September 17, 2021

MESSENGER

Serving the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky since 1926

In This Issue

Special edition

2 **The motto**
Let Your Light Shine

2 **A message from Bishop Foys**

3 **Congratulations from**
Bishop-elect Iffert and
Ky's bishops

6 **Family photo album**

8 **In his words**
An interview with Bishop Foys

12 **Priests share thoughts**

22 **Catholic school leaders**
Appreciate support

26 **A look back**
Bishop Foys' installation

27 **Statistics and snapshots**

28 **Curia share 19 years of ministry**

34 **Recollections from Women Religious**

Bishop's Schedule 3
Commentary 5
People and Events 38
Classifieds 45
Shopper's Guide 47

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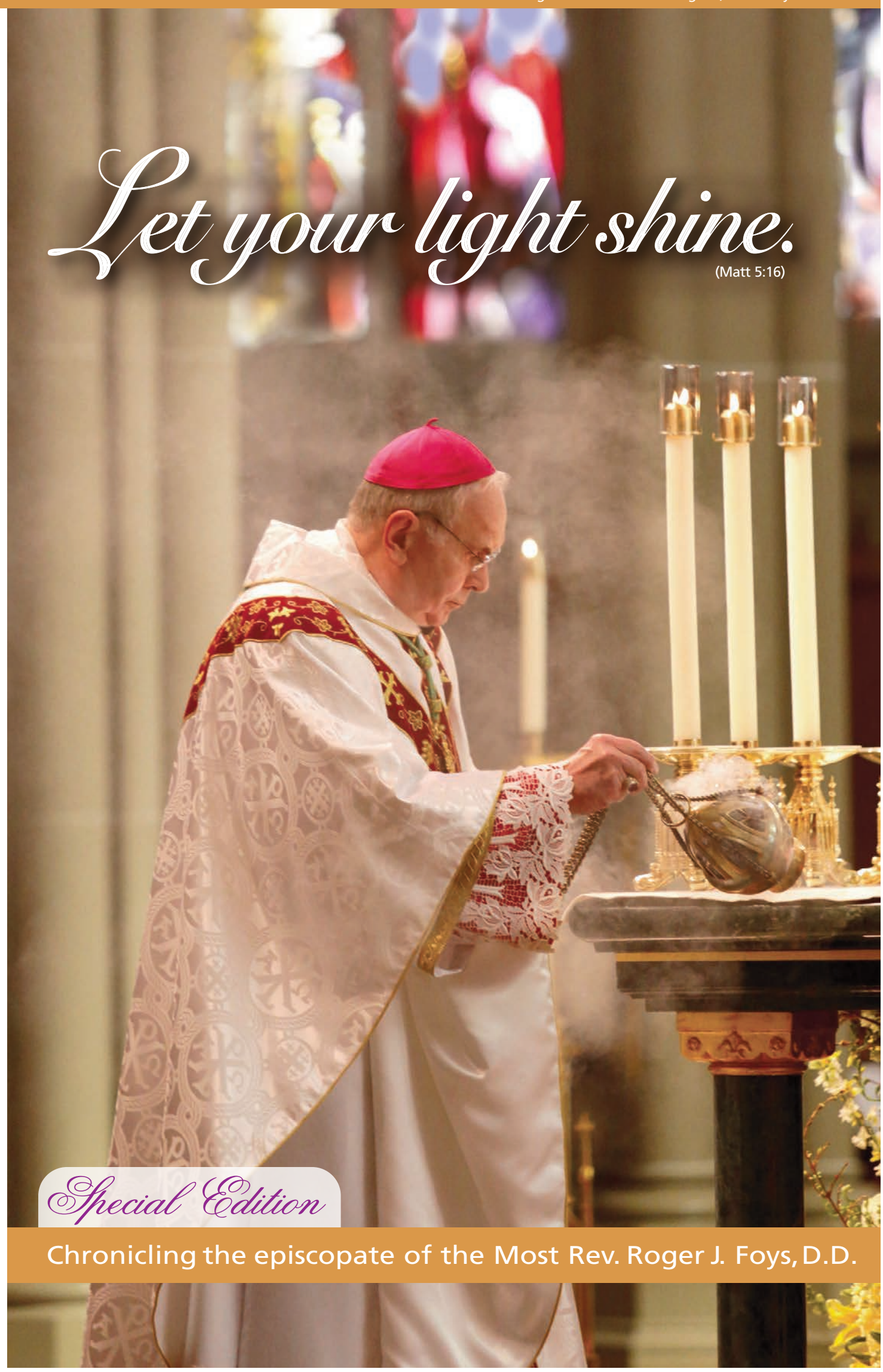
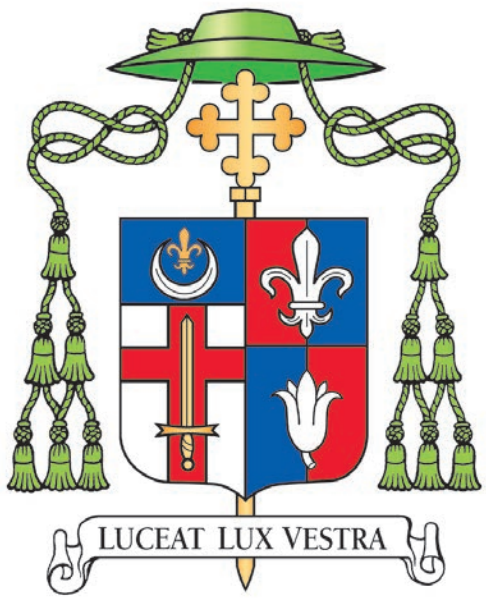




The custom of a bishop employing a coat of arms dates to the Middle Ages. It was an adaptation of the medieval knight's heraldic device that identified him when dressed in full armor. For a bishop, the coat of arms traditionally symbolized his jurisdiction and the nobility of his office in the Church.

Bishop Foys' coat of arms combines a design of his own choosing with the coat of arms of the Diocese of Covington. The diocesan design on the left hand side of the shield was commissioned by Bishop William T. Mulloy following the 1953 elevation of Covington's Cathedral to the status of a minor basilica. Imposed on the blue upper portion is a gold fleur-de-lis set within the arms of a silver crescent moon. Both are symbols of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Their juxtaposition in this fashion indicates her Assumption, or, as the artist conceived it, "the Blessed Virgin elevated above the sub-lunary world." It is under this aspect that Mary is Patroness of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Below it is a red cross on a white field. Pointing upward on the vertical beam of the cross is a gold sword, the symbol of St. Paul, patron of the Diocese of Covington.

The right hand side of the shield represents Bishop Foys' life and ministry in the Diocese of Steubenville, as well as his hopes for his episcopal service to the Diocese of Covington. The Bishop's personal half of the shield is divided into blue and red quadrants. A white fleur-de-lis, a symbol not only of Mary in this instance, but also of the Cistercian Order and Blessed Roger Ellant (a Cistercian abbot of the 12th century) as well, adorns the upper half. The lower half is graced by a white lily, signifying St. Joseph. By these two symbols the baptismal patrons of Bishop Foys are represented. The red, white and blue colors also honor his Slovenian heritage.

Above the shield is a gold processional cross surmounted by a green pontifical hat called a gallero. The cross and the hat with six tassels on either side portray the rank of a bishop. The Latin phrase on the scroll beneath the shield, "Let your light shine," (Matt 5:16) is the episcopal motto by which Bishop Foys has guided the Diocese of Covington for 19 years.

Let your light shine.

(Matt 5:16)

15 September 2021

My dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever! Amen!

Nineteen years ago I received a call that would be life-changing for me. The Lord, through our then Holy Father Pope St. John Paul II, called me to the fullness of the priesthood. I remember the day as though it were yesterday. The Apostolic Nuncio at the time, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, called to say that our Holy Father John Paul II had decided to call me to the episcopacy and appoint me the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. I was speechless and I remember distinctly Archbishop Montalvo's words to me: "Don't worry, Monsignor. God will give you the grace you need." And so my 19-year journey as the 10th Bishop of Covington began!

These 19 years have truly been years of grace for me as I came to know the priests, deacons, consecrated religious and devoted lay faithful of this wonderful Diocese. Together we faced joys and sorrows, successes and failures, challenges and victories. Through it all, I have seen the hand of God and the words of Archbishop Montalvo keep echoing in my heart: God will give you the grace you need.

As I lay down the mantle of administration I am filled with gratitude for so many of you who have encouraged me, supported me, and especially prayed for me during these 19 years. I can never thank you enough but I do promise you my prayers. If I have disappointed any of you during these past 19 years I take this opportunity to apologize and to assure you that I have never once set out to disappoint or hurt anyone. Our frailty and humanity sometimes get the best of all of us.

And now we wait for our new bishop in the person of the Very Rev. John C. Iffert. I ask that you join me in prayer for Bishop-elect Iffert as he prepares to take up the leadership of our Diocese. I am confident that he will fill our minds and hearts with the truth of the Gospel, the power of the sacraments, and the desire to build up the Church so that, "All may be one" (cf. John 17:21).

Let us pray to the Lord to strengthen our resolve always to serve Him and to make known His Name.

We can do so much more together than we could ever accomplish alone. May we *let our light shine*, so that others seeing our good works will give glory to God! (Matt 5:16)

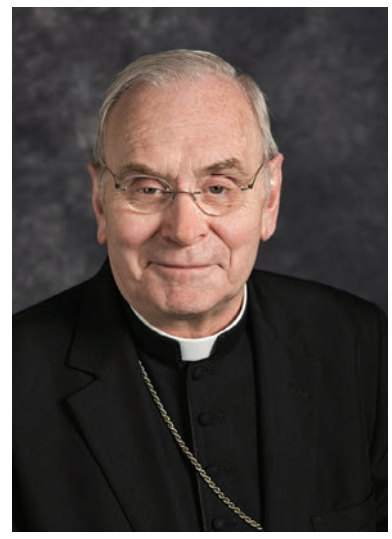
We place our trust and hope in God for it is the Lord who begins every good work in us and it is the Lord who will bring it to completion. (Phil 1:6)

I assure you of my prayers on your behalf and I ask that you please continue to pray for me.

