús”.

Haciendo eco de la homilía que el Obispo McKnight predicó durante la Misa de rededicación de la Catedral, el Diácono Castro mencionó que las estructuras físicas revelan la presencia de Dios y su pueblo, “donde somos alimentados y fortalecidos para la misión de evangelizar el mundo”.

“Esta Catedral”, afirmó el diácono, “como todas nuestras iglesias y espacios sagrados, revela una unión de la realidad humana y divina”.

Esa convergencia se ilustra en muchas de las obras de arte que encontramos en la Catedral.

El Diácono Castro, parafraseando nuevamente al obispo, habló de cómo el entretendido de lo clásico, lo tradicional y

los estilos artísticos contemporáneos en todo espacio sagrado “manifiesta nuestra comunión con la una sola Iglesia a través de los siglos”.

“Representa la profunda diversidad de la Iglesia y de nuestra diócesis”, afirmó el diácono.

Animó a la asamblea a mirar alrededor y reconocer la diversidad presente dentro de las comunidades hispanas.

“Fíjense en la persona a su lado, que podría ser mexicana, salvadoreña, hondureña o de una multitud de otros lugares”, dijo.

“Pero al ir a la iglesia, al reunirnos en esta Catedral renovada, nos unimos por medio de nuestra fe católica que compartimos y en nuestra relación con Cristo”, afirmó.

Señaló el mosaico reluciente sobre el altar y el tabernáculo, que representa a Dios Padre y Dios Espíritu Santo, superpuesto con un crucifijo que representaba a Dios Hijo.

“La unidad de la Santísima Trinidad es lo que Dios desea para todos nosotros”, dijo el Diácono Castro. “Cuando venimos aquí, nos unimos en nuestra diversidad. Llegamos a ser uno en él”.

El camino a la santidad

El Diácono Castro habló también de la Sagrada Familia,

destacada en los mosaicos del santuario de San José, patrono de la Catedral, sosteniendo al niño Jesús, y el Inmaculado Corazón de María, patrona de la diócesis.

“¿Y a dónde fueron María y José cuando tuvieron problemas para encontrar a Jesús?” preguntó el diácono. “¡Fueron al Templo! ¡A la casa del Señor! Porque como familia, mantuvieron a Dios en el centro de sus vidas.

“Entonces, ¿a dónde vamos cuando enfrentamos dificultades y desafíos en nuestras vidas?” preguntó el Diácono Castro. “¿Acudimos a Dios o tratamos de encontrar una solución en otro lugar?”

Recordó la caracterización del Papa Francisco de la Iglesia como “un hospital de campaña para las almas”.

“Ninguno de nosotros es perfecto”, señaló el diácono. “Pero estamos aquí, poniendo nuestra humanidad herida ante el amor y la divinidad de Dios en la Iglesia”.

Este intercambio encarna-

Se han publicado más fotos en la edición en línea de The Catholic Missourian, cathmo.com. Seleccione “Galerías de fotos” en la pestaña “Multimedia” en la barra de menú.

cional alcanza su plenitud en la celebración de la Eucaristía, el cual las familias están llamadas a vivir juntas cada domingo.

El Diácono Castro señaló que el nuevo altar de la Catedral contiene las reliquias de 10 amados santos.

“Eran seres humanos como tú y como yo”, afirmó. “Pero ahora son santos en el cielo con Dios.

“Y sobre ese altar es donde tiene lugar el misterio, donde Dios se humilla para estar presente con nosotros”, continuó el diácono.

“Cada vez que participamos

de la Eucaristía, nos convertimos en la morada de Dios, con nuestra humanidad uniéndose a la divinidad de Dios”, dijo.

La respuesta adecuada a este don es salir, poner en práctica el Evangelio todos los días y llevar a las personas de regreso a Dios.

“Venimos aquí no solo para alimentar nuestras almas, sino también para compartir ese alimento con los demás”, declaró el Diácono Castro.

Misión urgente

El Diácono Castro afirmó que los inmigrantes hispanos y su descendencia tienen una misión particular en la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos y en esta diócesis.

“Estamos llamados a salir a acercarnos no solo a los que son como nosotros, sino también a otros que no son como nosotros”, dijo.

Señaló las comunidades más pequeñas pero significativas de inmigrantes y minorías étnicas en varias parroquias de la diócesis.

“Necesitamos dejar de lado cualquier miedo y simplemente acercarnos a nuestros hermanos y hermanas”, dijo.

“Si por alguna razón, en algún momento, sufrimos aislamiento o tal vez injusticia, debemos evitar hacer lo mismo con otros en nuestras comunidades”, afirmó.

Le recordó a la asamblea la visión del Obispo McKnight de que cada parroquia promueva entre sus miembros la espiritualidad de la ‘buena administración’ y el compartir los dones de Dios; realizar la obra del

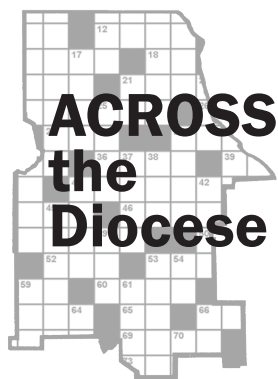
Evangelio con espíritu de mutuo respeto y corresponsabilidad; y ser universalmente reconocidos como centros de caridad y santuarios de misericordia.

“Cada uno de nosotros tiene un papel esencial en el desempeño de la misión de la Iglesia en los lugares donde vivimos y trabajamos”, dijo el diácono.