Yours devotedly and gratefully in the Lord,

+ Roger Foys

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Apostolic Administrator
Bishop Emeritus of Covington



Every five years, a bishop is required to make a visit to Rome to pray at the tomb of St. Peter and make a quinquennial report to the Holy Father on the state of his diocese. These visits are known as an ad limina. Bishop Foys made three ad limina visits, with three different popes. "All three popes, to me and to the Church, represent Christ. I have faith that they are chosen by the Lord," said Bishop Foys.

(right) On his first ad limina in 2004, Bishop Foys met individually with Pope John Paul II. "Even though he was in his failing years he was very much present," Bishop Foys said. "It was very moving. I felt, even then, that I was in the presence of a saint." (right) Pictured with Bishop Foys and Pope John Paul II are (from right) Father Raymond Enzweiler and Father Ryan Maher who were both seminarians at the time.

September 17, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

I thank God for you all every day and look forward to being joined to the Diocese of Covington at the end of the month. Let us pray for one another.

Today, I am happy to join you in congratulating Bishop Roger Joseph Foys on nearly two decades faithfully dedicated to building up this local Church and God's Kingdom. Together we offer our best wishes and prayers for a happy retirement. At the same time, we beg him to continue to be that joyful, contemplative witness that he has been for the Diocese of Covington.

In the few weeks I have known Bishop Foys, I have found him to be a man of devotion and prayer. He orders his life, and the life of the Curia, around the celebration of the Mass and daily reception of Holy Eucharist. He is the first to arrive at the chancery in the morning, preparing for the Mass with his own time and hands. He establishes patterns of prayer at times throughout the day that draw others into constancy and fidelity. He is an active contemplative; a person of prayer who allows the fruit of his relationship with Christ to flow into his ministry of servant leadership.

The fruit of this contemplative pattern of life is a witness to Christ's love. I have seen this firsthand in the kindness that Bishop Foys has shown in welcoming me to Covington. I have described him as a true Christian gentleman. I mean that his bearing is marked by gentleness, respect, anticipating the needs of the other, listening with a caring ear, and doing the good and loving thing where his service can help.

You and I are not the only ones to notice this goodness in Bishop Foys. There is a great sense of fraternity among the Catholic bishops of the United States. For the past two months I have been receiving letters of support and congratulations from Catholic bishops across the country.
While all express their prayer and support, it is worth noting the significant number of those bishops who add this certainly true sentiment as an encouragement: "You are following a good man."

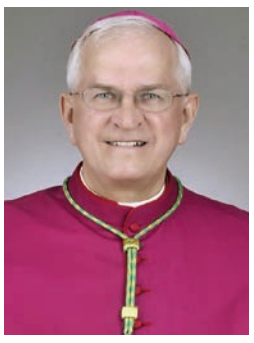
I am grateful to follow in the footsteps of a man of God like Bishop Roger Foys. I am especially pleased that Bishop Foys will continue to reside in Covington and that he offers his prayer and assistance. I look forward to collaborating with him in the years to come.

Ad Multos Annos!

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ John C. Iffert

Bishop-elect John C. Iffert



I salute my friend and brother bishop Bishop Roger Foys, who has served for 19 years as the Bishop of Covington.

Bishop Foys has truly let his "light shine" for the faithful of Northern Kentucky, and I join with the bishops of the Province in thanking him for his leadership and collaboration since 2002.

His holiness and faithfulness has been an inspiration to all of us.

Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville

Congratulations, Bishop Roger Foys.

Thank you for your esteemed years as Bishop of Covington. You have served the people of God with pastoral compassion and kindness. My prayer is that you will enjoy now the fruits of your good work in a happy and holy retirement.

May the Lord richly bless you.

Most Rev. William F. Medley
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

I heartily congratulate Bishop Foys as he enters retirement and pray that this next phase of life will be truly fruitful for him and allow for the prayer, reflection, relaxation and enjoyment that were often sacrificed in order to serve the members of his flock.

When I came to Kentucky I was warmly greeted by my brother bishops in the state on the first day I arrived, and Bishop Foys has continued to be very gracious and helpful to me. His warm presence and kindness will surely be missed.

Covington has been led and served faithfully for all these years and will continue to grow under Bishop Iffert's leadership.

Thank you, Bishop Foys, and enjoy the slower pace and lighter schedule!

Most Rev. John E. Stowe, O.F.M. Conv.
Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington

Bishop Foys' second ad limina was in 2012 with Pope Benedict XVI. This time, the bishops met as a province. "That also was remarkable because he was very present to each of us," Bishop Foys said. Each bishop made a presentation. Bishop Foys' presentation was on Catholic education.

In 2019, Bishop Foys traveled again to Rome to meet with Pope Francis. This time, two regions met together with the Pope. "Our meeting was for almost two hours and it was free flowing," Bishop Foys said.

Bishop's Schedule

Sept. 17
High School seniors Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 1 p.m.

Sept. 18
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 4:30 p.m.

Chili Cook-Off, St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, 6 p.m.

Sept. 19
150th anniversary Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, 11:30 a.m.

Individual meetings, 9:30 a.m.; 10 a.m.

Sept. 21
Individual meeting, 9:30 a.m.

ACUE reception, Drees Pavilion, Covington, 6 p.m.

Sept. 23
Diocesan staff directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 25
Knights of the Holy Sepulchre welcome, 8:30 a.m.

Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Promotion Ceremony, Cathedral Basilica, 2 p.m.

Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 26
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Mass, St. Peter in Chains Basilica, Cincinnati, 2 p.m.

The Parishioners of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish

Thank you Bishop Foys

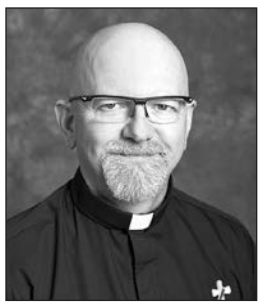
with deep gratitude and appreciation for your dedicated and selfless service to the Lord, the Diocese of Covington and to the Cathedral parish over the last 19 years.

May the Lord bless you and keep you always!

COMMENTARY

Back in the saddle

VIEWPOINT



Deacon David Profitt

It's been over a year and a half since we've had an overnight retreat at St. Anne Retreat Center. As I write this, we are preparing to welcome our women's retreat. We have 80 women signed up and we couldn't be happier. The subject of the retreat is "The Art of Being Joyful." Msgr. William Cleves and I felt this was an appropriate theme given this past year.

One of the things we want to emphasize is that joy is always available to us if we so choose to accept it. It is that deep, intrinsic knowledge that our life is pointed in the right direction. It is not the same as happiness. Happiness is an emotion like anger or sadness. Emotions come and go. During this time-period of COVID, they seem to come more frequently.

Joy allows us to deal with the difficulties of life. It is accepting the fact that we are not in control of everything and in fact in charge of little. We do our part, to the best of our ability, but more importantly we rely on God's providence to guide us through those tough times. We were never promised an easy life, but Jesus promised us his joy and his peace. That should be enough to sustain through the curveballs that life likes to throw at us.

The difficulties of life are what can lead us to that greatest sense of joy. I know when my dad was dying of cancer, it was the knowledge that he had lived a good life as a man of God and shared that with anyone he met. Although losing him would leave a hole in my life and the life of my family, I knew his dedication to his faith was going to reward the efforts he made. This gave me an enormous sense of joy knowing he was at peace. Those difficulties draw us to the cross, not only our cross but the cross of Christ himself.

I've made a conscious decision over the past year or so that I would not let the events of the world beat me down. There's nothing I can do about Covid except get my vaccination and follow the prescribed guidance to keep myself and others safe. There's nothing I can do about the nastiness we hear in the media, no matter what your take on any given topic. I can choose to not be like that, and I have. Being hateful towards those who don't believe what we believe is a recipe for hatred and cuts off all chance of a meaningful discourse.

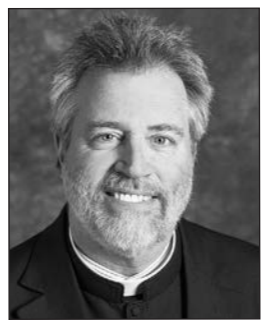
The staff and I at St. Anne Retreat Center ask for your prayers for our mission. We're grateful for the support of Bishop Roger Foys and I'm looking forward to working with Bishop-elect John Iffert. Our calendar is full beginning with this women's retreat. We're excited to share the beauty of St. Anne especially after all the work we've done during our time of no retreats.

I highly encourage and welcome you to come out and visit with us. Pray that we see an end to COVID and that all of us can enjoy life to the fullest. In the meantime, grab that joy that Jesus offers, let go of what you can't control and be grateful for the gift of life. It sure makes the day a whole lot brighter.

Deacon David Profitt is director of the St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne and is assigned to Holy Spirit Parish, Newport.

What are you arguing about?

GO AND GLORIFY



Father Stephen Bankemper

The readings for the twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle B are: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16–4:3 and Mark 9:30-37.

One of the obvious marks of our world and country at this time is a growing alienation from people — groups from groups and individuals from individuals. This has been growing for some time, of course, but the COVID pandemic has exacerbated it to an extreme level. What is far worse than the divisions in the world and our country, however, is the division within our Church. Not only are citizens speaking to and about each other, and treating each other, as enemies, but we Catholics are speaking and acting in the same way. In my opinion, this is the real tragedy of our time and of COVID — that we Christians have forgotten who we are and how we are called to act. I think this is what Satan is trying to accomplish with COVID — to tear down the Church and the world by turning us into enemies, into people with hate in our hearts.

Sad to say — but this has always been the case, I guess — Satan is getting his tools from us. In the second reading today we read from James: "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice." We can add to James' list: where fear and anger and suspicion and disagreement and anxiety and insecurity exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. There is name calling and detraction and harsh words and accusation and impatience. Relationships break apart and it becomes hard even to be civil to each other. Yes, Satan has many tools at his disposal, and those tools come from our hearts.

What is the antidote to all of this? What is the true cure for this evil? We can find it in the Collect for today's Mass: "O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor …"

We must choose love, whatever is happening in our world, country and Church. We must learn to love those who disagree with us, and must learn how to disagree in love. We must learn to love those who think differently than we, and learn to try to convince them instead of attacking and crushing them. We must learn to discuss ideas in love, and stop labelling people and talking about and to them as enemies. As we read in Luke's Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples, "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Why is this so important? It is important to each of us individually for our salvation, and we should not lose sight of that, but there is another reason. Jesus' Church is supposed to be the salt of the earth (Matt 5:13). But if salt loses its taste? "It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot." We are supposed to be the light of the world. We must let that light shine in the world. We are supposed to be different than the people of the world. We can show the world how to live sanely and lovingly in a world of pandemic.

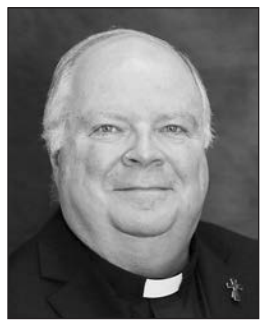
I cannot control what popes or bishops teach or do not teach, I cannot control what politicians or media people say or do, but I can control how I speak about them, whether or not I pray for them, how I respond to them.

Our first and highest calling is to be children of God. As Jesus says, "Love your enemies and do good to them … and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." Let us take away Satan's tools for destruction. Let us cooperate with Christ, not Satan. Let us turn away from suspicion and lies and detraction and fear and hate, and discuss, disagree, argue, live and worship, in love.

Father Stephen Bankemper is pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Managing transition with an open heart

BELIEVE, TEACH, PRACTICE



Deacon Peter Freeman

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isa 43:18-19).

When people find out that I work in the Curia for the Diocese of Covington, they sometimes think that I am privy to a lot of "top secret" information. The biggest question I've been asked over the past year is, "who will be our new bishop?" That's a question that not even Bishop Foys knew the answer to until it was announced in July.

In being asked that question, I always picked up on the question behind the question; "What changes will occur when we get a new bishop?" Some people — lay people and clergy both — might have something specific in mind in regards to change. There is something they hope will change and there is something they hope will not change. I think fear of change and fear of the unknown are basic fears most of us have.

On Sept. 30, Bishop John Iffert will be consecrated as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. As he assumes his episcopacy, I don't think it's a time to make assumptions or wish lists of what we expect of him. As Isaiah writes, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

I'm sure, as he brings his leadership and personality to our diocese, we can perceive new things that will spring forth. We can all help Bishop Iffert by giving him some breathing room to take in all the changes that are occurring in his life, and help him adjust to being in a new place and in a new role that he was chosen for — and said "yes" to.

Bishop Foys, in my opinion, has been a wonderful shepherd for our diocese. He came to us and immediately had to deal with very tough issues. In retrospect, I would say he was the bishop we needed. Unfortunately, as he's leaving, he's had to deal with more tough issues brought on by the pandemic. No matter what, throughout the years he has shown his love and care for the diocese, even when it wasn't always appreciated. I will never forget the kindness and generosity he has shown to me personally.

Isaiah says, "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old." This does not mean that we should forget Bishop Foys and all he has done. We should also not look to our new bishop to solve or resolve past issues. Certainly, he will take some of that on. But, also new things will spring forth. As with Bishop Foys, Bishop Iffert will have his own way to guide us through the wilderness. We will stand on the foundation that Bishop Foys has established and build on it together with Bishop Iffert's guidance going forward.

Whatever changes occur as a result of being led by a new bishop, we should always keep in mind that all things come from God. We need for our eyes to remain fixed on the Lord and remain steadfast in our prayer to him. Because no matter what changes might happen in our diocese, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb 13:8).

Deacon Peter Freeman is director, Worship and Liturgy, Diocese of Covington and is assigned to St. Philip Parish, Melbourne.

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A look back — a photo album of Bishop Foys, his family and path to Covington

Roger Joseph Foys was born July 27, 1945 in Chicago, Illinois, to Martin A. and Theresa (Haklin) Foys. He was the third of their four children, left photo from left, Richard, Robert, Roger and baby Margaret.

(above) Margaret and Roger with parents Martin and Theresa Foys. Bishop Foys credits his parents for his vocation, "Their love gave me life and their lives gave me faith," he said at his installation and at many homilies throughout the years, especially at school Masses as he encourages students to thank their parents for giving them life and providing them with a Catholic education.

Bishop Roger Foys' eighth-grade graduation photo from St. Stephen School, Chicago. He has always valued his Catholic education. "There are alternatives to Catholic school education, but there are no substitutes," is a phrase he has coined.

Father Roger Foys presided at his sister's wedding in 1973. The happy couple, Mitchell and Margaret Ciesla, had originally planned to get married in 1972 but opted to wait a year until her brother was ordained a priest. Bishop Foys held his sister in high esteem for her vocations as a wife and mother and registered nurse. Mrs. Ciesla was battling pancreatic cancer and was unable to attend the consecration and installation of Bishop Foys in 2002. In 2004 she succumbed to the illness. The Curia staff travelled to Chicago to attend her funeral and support their new Bishop. "We are a family," Bishop Foys said about the Curia, noting that staff have often shared their struggles with him.

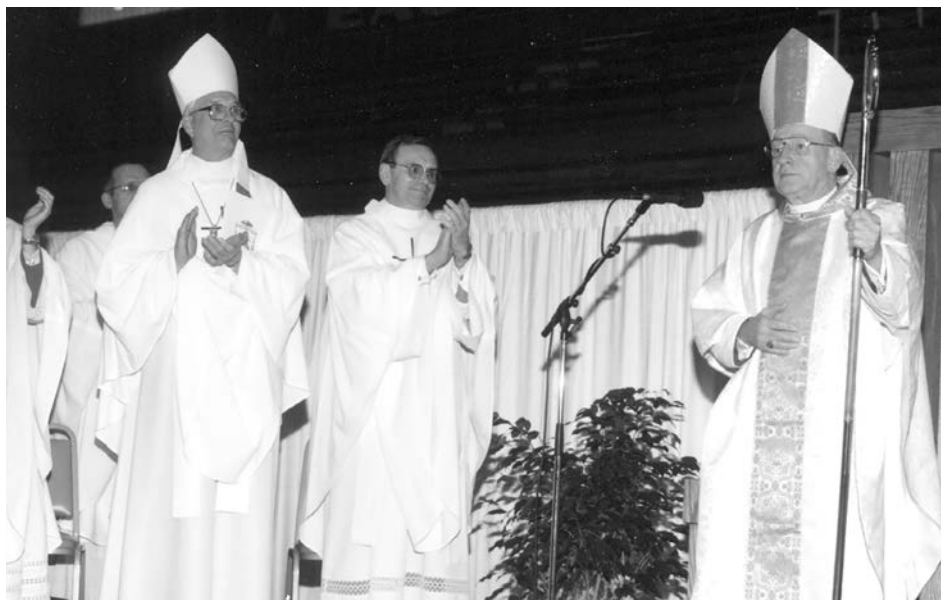
Father Roger Foys with his father, Martin, and mother, Theresa, at his installation as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Toronto, Ohio, in 1980. Over the next 22 years the Foys family become beloved amongst the parishioners of both St. Joseph Parish and St. Francis Parish. His father passed away on Father's Day and, in 2001, his mother passed on Christmas Eve.

(above) Roger Foys as a toddler. In an interview with the Messenger in 2002, Robert Foys, Bishop's older brother, said that Roger didn't speak until he was three years old. Well-meaning friends would often question Mrs. Foys about her quiet son; she never worried. "'He'll talk when he has something to say' she used to say," said Dr. Foys. Throughout his priesthood and episcopacy Bishop Foys has been known as a great homilist.

(above) With little money in the parish kitty, and prospects few, the new pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Toronto, Father Roger Foys, paints the windows and eaves of the convent. And while his painting days were behind him by the time he arrived in Covington, Bishop Foys continued to work hard for the priests and people of the Diocese of Covington, as evidenced by his schedule published each week in the *Messenger*.

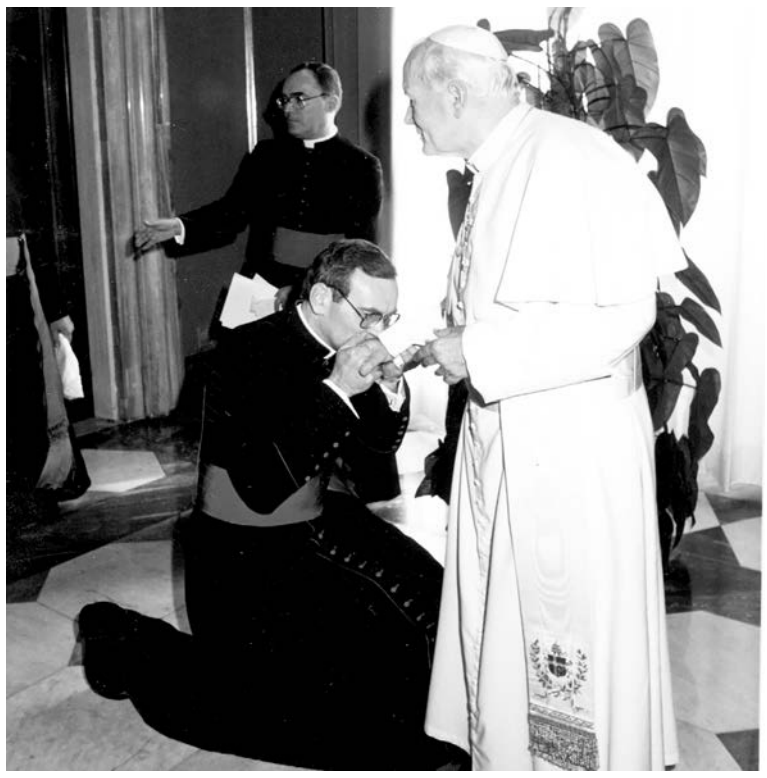
(left) At his transitional diaconate ordination, the then Deacon Roger Foys distributes communion to his mother Theresa. His father Martin is second in the communion line. He was ordained a priest for the diocese of Steubenville on May 16, 1973, at Holy Name Cathedral, Steubenville.
In the Diocese of Steubenville he served as pastor at: Christ the King Mission, Steubenville; Nativity of Our Lord Mission, Hammondsville; St. Francis Parish, Toronto; St. Joseph Parish, Toronto; and St. Matthias Mission, Freeport.