Totalmente bendecido

Aurora Guillen de la Parroquia San Pedro en Jefferson City y Carmen García de la

Continuar con MISA, página 23



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. As a boy growing up on a _____ outside of Jeff. City, crows with their "caw caws" were just part of the landscape. I didn't know then what fascinating birds they were.
4. Crows are often described as _____, chasing eagles which can weigh nine times more than the crow. They are wary, however, of people, their biggest predator. It is legal to shoot crows.
11. Letters for Unemployment Insurance, a division of Mo.'s Dept. of Labor.
12. "There were almost too many moments when the patriot cause teetered on the _____ of disaster, to be retrieved by the most unlikely accidents or coincidences or choices," —*Unlikely Victory: Thirteen Ways Americans Could Have Lost the American Revolution*, Thomas Fleming.
13. An 8-year-old girl began regularly putting out food and water out for crows and they, _____ return for her kindness, began giving her little gifts such as a rusty screw, a button, a paper clip, and much more.
14. A crow is actually a _____ due to their vast range of melodies. Though "caw" is the most common, they can make up to 250 different types of vocalizations.
16. _____ mo; short for slow motion as in a video or film.
17. The _____ de France is a famous annual men's bicycle race.
18. "The Taming of the _____"; comedy play by Wm. Shakespeare, written between 1590-92.
19. Crows are very smart. They have the largest brain of all birds except for _____. Their body-to-brain ratio is equal to that of a chimpanzee.
24. Word prefix for body, thing or one.
25. Crows are clever. They use _____, not only such things as a stick to access food and dropping pieces of pine cone on nest-threatening tree-climbers, but also, for ex., dropping nuts on a roadway for cars to crack them open.
26. Crows are excellent _____. They can replicate calls of other birds, and the sounds of cats, dogs and geese, for ex. They can even replicate human speech!
29. "Long time _____ in a galaxy far far away," —"Star Wars" opening screen logo.
32. Alien.
34. I want that agreement written down _____! (2 wds.)
35. A crow's diet can involve 1,000 different food items, from worms and insects, mice and _____, to scraps of food, fruit and seeds. Road-kill is only a small part of their diet. Their big beaks, despite their size, can't penetrate the skin of even a squirrel.
37. Male deer, or brand of beer.
38. This State's Constitution (1780) was a model for the U.S. Constitution (1787) and is the oldest still in use in the world (abbr.).
39. We are stuck in a _____. We need to try something new.
41. _____ Palais de Versailles; The Palace of Versailles, built in 1661 by Louis XIV, the Sun King, to escape the "rabble" of Paris.
42. America's uncle.
43. Common college degree.
45. Letters for Rheumatoid Arthritis; autoimmune disease affecting the joints.
46. _____ Paso, TX.
47. Crows remember the face of _____ humans, which can be good or bad. Apparently they can hold a grudge.
49. "See how a person is justified by works and not by faith _____," (James 2:24).
51. Uncle Fred's scary stories will _____ your toes!
52. Princess of Wales and Ross of the Supremes.
53. "Some prisoners ought to be released, but a large proportion of them are as obstinate rebels as they ever were and _____ will not be safe...until the war ends," —*Troubled State [of Mo.]*, *Civil War Journal of Franklin Dick*, Gari Carter.
55. Abbr. before a canonized person.
57. _____. (Gilbert Keith)
58. Popular brand of facial tissues.
61. Dir. from Centralia to Hermann.
62. Letters for an Electrical Engineer degree.
63. _____-GO is the global leader in winter's fastest growing new sport, ski biking.
64. "But the conceited _____ did not hear him. Conceited people never hear anything but praise," —*The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint Exupery.
66. "...although our outer self is wasting away, our _____ self is being renewed day by day," (2 Corinthians 4:16).
68. "How _____ this peasant, this carpenter, this Jesus of Nazareth, be proclaimed the Savior by the ignorant?" — Paul of Tarsus in *Dear and Glorious Physician*, Taylor Caldwell.
69. "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our _____, but in ourselves," —Julius Caesar in Shakespeare's play of the same name.
70. "Sunrise, _____;" song from the musical "Fiddler on the Roof," written in 1964.
1. "When you _____, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites," (Matthew 6:16).
2. The score was lopsided but the winning coach wouldn't play his bench. He wanted to _____ the score (2 wds.).
3. Crows are permanent residents of Mo. (i.e., non _____, and found all over the State). In fact, they are fairly common in the lower 48, except in the southwestern deserts.
4. J. Edgar Hoover's org.
5. To _____ is human, they say.
6. Band-_____.
7. Professional caregiver.
8. Abbr. for the 3rd Gospel.
9. "The Sound of _____"; huge hit of Simon & Garfunkel; 1964.
10. Crows are incredibly playful. They've been caught on camera sledding down _____ roofs on plastic lids, playing fetch with dogs, and provoking fights between cats. A crow once locked a science writer in a cage.
15. A model railroad gauge of 3/4 inch.
16. Abbr. for Senora (i.e., Mrs. in Madrid).
18. Letters for Social Security.
20. Simon, son of Jonah's new name, Peter, meaning _____, (Matthew 16:18).
21. In computing, letters for Robot Operating System, a set of software frameworks for robot software development.
22. "_____ Man River"; song from the 1951 musical "Show Boat"; called one of the most hauntingly beautiful songs of the 20th century.
23. Old Russian ruler.
26. "O my people, your leaders _____" (Isaiah 3:12).
27. "...is the universe governed by chance, blind fate, anonymous necessity, or by a transcendent, _____ and good Being called God?" —*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #284.
28. Ltrs. for Missing in Action.
30. In the board game Monopoly, if you pass _____, you get \$200.
31. King of Bashan (Numbers 21:33).
33. Whole grain breakfast cereal.
35. Crows have large _____, up to 15 birds. In winter, these congregate in large numbers to sleep in communal roosts, from a few hundred to two million crows.
36. Golden age.
38. "...you will be oppressed... without surcease until you are driven _____ by what your eyes must look upon," (Deuteronomy 28:34).
40. The mountains that separate Asia from Europe.
42. Adidas, Nike and New Balance.
43. A brand of pens.
44. On a California beach, I saw surf boards, sand castles, and _____ buggy drive by (2 wds.).
47. "...because there was no room for them in the _____," (Luke 2:7).
48. Abraham's ancestral home.
50. The most common tree in Mo.'s forests.
54. What Paul made for a living (Acts 18:3).
56. Belief or principle.
59. "The Civil War was a war of ideals. Such a war was bound to be a _____-holds-barred affair," —*The Military Leadership of North and South*, T. Harry Williams.
60. Christmas without Christ.
61. Bro's sibling.
62. Ending for car or auction.
65. Crows _____ opportunistic foragers. They steal from other animals, eat from outdoor dog dishes, take fruit from trees, steal eggs from other bird nests or even snatch food from the mouths of their young chicks.
67. Chemical ltrs. for sodium.
68. This prophet is the 34th book of the Bible (abbr.).