Msgr. Roger Foys and his mother, Theresa, with two of his elementary school teachers, from left, first grade teacher, Sister Gemma, OSF, and eighth grade teacher, Sister Ewalda, OSF. Bishop Foys says wonderful examples of the priests and sisters fostered his vocation.



Msgr. Roger Foys, center, at the installation of Bishop Gilbert Sheldon, Steubenville, April 2, 1992. Bishop Sheldon was Steubenville's third bishop, retiring in August 2002. Administratively for the Diocese of Steubenville, Msgr. Foys served as secretary, vice-officialis and officialis of the Tribunal for 10 years and vicar general for nearly 20 years, holding that post until his appointment as Bishop of Covington in 2002.

(right) Every five years bishops are required to make an ad limina — a visit to Rome to report to the pope. Bishop Gilbert Sheldon invited Msgr. Roger Foys to accompany him on his 1998 ad limina — during which he met with Pope John Paul II. On May 31, 2002, it was announced that Pope John Paul II had appointed Msgr. Roger Foys the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Covington.



In good times and bad times God gives us the grace we need — Bishop Foys' episcopate, in his own words

Laura Keener
Editor

Question: "Let Your Light Shine" was the motto you chose. How has that motto encouraged you during the last 19 years? From your perspective, how have the people of the Diocese embraced or given witness to that motto?

Answer: I chose that motto because, in 2002 when I was called to be a bishop, we were in the second or third phase of the abuse crisis. It felt as if the Church was in a dark, dark period. That quotation from Matthew's Gospel has always been a favorite of mine because our faith should always bring light to a darkened world.

What's important is to take the motto in its context. It's, let your light shine not for yourself but so that others seeing your good works can give glory to God. I thought it was appropriate to let our faith shine so that others would see it and light the way for others. That was encouraging for me.

The people in the diocese embracing or giving witness to that, I think, they have done so overwhelmingly. In the midst of those dark days I was a new bishop in a diocese where I knew no one, overseeing this terrible scourge of child sexual abuse. One never knows how people will respond. People in our diocese responded in a very positive way. You will always have critics and naysayers but the majority of people, in notes and letters and even in meeting people in parishes, were very supportive. I think it has strengthened our faith for the most part; crises will do that — they either strengthen your faith or lose it.

It was interesting, too, because during that time we had a real surge in vocations. Early on, when I would interview the prospective seminarians I would ask, 'Why do you want to embrace this call at this time during the life of the Church?" Many of them said, "Because I feel the Church needs good priests." That was very encouraging.

Q: During your episcopate the Church has been led by three popes: Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. You have reported to each for an ad limina visit. What was your experience as a Bishop of an ad limina visit? Your impression of each of the popes?

A: I had been on two previous ad limina visits with my former bishops, so I had a general sense of what that was. But being a bishop myself and being at the seat of our Catholicism in Rome at the tomb of St. Peter was very moving. All three ad limina visits that I made as a bishop gave me an opportunity to sit with the Holy Father, who is the one who calls bishops to that vocation, and to share with them the life of the local Church. Each one of those was different.

With Pope John Paul it was an individual visit. We sat with him. Even though he was in his failing years he was very much present. We talked about the synod we had just completed. He was telling me about the synod he had in Krakow. We talked about vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese. It was very moving. I felt, even

The Knights and Dames of the

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Covington-Lexington Section

extend our heartfelt congratulations on the retirement of

Bishop Roger J. Foys

Tenth Bishop of Covington

Church of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem

We offer our prayers and thanks to God for the Bishop's 19 years of generous efforts, prayers and support in helping the Order of the Holy Sepulchre grow and thrive in the Diocese of Covington.

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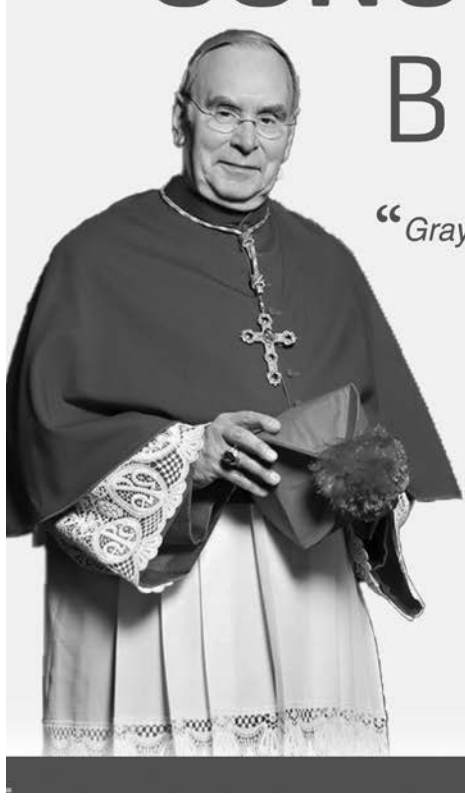
Thank you, Bishop Foys!
We love you!
Happy Retirement
from the people of Saint James Mission in Minerva!

CONGRATULATIONS
BISHOP FOYS!



"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life."
Proverbs 16:31

God has blessed us with a wonderful bishop. You've guided us with your wisdom, prayers and blessings.

Thank you for allowing us to help visualize your stories, messages & themes throughout these years!

Enjoy your retirement Bishop Foys!!!

Mark Czarnik

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Bishop Roger Foys

Thank you for your service to the Diocese of Covington.
May you enjoy your retirement.

The Mustard Seed Community
The Diocesan Charismatic Prayer Group

then, that I was in the presence of a saint.

Pope Benedict, we met with him as a province. That also was remarkable because he was very present to each of us. Each of us made a presentation on our diocese. I spoke on education in our Catholic schools. Again, his concern was obvious.

With Pope Francis we met with a larger group; we met with two regions. Our meeting was for almost two hours and it was free flowing. He spoke with us, asked us questions and took our questions. The feeling I had sitting there was that here is a true spiritual father, who is genuinely concerned with the Church as a whole.

Each visit was different but each was the same. The feeling that this is the successor of Jesus Christ and St. Peter who really cares about his bishops and really cares about the Church. Just being with the other bishops of the region is also very gratifying because we share the same struggles and the same joys. It's good to be with brother bishops; we can relate to each other like we cannot relate to others.

All three popes, to me and to the Church, represent Christ. I have faith that they are chosen by the Lord.

Q. Since John Paul II called you to the episcopacy, how has his pontificate influenced you?

A. His pontificate was very vibrant and very bold. He was the first Holy Father to travel as extensively as he did and to make himself truly present to all parts of the world. His fearlessness in proclaiming the Gospel, knowing certainly that he would be criticized, as all leaders are, but that didn't deter him from doing what he had to do. He brought real life to the Church. God, I think, God does provide, shepherds for us for every age. Holy Father St. John Paul II was that choice. His pontificate influenced me very much; obviously the fact that he called me to the episcopacy. Bishop-elect Iffert mentioned this at his press conference, that for a moment, my name was in front of him; he was the one who had to make the choice, and say, "yes." That's overwhelming, almost. That's why when he died I took that very personally because I felt very close to him.

Q. A lasting impression that you have made on anyone who has attended several Masses that you have celebrated would be your proclaiming at the end of each homily, "It is the Lord who has begun this good work in us, and it is the Lord who will bring it to fulfillment" and, at the end of Mass, the playing of the hymn, "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" at the recessional. What inspired this mantra and anthem?

A. That's from St. Paul — the Lord has begun this good work in us and the Lord will bring it to fulfillment. We can sometimes lull ourselves into — in some instances false security and in other instances false insecurity — thinking: How am I going to do this? How will I complete this task? How am I going to begin this project? How am I going to be able to preach and teach and not be influenced by negativity? If we begin with the understanding that the Lord begins any good work in us, certainly in St. Paul, Paul was a blasphemer, he calls himself in his letter to Timothy — he was persecuting Christians. Then he was converted by the Lord — literally saw the light. He could say that it was the Lord who began this in me and then he was jailed, when he was shipwrecked, beaten and stoned, how could anybody face that? Because we know it's not us, but the Lord is going to bring it to fulfillment, if we work with the Lord. We have to do our part; we just can't sit back.

I think that, sometimes, any person of faith can be overwhelmed by: how am I going to live the faith? How am I going to carry that faith to others? We do our part and the Lord will do the rest. He will bring it to fulfillment. I think it's good for me to remind myself and to remind the people I serve that whatever good there is in our life it's because the Lord began it, and if we cooperate with the Lord, he will bring that to fulfillment. If we had to only rely on our-

(Continued on page 10)

Best Wishes, Bishop Foys!

Thank you for your nineteen years of service to our Diocese and to the Diocesan Schools!

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IHM SAINTS REACH HIGHER

MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN SCHOOL

ST. HENRY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY — ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDED ON FAITH

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL — EDUCATION WRAPPED IN FAITH

ST. TIMOTHY CATHOLIC SCHOOL — LIVING LEARNING SERVING CHRIST

Bishop Foys
From a parish who is grateful for your spiritual fatherhood over these 19 years.