ANSWERS on page 19

UNITY

From page 1

communities. Upon arriving, they processed to the Cathedral and entered together while singing.

A group from Sedalia and Marshall placed a statue of the Blessed Mother and bouquets of flowers before the ambo.

Concelebrating priests included: Monsignor Gregory Higley, Father Thomas Alber, Father Joseph Corel, Father Francis Doyle, Father David Veit, Father Anthony Viviano and Father Jeremy Secrist.

Rev. Mr. Christopher Hoffmann, a transitional deacon who hopes to be ordained to the Priesthood next year, and Deacon Enrique Castro, diocesan director of Hispanic and Intercultural Ministries and executive director of the diocese's Faith Formation Department, assisted at the altar.

The 10 Hispanic deacons of this diocese vested and participated in the celebration.

Father Brad Berhorst served as master of ceremonies.

Deacon Castro preached the homily, reminding Hispanic Catholics that they are integral members of their parishes and communities.

"The Church needs us, our parishes need us, and we need each other," he said.

He recollected how his parents had taken him and his siblings on pilgrimages to the local Cathedral and Catholic shrines in their diocese in central Mexico.

"This is very common in our native countries," he said. "It's part of our tradition to go and visit these holy places."

Similarly, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, God's dwelling place with his people, as part of the custom for celebrating Passover (Luke 2:41-52).

When they realized while they were returning home that Jesus wasn't with them, they hurried back to Jerusalem to search for him.

Specifically, they went back to the Temple and found him there.

"Why do we as Catholics visit holy places?" Deacon Castro asked. "For the same reason Mary and Joseph hurried back to the Temple: to find Jesus."

Echoing the homily Bishop McKnight preached at the Ca-

thedral rededication, Deacon Castro said physical structures reveal the presence of God and his people, "where we are fed and fortified for the mission of evangelizing the world."

"This Cathedral," the deacon stated, "like all of our churches and sacred spaces, reveals a joining of human and divine reality."

That convergence is illustrated in many of the Cathedral's specially-commissioned artworks.

Deacon Castro, again paraphrasing the bishop, spoke of how the weaving-together of classical, traditional and contemporary artistic styles throughout the sacred edifice "manifests our communion with the one Church across the centuries."

"It represents the profound diversity of the Church and of our diocese," the deacon stated.

He encouraged the assembly

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

to look around and recognize the diversity present within the Hispanic communities.

"Notice the person next to you, who might be Mexican or Salvadoran or Honduran or from any of a multitude of other places," he said.

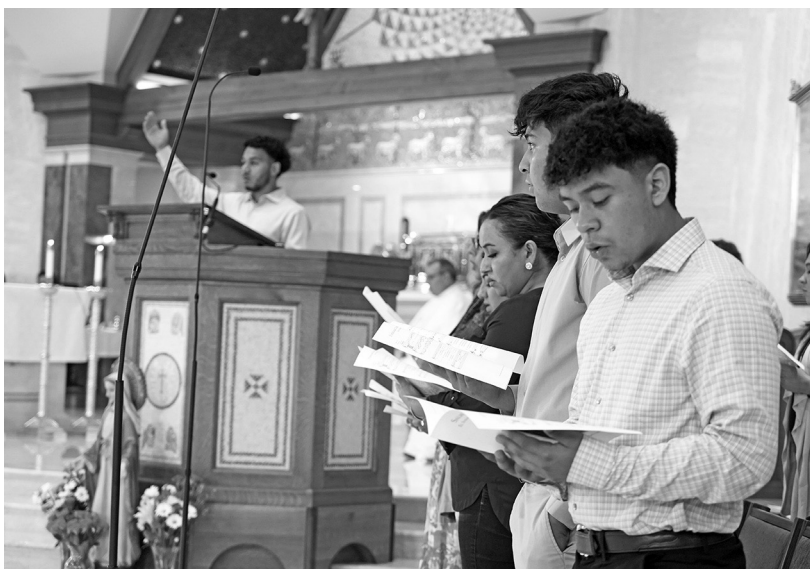
"But in going to church, gathering together in this renewed Cathedral, we are all united in our shared Catholic faith and relationship with Christ," he stated.

He pointed to the shimmering mosaic above the altar and tabernacle, depicting God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, superimposed with a crucifix depicting God the Son.

"The unity of the Holy Trinity is what God desires for all of us," said Deacon Castro. "When we come here, he unites us in our diversity. We become one in him."

Road to sainthood

Deacon Castro spoke also



A choir made up of parishioners from St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County and St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City lead the singing during a diocesan Mass in Spanish offered by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight June 18 in the newly-renovated Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City. — Photo by Jay Nies

of the Holy Family, featured prominently in the sanctuary mosaics of St. Joseph, patron saint of the Cathedral, holding the child Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, patroness of the diocese.

"And where did Mary and Joseph go when they were having trouble finding Jesus?" the deacon asked. "They went to the Temple! To the house of the Lord! Because as a family, they kept God at the center of their lives."

"So, where do we go when we are facing difficulties and challenges in our lives?" Deacon Castro inquired. "Do we turn to God, or do we try to find a solution somewhere else?"

He called to mind Pope Francis's characterization of the Church as "a field hospital for souls."

"None of us are perfect," the deacon noted. "But we're here, laying our wounded humanity before the love and divinity of God in the Church."

This incarnational exchange reaches fullness in the celebration of the Eucharist, which families are called to experience together each Sunday.

Deacon Castro noted that the Cathedral's new altar holds the relics of 10 beloved saints.

"They were human beings like you and me," he stated. "But now they are saints in heaven with God."

"And upon that altar is where the mystery takes place — where God humbles himself to be present with us," the deacon continued.

"Whenever we partake of the Eucharist, we become God's dwelling place, with our humanity uniting with God's divinity," he said.

The proper response to this gift is to go forth, put the Gospel into practice every day and lead people back to God.

"We come here not only to have our souls fed but to share that nourishment with others," Deacon Castro stated.

Urgent mission

Deacon Castro asserted that Hispanic immigrants and their progeny have a particular mission in the Church in the United States and in this diocese.