A truly blessed retirement to Bishop Foys.
St. Benedict Parish, Covington

Saint Ann & Saint John parishes thank you Bishop Foys for your 19 years of service to our diocese.

We wish you health and relaxation in the years ahead!

The Most Reverend William F. Medley
and the Roman Catholic Church
of the Diocese of Owensboro
Extend Heartfelt Congratulations
and Prayers of Support to

Bishop Roger J. Foys

on your Retirement as the
Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Covington

"Let your light shine."
- Matthew 5:16

(Continued from page 9)

selves we might as well throw up our hands and walk away now.

With "Holy God We Praise Thy Name," when I was a boy that hymn ended most of our church services, usually in two languages — Slovenian and English. There is a great hymn of the Church the "Te Deum" which is sung at the Divine Office — the office of readings — and, also, it is sung in giving praise to God usually at New Year's Eve. "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" reflects that great Te Deum. Again, whenever we are ending something, why are we doing this to begin with? To praise God's name. It's connected to my motto. Why do we let our light shine? To give glory to God. So we end our liturgical celebrations with this hymn praising God's name. If you take time to read all the lyrics it is really a moving hymn of thanksgiving. It calls on all the people of God and the saints and the angels and the martyrs to give praise to God.

A long time ago I began singing, and I still do, the song at funerals before the body is lowered in the grave or interred, because, why, what are we doing? We are praising God's name for the life of the person we are saying farewell to.

I would end everything with that song if I had my way.

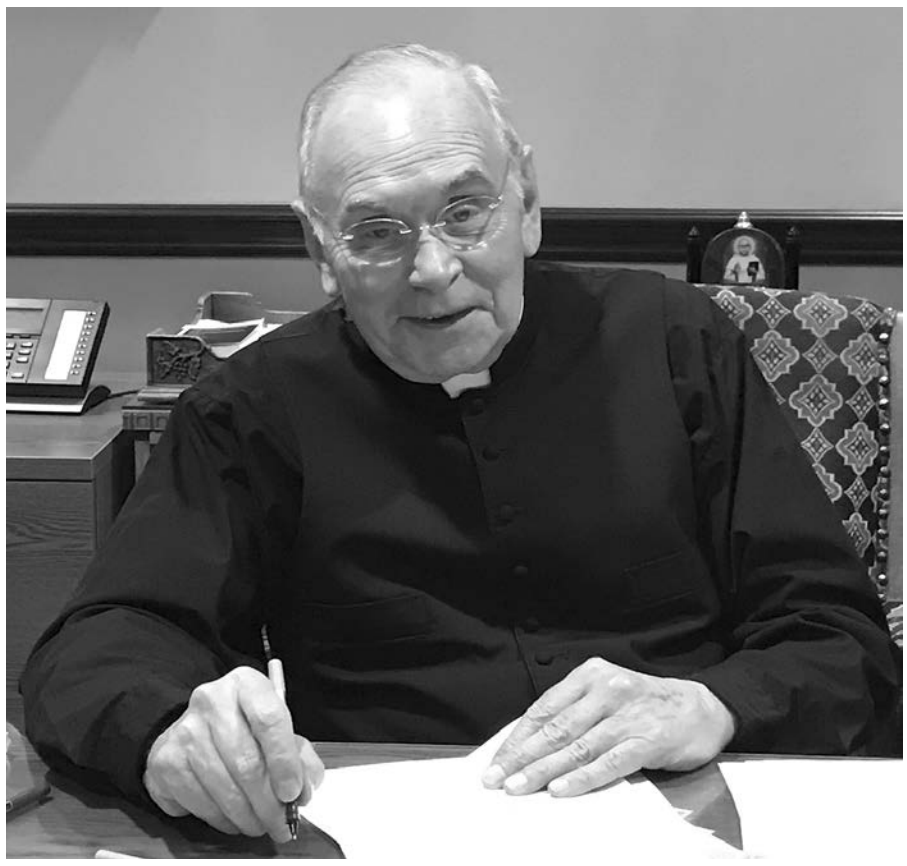
It's also a hymn that spans generations. Never, that can I remember, have I been at a liturgical service outside of Mass where people haven't joined in — young people, old people, middle aged people — we all know that hymn, it's a way of us, together, praising God. Maybe its sentimental but it's very meaningful to me and I hope that it could meaningful for others.

The whole notion of ritual is that we repeat the rite and it becomes familiar with us. It doesn't have to be kitschy — anything that can bring God's people together. When we end liturgical services with this I have found that people participate much more fully than they do with a hymn from the hymnal.

Q: The early years of your episcopate was spent addressing the sexual abuse crisis in the Diocese of Covington, implementing the Charter and establishing the VIRTUS program. Where are we now?

A. Certainly everyone in the diocese has to be aware of the crisis and our strong stance on the crisis. We went through a very dark and difficult time. We just had our Safe Environment audit and I'm glad we passed without any recommendations or violations. I think priests, religious and lay faithful are aware of the seriousness of this and how seriously we take it.

It's always dangerous to say that we are at a place where it will never happen again; we pray that it will never happen again. We have all of the safeguards in place, hopefully, to prevent it from happening again.



In the above file photo, Bishop Roger Foys is pictured in his office. After selling the Erlanger Catholic Center and Marydale properties, Bishop Foys made a commitment to the diocese's See City of Covington by moving, in 2013, the Curia, including his office, into a partly-new building across the street from the Cathedral Basilica. By keeping the architecturally significant front of the former St. Mary Lyceum and adding a new addition, including the St. Paul Oratory, in the back, transforming the corner of MLK Blvd. and Madison Ave. In 2020, Covington Mayor Joe Meyer dedicated the two-block square from 11th Street on the north, MLK Blvd. on the south, Scott Street on the east and the railroad tracks on the west — Cathedral Square.

We know how to identify child sexual abuse. I find there is much more cooperation among the priests and faithful. Early on there was resistance to doing the VIRTUS program or to have to qualify to be a chaperone or enter a school building or to volunteer. I see that has, for the most part, dissipated.

People feel much more free to report. I think we are in a strong position now. We have the safeguards in place and we have to keep this always in front of us because if we don't history will repeat itself.

We have screening of candidates for the priesthood that is much more thorough than it had ever been before. The seminaries are all doing a good job of watching for anything that might give us pause to think that a person might have some kind of problem.

We had the class action lawsuit. I've talked to almost 200 individuals. We have put out the list of abusers.

I made it a policy in the diocese that parish offices could not be in the same place that priests live because a lot of the abuse happened in parish offices and in rectories connected to parish offices. ` Separating the living space from the office space — in a separate building if at all possible, that's the gold standard — separating them makes it clear that there should be no reason for anyone other than the priests that live there to be in the rectory — not just his private quarters but the dining room, the kitchen, the living room — it's all off limits. There shouldn't be any comingling of those spaces.

We also are very strict about vetting people who come to give talks or do ministry in the diocese. We are very careful about that making sure that we can speak to their bishop or their superior before they speak.

Overall I think we are in a good place. I could not have done this really without the cooperation of the staff, the cooperation of our priests and religious and the cooperation of our people. If there is credit to be given it goes to them.

Q: There are so many highlights of things you have accomplished during your episcopate. What are some that stick out in your mind? What makes them memorable?

A: It's hard to say because every one of the things is important, even the little things, like going to parish festivals. I couldn't get over how grateful people were that I was at their festival. I like festivals, I don't deserve credit for that.

Bringing people to Christ, that's what I've tried to do my entire priesthood — I hope I've done that. If it was important to people it was especially important to me.

One of the things I was really glad I did was the parish visitations. I invested a lot of myself into that because it gave me a chance to spend a minimum of three, maybe four days, in a parish visiting the school, meeting with the advisory bodies, meeting with the priests, celebrating the Masses on the weekend — that was very life giving for me. I got positive feedback from the priests and the people.

The promotion of vocations was a big thing for me. When I first came I was told we needed to close parishes

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because we didn't have enough priests. I said, "Well, let's get priests!" It was important for me to promote vocations and to be the director of the seminarians and to visit the seminaries several times a year.

Working with the religious, and I give a ton of credit to Sister Fran Moore (vicar for religious) for that and the superiors for coming to meet with me regularly. That enabled me to come to know them and, they to come to know me. We shared our joys and burdens with each other. That was big for me.

The synod, of course, set the direction for us for a number of years, giving us a plan to follow. It enabled me to hear from the people in the parishes.

The pastoral councils, having the individual councils, instead of one large council, allows us to interact with people from every parish. Every parish council is supposed to have a member on the pastoral council.

Just celebrating the sacraments with people. I was very happy when people ask me to baptize their children or to have their wedding. A bishop doesn't get a chance to do a lot of that. I was used to doing that in the parish. I didn't want to take anything away from the parish priest, but I was touched when people would ask me to baptize, to marry or to celebrate funerals for them. The ordinations of the permanent and transitional deacons and priests are always a highlight for me. I look at those priests that I have ordained as my spiritual sons. Every priest is a son of the bishop but there is a special bond, obviously, between the bishop and the priests he ordains. I've ordained 43 priests and 30 some deacons.

Working with the staff and Curia here. The Curia staff becomes my family and they are all an extension of my ministry. Having that special relationship with the staff — I try to make myself available to the staff because we do operate as a family. Staff members will come to me to share their struggles and their joys and that's what families do. I appreciated that kind of relationship.

Bringing Bishop Maes back to the cathedral was something I felt we had to do and finishing the façade being able to do that after 100 years and building the reliquary altar. All these things.

I can't take credit for them because first of all it is the Lord who begins this work in us and brings it to fulfillment. I was just building on the foundations that my predecessors had laid. My hope would be that, in my own time here, I made a positive contribution that will enable my successors in years and years to come to build on. I really have been blessed by the priests who have assisted as my priest secretaries and assistants. Especially as I've gotten older, and wasn't able to do the things I could do before, they have been very kind in looking after me.