"We are called not only to go out to those who are like us, but also to others who are not like us," he said.

He pointed to the smaller but significant communities of immigrants and ethnic minorities in various parishes in the diocese.

"We need to set any fear aside and just reach out to our brothers and sisters," he said.

"If for some reason, at some point, we have ever suffered isolation or maybe injustice, we need to avoid doing the same to others in our communities," he stated.

He reminded the assembly of Bishop McKnight's vision for every parish to promote among its members a spirituality of stewardship and the sharing of God's gifts; to carry out the work of the Gospel in a spirit of mutual respect and co-responsibility; and to be universally recognized as centers of charity and sanctuaries of mercy.

"Each of us has an essential role in carrying-out the mission of the Church in the places we live and work," the deacon said.

Thoroughly blessed

Aurora Guillen of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City and Carmen Garcia of Annunciation Parish in California served as lectors at the Mass.

The Alvarado family of St. Mary Parish in Milan presented the bread and wine at the Offertory.

A choir made up of members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County and St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City, directed by Nicholas Liese, led the singing.

The altar servers and hospitality volunteers were members of Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia and St. Peter Parish in Marshall.

Osmaro de Leon, candidate for the Permanent Diaconate, served as the thurifer.

After the homily, Bishop McKnight commissioned this diocese's delegates to the Hispanic Regional Encounter that will be held in Kansas City this summer.

Delegates from the Catholic dioceses in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska will attend.

This will be the first such gathering for this region since the before the pandemic.

"The purpose is to pray and reflect but also to equip Hispanic leaders in their leadership and understanding of Hispanic ministry in our region," said Deacon Castro.

As it was Father's Day, Bishop McKnight also offered a special prayer for all the fathers in the assembly.

He greeted people and paused for photos in the vestibule after Mass.

Several also had their photo taken in the Cathedral with a new mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

A reception with a catered meal took place in Cana Hall in the Cathedral Undercroft.

The group from Sedalia and Marshall retrieved the Blessed Mother statue they had brought, to keep as a memento of the occasion.

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

Jun. 24

Columbia, World Refugee Day Celebration, 5-8 pm, MU Healthcare Pavilion, 1701 W. Ash St.; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Youth NCYC rummage sale, 7-11:30 am, McCarty Street Plaza

Jun. 25

Linn, St. George Parish picnic, 11 am-6 pm

Jul. 9

St. Martins, St. Martin Parish picnic, 11 am-9 pm

Jul. 16

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus Parish picnic, 11 am-7 pm

Meetings/ Workshops

Jun. 24

VIRTUAL, Introduction to Centering Prayer as an 11th-Step Practice, 8:30 am-1 pm, in-person option at Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City or at Community United Methodist Church in Columbia, for info or to register visit cocemo.org; **Columbia**, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, North Central Missouri Council presidents and conference members meeting, 10 am-noon, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's Flanagan Hall, for info call 573-449-8256

Jun. 25 & 26

Columbia, "The Death Penalty and Catholic Church Teaching," Sun. 5:30 dinner/talk or

Mon. 9:30 am brunch/talk, to RSVP visit sacredheart-church.org

Jul. 7 & 8

Lake Ozark, Reflection on Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, Fri. 7 pm or Sat. 10 am, Our Lady of the Lake Church

Jul. 9

Lake Ozark, Lake Area Cursillo Ultreya, 3-5 pm, Our Lady of the Lake Parish's Bestgen Hall, for info call 573-552-5337, email glenda_hinrichs@yahoo.com or visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo

Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

junio 25

Sedalia, Kermes, 1-3 pm, capilla de san Patricio, para más información contacte a Maria Gomez al 660-620-3405 o Raul Lopez a 660-287-8920

julio 6-9

Sedalia, Cursillo de Mujeres, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información o registrarse contacte a Maria Gomez al 660-620-3405 o Raul Lopez a 660-287-8920

julio 8

Marshall, Formación de Ministerios de Música – Parte I, 9 am-noon, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Lilianna Ruano al 660-202-0317 o por correo electrónico a nellymruanorn6@gmail.com

julio 13

Evento Virtual, El Diácono y la Liturgia, 6-8 pm, para más información contacte a Diácono Enrique Castro al 573-680-3650 en su celular o en WhatsApp o por correo electrónico a ecastro@diojeffcity.org

julio 13-16

Sedalia, Cursillo de Hombres, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información o reg-

istrarse contacte a Maria Gomez al 660-620-3405 o Raul Lopez a 660-287-8920

julio 14

Varios lugares, Asambleas de Jóvenes, 7-9 pm, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

julio 15-16

Marshall, Retiro de Parejas, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Lilianna Ruano al 660-202-0317 o por correo electrónico a nellymruanorn6@gmail.com

julio 22

Sedalia, Retiro de Vida en el Espíritu para Niños (7-11 años), 9 am-3 pm, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

julio 29

Sedalia, Convivio Diocesano RCC, Bothwell Park, noon-6 pm, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com

julio 30

Sedalia, Bienvenida de Cursilistas, Capilla de San Patricio, 1-3 pm, para más información o registrarse contacte a Maria Gomez al 660-620-3405 o Raul Lopez a 660-287-8920

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Every Friday

Jefferson City, Centering Prayer Group, Immaculate Conception Parish, 11 am-noon

Jun. 27

Columbia, Theology of Dance retreat for adults, with ball-

room dance, theology and dinner, 6:30-10 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, for info or to register email lisageger@ourladyoflourdes.org

Jul. 21-23

Wildwood, Mo., Reflect Mid-Life Singles Retreat, LaSalle Retreat Center, for info or to register visit ReflectRetreat.com

Liturgical

Jul. 11

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass, 11 am-2 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, for info visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org

Youth & Young Adults

First Wednesdays each month

Jefferson City, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult group, 5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit icangels.com/youngadults

Third Sundays each month

Jefferson City, Young Adult Mass, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Jun. 25-30

Conway, Mo., Camp Siena for high school young women, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-siena

Jun. 27

VIRTUAL, Young Adult Evening Prayer with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, for ages 18+, 7-8 pm, for info or to register visit ssnd.org/events

Jun. 28

Columbia, Theology of Dance retreat for high school students, with ballroom dance, theology and dinner, 4-8 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for info or to register email lisaeger@ourladyoflourdes.org



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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, use the form at diojeffcity.org/parishioner-update/ so that we may update our mailing lists and records.

Anniversaries

- Argyle, St. Aloysius**
Jim & Bev Loehner, 40 years
Larry & Carol Jones, 30 years
- Jefferson City, St. Peter**
David & Linda Kiesling, 50 years
- St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle**
Mike & Sheri Wieberg, 30 years
- Taos, St. Francis Xavier**
Jimmy & Roberta Schnieders, 50 years
- Wardsville, St. Stanislaus**
Mike & Lori Knaebel, 35 years

Baptisms

- Centralia, Holy Spirit — **Macey June Henke**, daughter of Lance & Lindy Henke; **Elena Diane Morales**, daughter of Alejandro & Emily Morales
- Hermann, St. George — **Kollyns Olivia Mundwiller**, daughter of Josh & Cassie Mundwiller
- Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Addison Ann Kempker**, daughter of Aaron & Jessica Kempker
- Russellville, St. Michael — **Elsie Kate Matheis**, daughter of Quintin & Jordyn Matheis
- Wien, St. Mary of the Angels — **Lennon Neil Steffes**, son of Anthony Steffes & Caitriona Bradley; **Rory William Wyatt**, son of Austin & Maria Wyatt

Deaths

- Ron Richard** — 75, the only person in Missouri history to have served as both Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Missouri Senate — on June 9. He was a lifelong Catholic and a parishioner of St. Mary Parish in Joplin. His Funeral Mass was celebrated on June 14 in St. Mary Church in Joplin.
- Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Martha Couch**
- Hermann, St. George — **Arthur Landolt**
- Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Roseetta Foster; Dorothy Kresl; Paul Neutzler; Cynthia Ann Weavers**
- Marshall, St. Peter — **Terrence Sadewhite**
- Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Lester Kempker; Jeron Sandbothe; Cynthia Weavers**

Birthdays

- Benedictine Father Kenneth Reichert** — a Brunswick native and monk at Conception Abbey in northwestern Missouri, his 90th on July 7
- Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Pauline Wieberg**, her 90th on Jun. 19
- Marshall, St. Peter — **Marge Elsea**, her 102nd on Jun. 8
- Shelbina, St. Mary — **Jean Hercules**, her 91st on Jun. 21

Bishop's stepfather dies

Gary Francis Schaffer, 77, stepfather of Bishop W. Shawn McKnight, died on June 19, after suffering for several years with pancreatic cancer.

Visitation will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, with a Vigil/Rosary service following at 5 p.m., both

at Downing-Lahey West Mortuary in Wichita, Kansas.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 26, in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Wichita, with burial to follow at Resurrection Cemetery.

Fr. Rinaldo 10th anniversary

DATE: June 29
TIME: 6 pm

Immaculate Conception Parish in Loose Creek will hold a 10th priestly anniversary celebration for Father Tony Rinaldo at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 29.

Fr. Rinaldo is pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish and of St. Louis of France Parish in Bonnots Mill.

Mass will be in Immaculate Conception Church, followed by a reception.

Call or send a text-message to 573-291-3224 to attend the reception.

Bishops advance cause of 'Shreveport martyrs'

Orlando, Florida

OSV News

Nearly 300 U.S. Catholic bishops in a voice vote signaled their approval for a cause to canonize five 19th-century missionary priests from Brittany, France, who volunteered to serve those suffering a deadly epidemic in Shreveport, Louisiana, knowing their ministry would likely be fatal.

"They demonstrated heroic charity during the third worst pandemic in U.S. history," said Bishop Francis I. Malone of Shreveport in remarks during the U.S. bishops' spring plenary assembly June 15.

Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus, Ohio, noted the Shreveport Martyrs worked to provide the Sacraments to a population others might not touch.

QUESTION

From page 8

venial sins out of love for God. And when you think about our sacramental life in terms of a relationship with the Lord, this makes sense: when we care about a person like a friend or spouse, we say we're sorry and seek their forgiveness whenever we may have hurt them, even in small ways.

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osv.com.

RICHERT

From page 9

that we celebrate at every Mass. When we participate in Mass or in the Divine Liturgy, we are united to the very act of our redemption, and in fact take part in it. Earlier in that same passage, Carlo writes, "Moreover, it is a very good exercise to unite ourselves intimately to the Passion and to the death of the Lord. Paul said that Christ did through him what was lacking in his Passion."

Recreation through Christ

That passage from St. Paul is one with which many people struggle. Is St. Paul saying that Christ's death was not enough? No; as St. Thomas Aquinas tells us, Christ's death was sufficient, and more than sufficient, to accomplish our redemption. But in uniting ourselves to Christ in his Passion and death through the liturgical mystery of every

Mass, which culminates in the Sacrament of the Eucharist that re-presents that Passion and death right here and right now, we play a role in re-creating the world and allowing Christ to re-create the world through us.

The French mystical poet Pierre-Jean Jouve, who converted to Catholicism in 1924, once wrote that "Mysteries are not truths that lie beyond us; they are truths that comprehend us." As I wrote in a recent column, the mystery of the Eucharist is not an intellectual problem to be solved but an experience to be lived.

By our baptism into Christ, we have become a part of that mystery. Jouve uses the word "comprehend" here to mean that we are contained within the mystery; we experience the truth of the mystery of the Eucharist, the mystery

of our redemption, from the inside out. But the other, more common sense of "comprehend" — "to grasp the nature, significance or meaning of" something — is at play here as well. In the Eucharist, we come to understand the nature, significance and the meaning of our lives.

In our participation in the Eucharist, the Passion continues, and through us Christ re-creates the world. The Eucharist is not just a communion among believers that binds us all together (though it is that, too); it is the mystery through which we participate in the death of Christ so that we may rise again in him — not just at the end of time, but right here, right now, in this world that God is creating and Christ re-creates.

Scott P. Richert is publisher for OSV.