Q: What has been left undone?

A: There's always more to do. We won't complete everything until the end of time. A regret I have is in terms of evangelization and bringing converts into the Church. I gave a homily last weekend, it was the Gospel story of when people brought to Jesus a man who was deaf and mute. This fellow was very fortunate to have had friends who cared about him enough to bring him to the Lord. Do we do that in our lives? How many people do we influence by our faith — by our light — to bring to the Lord? Are we fearless in bringing people to the Lord? I've always been concerned about that. We have 30,000 families, 100,000 people in our diocese. If each family brought one person into the Church — each family, just one person — that would be some 30,000 people we would bring to the Lord and to his Church. I really feel bad that I was never able to ignite the fire, as it were, for us to do that. I think it is possible. I think, and I include myself in this, if we really and truly believe in our faith and believe what we profess, we would want that for someone else. You always want what is best for those you love. So why wouldn't we have a greater response to this? Each parish, no matter how big or small, we should be so on fire with the faith that we want to bring others to the Lord. That's been a challenge and I just regret that I wasn't able, somehow, to facilitate that.

Q: As you begin your retirement, what are some of the strengths of the Church in the Diocese of Covington?

A: The biggest strength of our diocese is the faith of our people; the dedication of our priests, deacons and religious. We have a vibrant Church, we really do. In the 160 some years, our diocese, like any diocese, has faced tremendous challenges and we have met them. In my 19 years here I have seen that over and over again — the faith of our people. It's a constant faith. Even in the face of difficulties and hardships, their faith carries them through. That's the main strength of our diocese.

Then second is our sacramental life. The sacramental life of our diocese is strong. Our priests care about our people. I see them providing the sacraments for our people and encouraging our people. I see their dedication, overall. Where the faith is strong, the Church will thrive and the Church is thriving here.

Third is our school system and the fact that so many people entrust their children to our care.

Q: What are some of the challenges that face the Church in the Diocese of Covington?

A: Secularism. We keep moving further and further away from God — our culture does. That's horrible. The whole nature of our culture as a throw away culture and the fact that abortion has been sanctioned by our government for all these years and we haven't been able to do anything to mitigate that. Even the fact that there are Catholics who espouse pro-choice immorality.

Right now with the pandemic, that has really on one hand been challenging and difficult and on the other hand, again, it demonstrates the faith of our people. They continue to come to church and support the Church both financially and spiritually — morale for the most part, is good. There are camps "pro and con this" and "pro and con that" but overall morale is good.

Secularism, a Godless culture, where God is not valued as he once was — nor is the Church valued.

Vocations — we could use more if we really want to staff our parishes and schools and religious houses. Vocations are a challenge that we face.

Maybe I live in an idealistic world, but I do think there are far more strengths than challenges.

Q: If you could ask three things of the people of the Diocese of Covington, what would those requests be?

A: To love God, without exception, to love God.

The second would be to love each other and to work together for the common good.

And to love your Bishop who is the visible sign of Christ in our diocese and to pray for him — the new bishop; of course you can pray for me, too.

Q: Any final thoughts?

A: I do want to express my profound gratitude to our priests, religious and lay faithful who have supported me and prayed for me and encouraged me in these 19 years. To let them know that I will continue to pray. If I ever offended anyone it was not intentional and I ask for forgiveness. If anyone has offended me, know that I have forgiven them long ago. There were long days and difficult times but God always gives us the grace that we need.

Dear Bishop Foys,
Thank you for your many years of faithful support for our community. You continue to hold a special place in our hearts and in our prayers.

Your friends the Passionist Nuns

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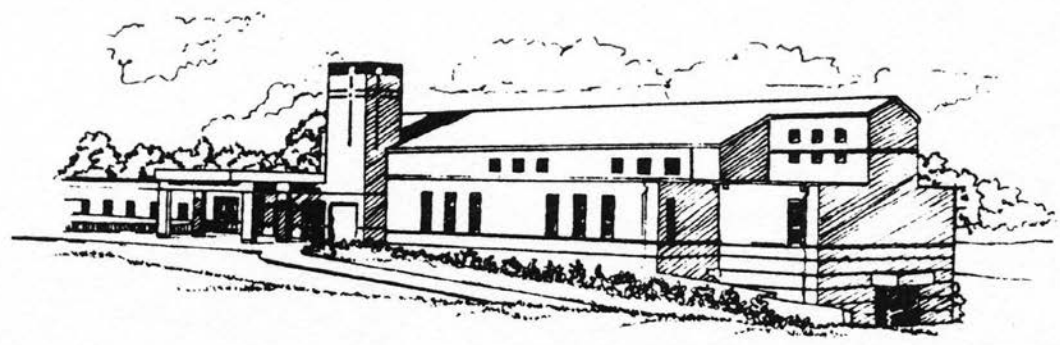
Christ's blessings upon you, Bishop Foys, on your retirement. We thank you for being our dedicated shepherd for the last 19 years.

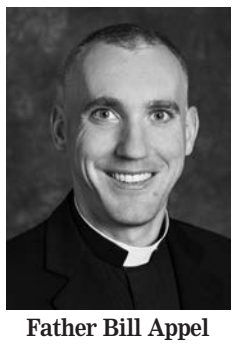
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH



Guidance, leadership and friendship of Bishop Foys recalled by diocesan priests

Sent by the Holy Spirit

Bishop Foys, I truly believe the Holy Spirit has entrusted you with the prayerful office you have served in this diocese. You gave of your body and soul. Thank you for trusting me with your flock in every assignment you've decided upon, and thank you for your leadership.



Father Bill Appel

When I met you, I was a leader in search of a leader. The selfless way that you brought the Church's teaching to the people and defended your priests and seminarians in her teaching (and taught, when it was needed) gave us a leader we could trust, while you were at the same time putting so much trust in us. Thank you.

I truly hope that your time, after this long pilgrimage in Kentucky, gives you the space to heal physically and the time to connect with family, friends and Our Lord in prayer. I will continue to meet you in the latter. Count on my continued thoughts and prayers.

Your priest and son — *Father Bill Appel, chaplain, Archdiocese of the Military*

What it means to be a priest of Christ

Giving thanks to the Triune God for Bishops Foy's ministry as our beloved 10th Bishop of Covington, I offer these brief words of reflection. In short, Bishop Foys has taught me what it means to a priest of Christ Jesus.

Father Michael Black

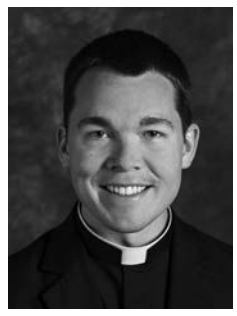
Bishop, in his ars celebrandi, has exemplified what the priest at prayer looks like; a man offering his very life in union with Christ for the people he serves. The eloquence and beauty of his ars celebrandi has been inspiring to me and will continue to inspire me all the days of my priesthood. Bishop truly loves with a true shepherd's heart; I've seen it shown to every member of our diocese and priests, including myself. From the very first day I met him, even before I joined the seminary for the Diocese of Covington, he has gone well out of his way in getting to know me. He walked the journey of discernment with me through its joys and tribulations and it was a tremendous added joy for him to consequently serve as my ordaining prelate. He has consequently been a true rock of support in my priesthood, a dear friend, a true example of the priesthood … and even supported my further philosophical studies.

I owe my yes to Christ, to his yes to Christ in loving me as a spiritual father, without which I would have never been able to accept my call to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. The immense joy of my life as a priest is due in such large part and in gratitude to Bishop Foys.

So, I end with this prayer, giving thanks to God for you for every prayer of gratitude must ultimately be directed to Him: To Him, and to you, in the words of St. Paul our patron, I "give thanks to God always for you all, constantly remembering you in our prayers." Bishop, from your spiritual son, your brother in the priesthood, coworker in the vineyard, and friend in Christ, THANK YOU! — *Father Michael Black, Ph.L., K.H.S., parochial vicar, St. Patrick Parish, Maysville*

Good example to priests

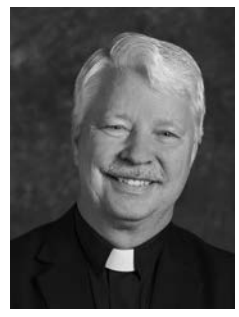
It is difficult to imagine our wonderful diocese without the leadership of Bishop Foys. I, like most younger priests in our diocese, have been guided and supported by Bishop Foys throughout the entire development of my vocation. I am grateful for his support and encouragement of my priesthood, I am grateful for the confidence he has often placed in me and the prayers I know he offered on my behalf. I am most grateful for the courageous leadership of Bishop Foys as he took a Diocese that was mired in difficulty and confusion and by God's grace led it back to good health and true belief. His reverent celebration of the Liturgy, his tireless work ethic, and his personal concern for every soul under his care are good examples to every priest and will bear fruit in our Diocese for years to come. Thank you Bishop Foys, our Diocese is better for having had you as a father, brother, teacher, and friend for the past two decades! I pray that retirement will be full of peace and happiness for you! You have been and will always be in my prayers, may God bless you as He has certainly used you to bless so many others. — *Father Eric Boelscher, pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs*



Father Eric Boelscher

With faith and trust in the Lord

Many can speak to the good things Bishop Foys has done for our diocese. I would like to speak to what he has done for St. Timothy Parish.



Father Richard Bolte

When Bishop Foys first came to the Diocese of Covington, he announced, "There are alternatives to Catholic schools, but there is no substitute." His commitment to sharing the faith, especially through Catholic schools, has paid dividends in the faith experience of our parish. In 2013 he gave St. Timothy Parish permission to begin fundraising for a new school. It was an unknown adventure and a leap of faith for Bishop Foys to "OK" the building of the first new school in the diocese in 59 years. There was no certainty that this was the right move.