Crossword puzzle answers

J	E	S	N	U	S		S	R	V	L	S
E	R	V	D		J		R	E	N	N	I
N	V	M		O	N	S	E			E	S
E		X	E	N	E	E	T		K		S
L	S	N		L	I		V	N	V		D
		R	U		C		T		E	N	O
T	V	U	D		V	I	D	N	I		T
V	R		V	B	M	V	S			E	T
L	U		R			V	M		G	V	L
O		S	G	O	R	F		K	N	I	N
J			O	G	V		S	C	I	M	I
	C			S	L	O	O				
Y	N	V		S	T	O	R		V	A	
W		E	R	H			R	U	O		L
O	L	S		D	R	I	B	G	N	O	S
N	I	L		T	N	I	R	B		I	U
S	S	E		L	E	V	A	R	E	M	V

First day at Totus Tuus



Young people from in and around Pilot Grove take part in the first day of the Totus Tuus Catholic summer experience in St. Joseph School on June 19.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Catholic School- Pilot Grove Facebook page

The language of art



Students of St. Francis Xavier School in Taos present the artwork they created on April 18 at the diocesan Sketch Day.

— Photo from the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School- Taos Facebook page

Hannibal Holy Family School raises nearly \$10,000 for St. Jude Hospital

Holy Family School in Hannibal is a fundraising powerhouse for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

In just one week, students at the school raised \$9,733.96 by participating in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon.

Holy Family has participated in the Math-A-Thon since 1998 and has raised well over \$100,000 for the research hospital. This year's effort was a school record.

"All this school year, we have been using the inspiration from 1 Peter 4:10, 'Use your gifts to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace,'" said Holy Family Principal Sara Hooley. "Helping the children of St. Jude is an act of kindness that teaches great compassion."

Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing, or food, so they can focus on helping their child live, regardless of the duration or the cost of care. Since the majority of funding for St. Jude comes from individual contributions, events such as the Math-A-Thon really are life savers for sick children.

"The St. Jude Math-A-Thon is a teaching tool — both in arithmetic and more



importantly, in empathy," said second grade teacher Becky Thomas. "The students see stories of the children who are patients. These kids are in a life-or-death battle with cancer and other diseases. By gathering donations, our students learn the gift of giving."

Third Grader Hannah Best was the top earner for the Math-A-Thon, raising \$855 the old-fashioned way by going door-to-door, and asking

family, neighbors and friends to give to St. Jude.

Other top earners were Gabriel Hammock, first grade with \$814; Katherine Taylor, second grade with \$755; Harlow Heintz, second grade with \$695, and Audrey Deien, eighth grade with \$500.

Holy Family students celebrated their successful fundraiser with lunch on the lawn and fun activities throughout the day.

Running a last lap in Loose Creek



Students of Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek receive a farewell send-off from the school May 17, with a banner to run through and some paint-filled balloons.

— Photo from the Immaculate Conception School, Loose Creek Facebook page

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Bible Accent

After telling Abram to migrate to the land of Canaan, God made a covenant with him.

In Genesis 15, we read that God came to Abram in a vision. “Do not fear, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great,” God said.

“Lord God, what can you give me, if I die childless and have only a servant of my household, Eliezer of Damascus?” Abram replied. “Look, you have given me no offspring, so a servant of my household will be my heir.”

“No, that one will not be your heir; your own offspring will be your heir,” God said. “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so will your descendants be.”

Abram put his faith in God, who saw this as an act of righteousness.

After God told Abram some things that would happen to his descendants, he made a covenant with Abram.

“To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites,” God said.

St. Henry

St. Henry was born in 973 and succeeded his father as Duke of Bavaria in 975. He was elected king of Germany in 1002, and the pope crowned him holy Roman emperor in 1014. Henry's chief concerns as king were to consolidate the power of the German monarchy and to reform and reorganize the Church. He also founded the see of Bamberg, which became an educational and cultural center. He was revered for his piety and regarded at the ideal Christian leader of the Middle Ages. Henry died in 1024, and we honor him on July 13.



God promises to make a great nation of Abram

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

Terah, who lived in Ur of the Chaldeans, was a descendant of Noah's son Shem.

Terah had three sons: Abram, Nahor and Haran. Before Haran died, he had several children, including a son named Lot.

Abram and Nahor each took a wife. Abram married Sarai, who could not have children, and Nahor married Milcah.

One day, Terah decided to move to the land of Canaan, taking with him Abram, Sarai and Lot. But when they reached the city of Haran, they wound up settling there instead.

Abram was 75 years old and living in Haran when God first spoke to him.

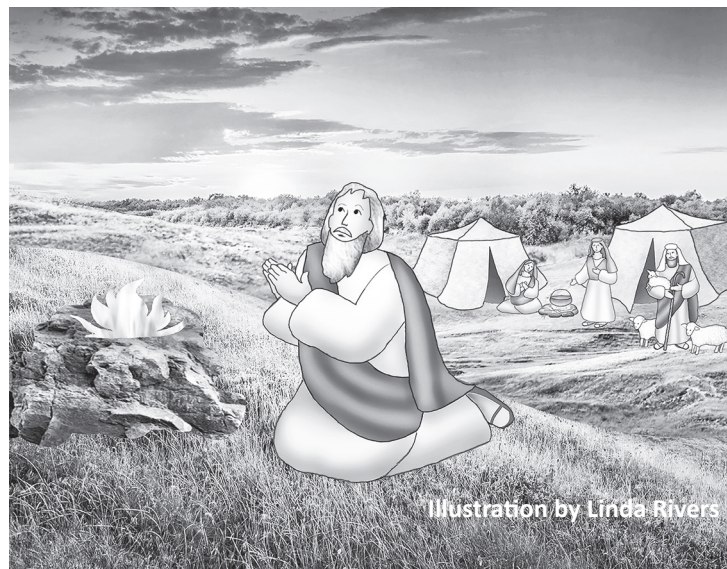
“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you,” God told him.

“I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.”

Abram did as God said. He took Sarai, Lot and everything they had accumulated in Haran and set out for Canaan.

When they reached Canaan, Abram passed through the land as far as the city of Shechem.

God appeared to Abram.



“To your descendants I will give this land,” he said.

Then Abram built an altar at Shechem, because that is where God had appeared to him.

Abram left Shechem and moved on to the hill country east of Bethel. He pitched his tent with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east.