That leap of faith has paid off! St. Timothy Catholic School opened in 2017 with 91 students. We began this year, just five years later, with 331 students. His faith and trust in the Lord has proven itself. In this way he has helped young families find their way back to church and even to find their home in the Catholic Church. He has also now given us permission to put an addition on the school.

He has supported many ministries and, along with the education of our children, he has fostered many outreach opportunities for our diocese and our parish. Outreach in our parish and service learning in our school have been hallmarks of St. Timothy Parish's experience of itself. He has allowed us to continue to tithe from the parish collection to give to the various ministries of our diocese. This donation, along with volunteering to these same min-

Congratulations on your retirement, Bishop Foys!
Thank you for your many years as our shepherd!
Prayers for a blessed retirement from the parishioners of Holy Redeemer Parish in Vanceburg!

Knights of Columbus®

Dear Bishop Foys,

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus of Northern Kentucky and the Diocese of Covington, we thank you for all your years of dedicated service and spiritual guidance. May you sincerely have rest and enjoy this time of retirement, and may God Bless you!

Vivat Jesus!

Bishop Ackerman Council #5453 Burlington
Bishop Mulloy Council #1301 Southgate
Father McGivney Council #12502 Independence
Fr. Kehoe Council #1764 Ludlow

Bishop Flaget Assembly #307 Northern Kentucky
St. Timothy Council #15211 Union
Mary Queen of Heaven Council #14993 Erlanger

The Kentucky Council of Churches extends their blessing to Bishop Roger Foys upon his retirement as 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington

istries, has enriched us as we seek to follow Christ.

Bishop Foys has also encouraged us to renovate our worship space. When our parish was founded just 32 years ago, the parish had a lot of building to do. The parish center was built and Mass was held in a section of that building for nine years. As the parish grew, Father Ed Brodnick, who was the founding pastor, led the people through the process of building a church. The church was built with the expectation that it would someday be enhanced. Thanks to Bishop Foys, we are now halfway through that process and hope to be finished by November of this year.

Bishop Foys has served the Diocese of Covington for 19 years. He has trusted God to lead him as he has led us. As he moves now to the next phase of his life and ministry, I, along with the members of St. Timothy Parish, offer our prayers as he has so often prayed for us. — *Father Richard Bolte, pastor, St. Timothy Parish, Union*

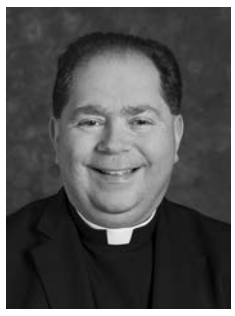
Father Michael Comer

Compassionate listener

From the beginning of his time in Covington, Bishop Foys has been a great friend and support to me. He has been a concerned and compassionate listener, and has shown great concern for my welfare, personally as well as professionally. I am very grateful for the time he has been our bishop. — *Father Michael Comer, pastor, Mother of God Parish, Covington*

Love for Christ and the Church

I was a seminarian beginning theological studies when Bishop Foys was named our Bishop in 2002. As a seminarian, I was always impressed with how well Bishop Foys maintained contact with us and made sure we got together as a group to pray and socialize. It was obvious that he wanted to get to know us and wanted us to get to know each other. In hindsight, I realize those efforts — the dinners and social activities, the retreats and the prayer — all built fraternity and helped us connect to our diocese in a special way, as members of our diocese's presbyterate.

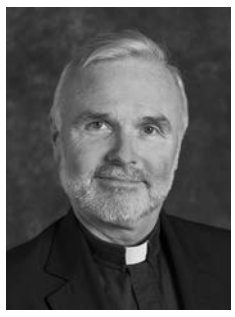


Father Raymond Enzweiler

That diocesan connection only grew as a priest thanks to Bishop Foys' example. I can't point to a particular moment. Rather, it came from the way he was present to the people and priests. His example helped me remember my particular assignment was never isolated. It connected to the diocese and beyond. This has expressed itself for me, in my sense that, even though each of my assignments is special to me, the Cathedral is my home; I feel it whenever I am there. It also inspired me to always pray for the people of my assignment and for the diocese together, including in the universal prayer (intercessions) at Mass. They may seem like minor things, but they are reflective of how my priesthood has been defined by Bishop Foys' example.

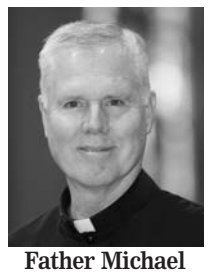
I would add that my service as one of the master of ceremonies at many diocesan liturgies has also inspired me. In those moments, I see the care and love that Bishop Foys has for the people of the diocese. Those liturgies, especially how Bishop Foys is present to the liturgy and the people, have inspirated me as a priest. His care for the liturgy as given to us by the Church is a constant reminder it is not my liturgy and it is not about me. His homilies and the way people respond to him remind me the Church is not the building, it is the people united in Christ. Yes, his love for Christ, Christ's people, and the Church are clearly evident and an inspiration for me to remember who I am to be as priest of Christ and of the Diocese of Covington and the importance of giving myself over entirely to Christ , the people, the Church. — *Father Raymond Enzweiler, faculty, Thomas More University*

Fruitful collaboration



Father Joseph Gallenstein

I congratulate Bishop Foys on his retirement and am grateful for his episcopal ministry. As a pastor I have always been impressed with his preaching and sacramental ministry to those being confirmed. He engages the young folks and seemed to, in return, be energized by them and the administration of the sacrament. Although I did not know Bishop Foys before he became our bishop, he and I had a common priest-friend from Steubenville, Mgsr. George Yontz. That connection, I am sure, laid the groundwork for a congenial relationship with him and a fruitful collaboration between me as a priest and he as my bishop. — *Father Joseph Gallenstein, pastor, St. Mary Parish, Alexandria*



Father Michael Grady

Best wishes

Thank you Bishop Foys for all your leadership. Best wishes on your retirement. — *Father Michael Grady, parochial vicar, St. Augustine Parish, Covington*

Laughter is a gift

Bishop Foys, as you prepare to step out of the role of chief shepherd for the diocese, know of my sincere gratitude for many things. After running from my vocation for several years, when I approached you, I was accepted with great kindness. For six years, through your generous provision for my needs, I was able to study and be formed in the seminary. After those years, you twice laid your hands upon me to grant the gift of ordination to the diaconate and to the priesthood. The gift of the priesthood is certainly not something I take for granted, and so, thank you for putting your faith in me and allowing me to share the gift of Jesus Christ with the people of the diocese. Though there are many other things I could thank you for, I want you to know that I'm grateful for your sense of humor. I truly believe that laughter is a gift and is something that helps us not take ourselves too seriously all of the time. Thus, I have been inspired by many of your deep and meaningful homilies, but also by the inclusion of good- hearted humor. I have also been very inspired by your prayerful nature — especially how it typically begins for you very early in the morning when God is awake and no one else is. (As a side note — I'm sorry for all of the times we scared each other when I lived in the cathedral rectory as a seminarian — I think the score ended up being even.) In a world filled with noise, the silence of the morning and being in the presence of the Lord are truly what help sustain me, and in your charism, I'll carry on just the same. As you have mentioned from time to time, it is the Lord that began the good work in me. I thank you for nurturing it as my spiritual father for these

Father Britton Hennessey

(Continued on page 14)

We are especially grateful to you, Bishop Foys, for all you have done for our Cristo Rey community.
May God bless you during your retirement and may it be a joyful time.
STEELERS, GO STEELERS!!!!!
Cristo Rey Parish

Bishop Foys,
We thank you for your 19 years of service to the Diocese of Covington.
Congratulations on your retirement!
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Dear Bishop Foys,
Sincere thanks to you for the excellent leadership you provided to the Diocese of Covington throughout your 19-year tenure. Best wishes to you as you enter the next phase of your priestly journey.
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(Continued from page 13)

years of my ordained ministry. I wish you all the best in retirement and pray that God will bless you with the peace of knowing how all of His good work and your fatherly care will, in His time, be brought to completion. Be assured of my prayers for you, and once more — thank you. — *Father Britton Hennessey, parochial vicar, St. Timothy Parish, Union*

Stop running from God

When I was in college at NKU in 2006, I was discerning and thinking of being a priest. In fact, I had been thinking of being a priest since I was a kid. But at that time in my life I was running from God's call. I had not yet met Bishop Foys, and I ran into him in the sacristy at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington, my home parish, for Confirmation, and he asked me why I was not in the seminary. I gave him several excuses and he said to me, "Why don't you stop running from God?" I entered the seminary in 2007 and I was ordained in 2013. I want to thank Bishop Foys for encouraging me to answer God's call and for all his support and fatherly care during my time in seminary and as an ordained priest, I am very grateful. — *Father Michael Hennigen, pastor, Holy Cross Parish, Latonia*

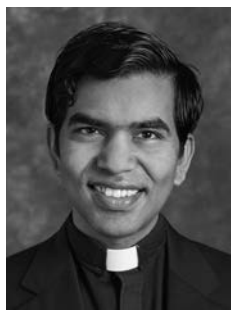
Father Michael Hennigen

A gift from heaven

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of light." (James 1: 17)

According to Merriam Webster dictionary the etymological origin of Foys comes from the word Foy, which means "gift" and how appropriate it is for priests like me. Bishop Foys is a gift from heaven given to the Diocese of Covington and to the universal Church in multiple ways. In company with his inspirational and humorous homilies was his passion and enthusiasm to serve and teach God's people.

When I came to this country from India in 2008, Bishop Foys welcomed me with a warm heart and supported me by paving the way to full integration into the Diocese of Covington. Additionally, he encouraged me to complete my doctoral program and disclosed that educated priests are necessary for our diocese.