He also built an altar there and invoked God by name.

Afterward, Abram journeyed on by stages to the Negeb. When a severe famine came upon the land, Abram and his family traveled to Egypt to escape it.

While they were in Egypt,


Abram became afraid that he would be killed if people found out the beautiful Sarai was his wife.

“Please say, therefore, that you are my sister, so that I may fare well on your account and my life may be spared for your sake,” he told her.

While in Egypt, Abram did indeed fare well on Sarai's account and acquired many animals and servants.


Read more about it... Genesis 11 & 12

1. What did God promise Abram?
2. What did Abram build?



When Abram and Lot parted ways, where did Lot choose to go? (Hint: Genesis 13:11)

Answer: The Jordan Plain.




Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences about Abram and his family.

1. Abram traveled to _____ and settled there near the oak of Mamre. (Genesis 13:18)
2. _____, the king of Salem, blessed Abram. (Genesis 14:18-19)
3. Abram had a son named _____. (Genesis 16:16)
4. God changed Abram's name to _____ and Sarai's to _____. (Genesis 17:5, 15)

Answers: 1. Hebron; 2. Melchizedek; 3. Ishmael; 4. Abraham, Sarah.





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New book on Blessed Carlo Acutis delivers hope to his own generation

Carlo Acutis died when he was only 15 years old in 2006, and is on the path to sainthood in the Catholic Church.

His primary passion was the Eucharist and, though his life was short, his example of holiness and love for God lives on.

In the new book, *Blessed Carl Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers* (Ignatius Press), Courtney Mares delivers a comprehensive story not only about the young man's life and his example of holiness but also the lessons his own generation can learn from his love for God and others.

In this day and age of videos, people or stories going "viral," how does a teenager from Milan become a global "influencer for God" more than a decade after he died? That's the question *Blessed Carl Acutis* answers — and it's quite the story.

Mares, a Vatican journalist and Harvard University gradu-

ate based in Rome, Italy, traveled in the footsteps of Acutis in the Italian cities of Milan and Assisi to write this biography, which weaves storytelling with well-researched reporting to tell the inspiring story of a modern saint.

Drawing on the testimonies of the numerous lives changed by Acutis, *Blessed Carl Acutis* paints a portrait of Acutis as seen through the eyes of his family, friends, teachers and classmates.

Acutis, who is the patron of World Youth Day (Aug. 1-5 in Lisbon, Portugal) and the National Eucharistic Revival, was a tech-savvy teen who showed the world that computer coding and video games are not mutually exclusive with sainthood. Born in the same year as the launch of the World Wide Web, Acutis has been hailed by the pope for providing a witness to holiness in our digital age at a time when Christians are still grappling with how best to live out their faith in the

world of laptops, cell phones and social media.

Blessed Carl Acutis lays out the roadmap for people of the boy's own generation who are searching for the truth. Acutis had the answer and wasn't afraid to tell others and to live it. One chapter in the book, titled "What Carlo Can Teach Gen Z," provides guidance to Generation Z and Millennials on how to avoid digital addiction and become a saint, even while using technology.

"A superb delivery of the inspiring life of Carlo Acutis," said Edward Sri, author of *The Art of Living* and host of the All Things Catholic podcast. "Easy to read and packed with details about his story, this book narrates his holy life while calling all of us to greater levels of holiness by following his example as a saint of modern times."

Movie Ratings



General Patronage

The Little Mermaid (PG)



Adults and Adolescents

Big George Foreman (PG-13)
Elemental (PG)
Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (PG-13)



Adults

The Blackening (R)
The Boogeyman (PG-13)
Fast X (PG-13)
The Flash (PG-13)
Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (PG-13)
Padre Pio (R)
Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse (PG)



Morally Offensive

Book Club: The Next Chapter (PG-13)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

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Never-before-seen archives unveil Pope Pius XII's crucial role

Drawing from never before seen documents — letters, photographs, drawings, and newspaper articles — *The Pope's Cabinet: Pius XII's Secret War for Saving Jews*, by Johan Ickx (Sophia Institute Press), spells out what the World War II-era pontiff knew of Nazi atrocities and how he responded.

Through key topics and short stories, it discloses what really occurred, much of it con-

trary to the current narrative.

Although numerous accounts exist about the holocaust, this is the untold history of the Church's efforts, inspired by Venerable Pius XII, to save the innocent. It highlights records of the endless efforts of cabinet members in heated back room meetings to mitigate Nazi expansion and barbarity, inspired by Pius XII's condemnation of totalitarianism.

Ickx presents evidence of Pius XII's diplomatic attempts to curb the Third Reich policies without filters or embellishments. Readers will learn about Pius XII's interventions on behalf of those who wrote and begged for his help and how those efforts saved thousands of Jews from deportation and death.

Additionally featured is Pius's secret friendship with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt aimed at quelling the rise of barbaric dictatorship, and the pontiff's support of the Roman Escape Line to help the most persecuted.

Also described are Pius's rejection of Marshall Petain's racial laws and organization of emer-

gency baptisms to save thousands of Jews from deportation.

Ickx details the Nazis' shocking persecution of Christians and attacks against the Cross, along with how they misconstrued the Holy Father's writings. Other historical facts are revealed, including the shocking actions of Slovakia's Nazi government and Pius's repeated denunciations of that government.

The book also describes Pius XII's restraint in remaining outwardly impartial to avoid retaliation against the Jews — even as Rome was threatened by bombing — and the Pope's tireless work to save Jews with secret hiding places and visas, whether in Poland, Italy, Romania, Hungary, or the Holy Land.

Pius XII shines as an example of "soft diplomacy at its hardest."

The Pope's Cabinet showcases the network of heroic individuals, including secret informants of the Pope, who risked or gave their lives to rescue others. It is through their firsthand accounts, as unveiled in these documents, that we know the true story of what happened today.

SophiaInstitute.com

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and reflections

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Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

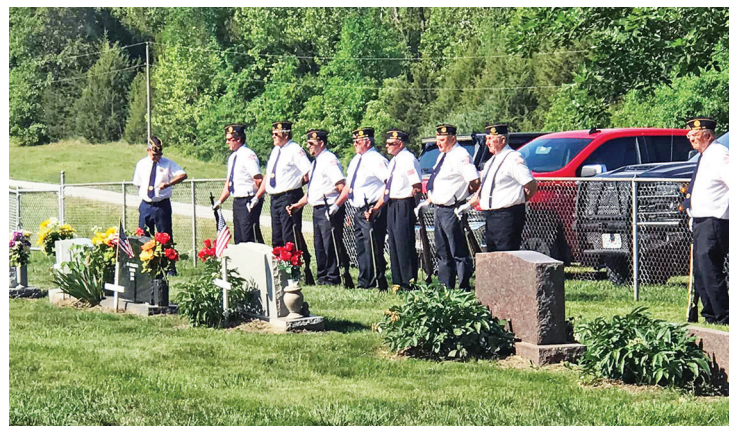
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K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

Sacrifices remembered

Members of American Legion Post 586 take part in a Memorial Day Service in St. Joseph Cemetery near Mendon on May 29.

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



MISA

de la página 15

Parroquia de la Anunciación en California sirvieron como lectores en la Misa.

La familia Alvarado de la Parroquia Santa María en Milán presentaron las ofrendas del pan y el vino durante el Ofertorio.

Un coro formado por miembros de la Parroquia San Vicente de Paúl en Sedalia y la Parroquia San Pedro en Jefferson City, dirigido por Nicholas Liese, se encargó de los cantos.

Los monaguillos y los voluntarios de hospitalidad eran miembros de la Parroquia Sagrado Corazón en Columbia y la Parroquia San Pedro en Marshall.

Osmaro de León, candidato al diaconado permanente, actuó como turiferario.

Después de la homilía, el Obispo McKnight comisionó a los delegados de esta diócesis al Encuentro Regional Hispano que se llevará a cabo en Kansas City este verano.

Asistirán delegados de las diócesis católicas de Missouri, Iowa, Kansas y Nebraska.

Esta será la primera reunión de este tipo para esta región después de la pandemia.

“El propósito es orar y reflexionar, pero también equipar a los líderes hispanos en su liderazgo y comprensión de la pastoral hispana en nuestra región”, dijo el Diácono Castro.

Como era el Día del Padre, el Obispo McKnight también ofreció una oración especial por todos los papás presentes en la asamblea.

Saludó a la gente y se detuvo para tomarse fotos con el pueblo en el vestíbulo después de la Misa.

Varios también se tomaron la foto en la Catedral con un nuevo mosaico de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Y para cerrar se llevó a cabo una recepción con comida en Cana Hall de la Catedral.

El grupo de Sedalia y Mar-

shall llevaron la estatua de la Santísima Madre que habían traído, como recuerdo de la ocasión.

RELICS

From page 3

reverence for Christ fully present in the Eucharist, they also frequently received him in that Sacrament.

“Whenever they received

H o l y C o m m u n i o n, they received Christ in t o t h e i r b o d i e s — just as we do w h e n e v e r w e c o m e f o r w a r d t o r e c e i v e,” Fr. Merz noted.

“And when we receive

Holy Communion, it’s not so much that Christ becomes part of us as we become part of Christ,” he said. “It raises us, ennobles us, dignifies us, elevates us to something higher.”

Having experienced that reality in the Eucharist through their earthly lives, St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo have been raised into the fullness of that communion with Christ and share that glory in heaven.

“So, when the relics are in our presence, we are in the presence of two people who are in the presence of Christ in fullness,” Fr. Merz stated.

He emphasized that authentic Communion involves transformation, deeper unity, and an urgent call to mission.

He noted that the Church

s p e a k s of Holy C o m m u n i o n b o t h in the Eucharist, and in the C o m m u n i o n of Saints.

“Love of God a n d love of n e i g h b o r a r e t w o sides of the same

coin,” he said.

“We can’t love the God we can’t see, if we don’t love the neighbor that we do!” he stated. “We need to receive the love of God so that we can share the love of God with those around us.”

St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo loved God intensely and consequently worked for the good of their brothers and sisters.

“They not only received the Eucharist but they put it into action,” said Fr. Merz. “That’s a great example to be set before us and a great stimulus for us to imitate and follow.”

As more information becomes available about the times and events planned in the various parishes for the July 9-16 hosting of the relics of Blessed Carlos Acutis and St. Manuel González García, check the diocesan website at diojeffcity.org.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Jun 25
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Jer. 20:10-13
Ps. 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
Rom. 5:12-15
Mt. 10:26-33

Monday, Jun 26
Gn. 12:1-9
Ps. 33:12-13, 18-20, 22
Mt. 7:1-5

Tuesday, Jun 27
St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor of the Church
Gn. 13:2, 5-18
Ps. 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5
Mt. 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday, Jun 28
St. Irenaeus, bishop and martyr
Gn. 15:1-12, 17-18
Ps. 105:1-4, 6-9
Mt. 7:15-20

Thursday, Jun 29
SS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES
Acts 12:1-11
Ps. 34:2-9
2 Tm. 4:6-8, 17-18
Mt. 16:13-19

Friday, Jun 30
The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
Gn. 17:1, 9-10, 15-22
Ps. 128:1-5
Mt. 8:1-4

Saturday, Jul 1
St. Junípero Serra, priest (USA)
Gn. 18:1-15
(Ps.) Lk. 1:46-50, 53-55
Mt. 8:5-17

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for June:

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

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Pope advances sainthood cause of Italian priest

Vatican City Catholic News Service

Pope Francis formally recognized the martyrdom of an Italian priest shot by Nazi soldiers after they discovered he

was helping his parishioners hide about 100 Jews.

The martyrdom of Father Giuseppe Beotti, who was arrested and shot July 20, 1944, in Sidolo in northern Italy, was one of

nine decrees in sainthood causes Pope Francis signed May 20.

The help Fr. Beotti “offered to many Jewish people persecuted by the Nazi-Fascists played a decisive role”

in his death, according to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. “To give them refuge,

the priest had mobilized all the parishioners” and helped them hide and feed about 100 Jews.



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Quilt Auction @ 6pm (stmartin.diojeffcity.org)
Kiddie Tractor Pull @ 3pm

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Canterbury Pilgrimages

Happy 10th anniversary of your ordination on June 29!



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