Father Niby Kannai

When the Bishop installed me as a pastor for St. Edward Parish in Cynthiana, he personally told the congregation, "Father Niby is always smiling and he is joyful. Please don't make his smile fade away." Last month, when I went to receive the DPAA grant, Bishop Foys told me, "Keep on smiling," and I responded to him: "It is because of you that I am smiling Bishop Foys."

Thank you, Bishop Foys, for your gift of life, for your gift of presence, encouragement and support. You are a gift not only for the diocese of Covington, you are in a special way a gift for all the priests from India working in the Diocese of Covington.

Dear bishop, your legacy will live forever in the universal Church especially in this diocese; more importantly your legacy will live in my heart forever. You are truly a gift from our Heavenly Father! Thank you and God bless you in your retirement. — *Father Niby Kannai, pastor, St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana*

He is a Christian

Bishop Foys has been a part of my vocational journey for more than half my life. He Confirmed me in 2003 and accepted me as a seminarian in 2007. I received guidance from him and felt his support throughout my time in seminary. The Ministry of Acolyte and the Sacrament of Holy Orders, both the Diaconate in 2015 and the Priesthood in 2016, I received from his hands. He installed me as pastor two years ago. More important than all of this, however, is that he is a Christian. Bishop Foys, like all of us, has been called by Our Lord Jesus Christ to serve Him and His Church. Thank you, Bishop, for being so much to me personally, but even more so for being a Christian. May you be blessed in your retirement, and may we all continue to live up to the name of Christian that we all share. Let us always adore, honor and glorify our Loving Savior. — *Father David Ludwig, pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Falmouth*

Father David Ludwig

What you want to do, you can do better as a priest

I would like to thank Bishop Foys for the role he played in helping me to discern my vocation to the priesthood — even before he was ordained a bishop. When I was considering working for the Church as a lay person, I met with Msgr. Foys in Steubenville, Ohio. After listening to me at length, he told me that everything I wanted to do, I could do better as a priest. Those words stuck with me and spoke to my heart. A year later, when he was ordained Bishop of Covington, I was working as a lay

Father Martin Pitstick

(Continued on page 19)

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The community of Notre Dame Academy offers sincere appreciation to Bishop Foys for his nineteen years of dedicated ministry to the Diocese of Covington and his deep commitment to Catholic education.

Thank you for making a difference Bishop Foys!

We wish you well in your retirement!

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Thank you for your leadership and support of Covington Catholic High School in so many ways. Your legacy will include:

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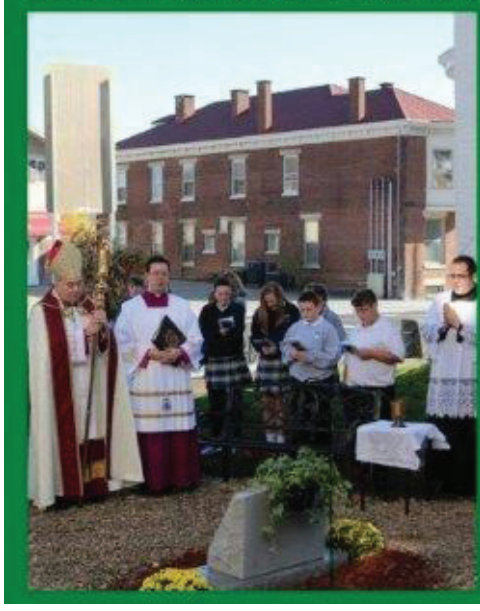

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Thanks

Bishop Roger J. Foys

For his spiritual leadership and his pastoral care and support for the past 19 years.

May our Lord Bless him in his retirement.

The Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
and the clergy, religious, and
lay faithful of the
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send deep thanks to
The Most Reverend Roger J. Foys
for his nineteen years shepherding
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as the tenth Bishop of Covington.
Know of our prayers and best wishes!

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Thank You Bishop Foys

St. Timothy Church and School thanks you for your years of dedication and service to the Diocese of Covington and to each of us.

BISHOP JEFFREY M. MONFORTON

AND THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

OFFER PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES,

GRATITUDE FOR HIS

APOSTOLIC SERVICE,

AND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

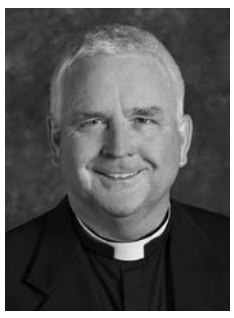
TO BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS

(Continued from page 14)

pastoral minister in Dayton, Ohio. We reconnected and, through numerous phone calls and meetings in person, he helped me to discern entering the seminary for the Diocese of Covington. I am grateful for all he has done to nurture and support my vocation to the priesthood and all he has done for our diocese in the past 19 years. Thank You Bishop Foys! — *Father Martin Pitstick, pastor, Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue and St. Bernard Parish, Dayton*

A man of God

It was my privilege to work closely with Bishop Foys as his vicar general during his earliest days as Bishop of Covington. In that role I got to know him as a man of God who took a deeply personal interest in the people and many ministries, programs and activities of the Diocese.



Msgr. Gerry Reinersman

That personal interest, I believe, is rooted in his genuinely pastoral approach. After 28 years as a pastor before coming to Covington, one could tell his heart is in the parish. To my knowledge, he accepted virtually every invitation to a parish or school activity. Bishop Foys was often seen at special Masses, plays, funerals and anniversaries. Most notably, he could be seen at nearly every parish festival.

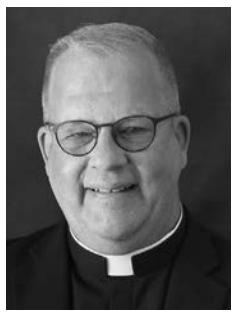
His pastoral care is not limited to attending functions. It is central to his daily prayer and concern for the people of the diocese. A less obvious, but very real example of pastoral concern can be seen in committee and board meetings. Frequently I could see the wheels turning in Bishop Foys' heart and mind as he thought about the impact a decision might have on the average parishioner and parish.

The pastor's heart is heard in Bishop Foys' homilies. He uses stories, anecdotes and jokes (some of which I have copied for my own homilies) people can easily relate to.

Bishop Foys often quoted advice another bishop gave him at his consecration. "You have one person to answer to more than any other. That is the Lord Jesus Christ." I believe that advice was the main principle at work in many of the tough decisions Bishop Foys had to make during his time as our bishop. — *Msgr. Gerry Reinersman, pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring*

Just a call or text away

Because I was ordained a priest earlier this year, I have not had the same opportunities to be in Bishop's presence as my brother priests. Consequently, it would not be wrong to think that the relationship between Bishop Foys and myself is not as strong as the relationship between Bishop and other priests; but I must say that is not the case. I admire him for making time to get to know not only me, but every priest.



Father Joseph Rielage

While I was studying at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Bishop Foys would occasionally text me, as well as all the Covington seminarians, to find out how things were going. He also assured us that if we needed anything, he was just a text or phone call away. I felt so blessed to receive the texts because it was an expression of Bishop Foys' genuine care and concern. Additionally, while I was ill, he personally contacted me regularly to see how I was doing. Bishop Foys also wanted to make sure I was getting the best possible care. These actions honestly exemplify the compassion that a father has for his child; the same compassion Bishop Foys has for all of us.

The wisdom and guidance of Bishop Foys has really proven to be valuable to me along my journey to the priesthood, and for that I will be forever grateful. I thank God for the dedication Bishop Foys has shown to the seminarians, priests, religious and all Catholics in this great diocese. His positive impact on Covington will always be remembered. Thank you, Bishop Foys. May God bless you in your retirement. — *Father Joseph Rielage, parochial vicar, St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood*

An image of the Good Shepherd

The Second Vatican Council says that priests should "Form one family whose father is the bishop." A father is far more than an administrative figure. He loves his family and is willing to lay down his life for them. Bishop Foys certainly has lived up to that call. Before I even entered seminary, Bishop Foys encouraged my vocation to the priesthood. After I entered seminary, however, I saw a different side of the Bishop. All throughout my discernment process, Bishop Foys was truly present to me, supporting me during my best times and during my worst. Had it not been for his encouragement, support, and care I very likely would not have made it to ordination.

Father Joey Shelton

After I was ordained, my priestly ministry was connected to the Bishop's in a special way. For the first two years of my priesthood, I lived and worked with the Bishop as his Administrative Assistant and Master of Ceremonies. I saw, day in and day out, how Bishop Foys lays down his life for his family. He wakes up early to pray for the priests. Despite his busy schedule, he would drop everything to meet with a priest who was struggling. He would, without failing to exercise the normal functions of his office, give of himself completely to care for his priests. I was privileged to witness his paternal care and have been blessed to benefit from it myself.

But his solicitude does not end with the priests. For 19

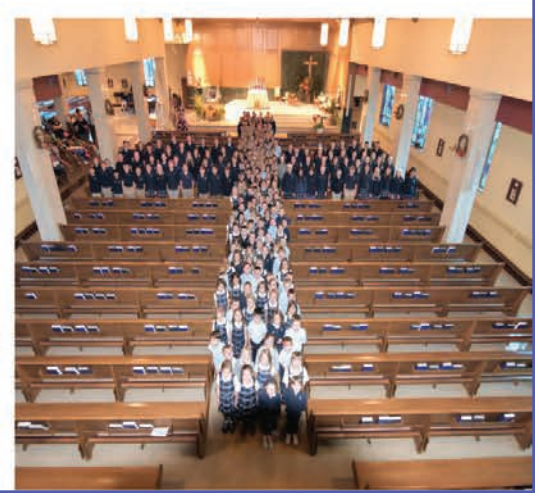
(Continued on page 46)

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

CRESCENT SPRINGS, KY

THANK YOU BISHOP FOYS

Thank you for leading us in our faith for the past nineteen years. We wish you happiness and health in your retirement.



Thank you Bishop Foys!

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Catholic school principals recount Bishop Foys' commitment to Catholic education

Thomas More University

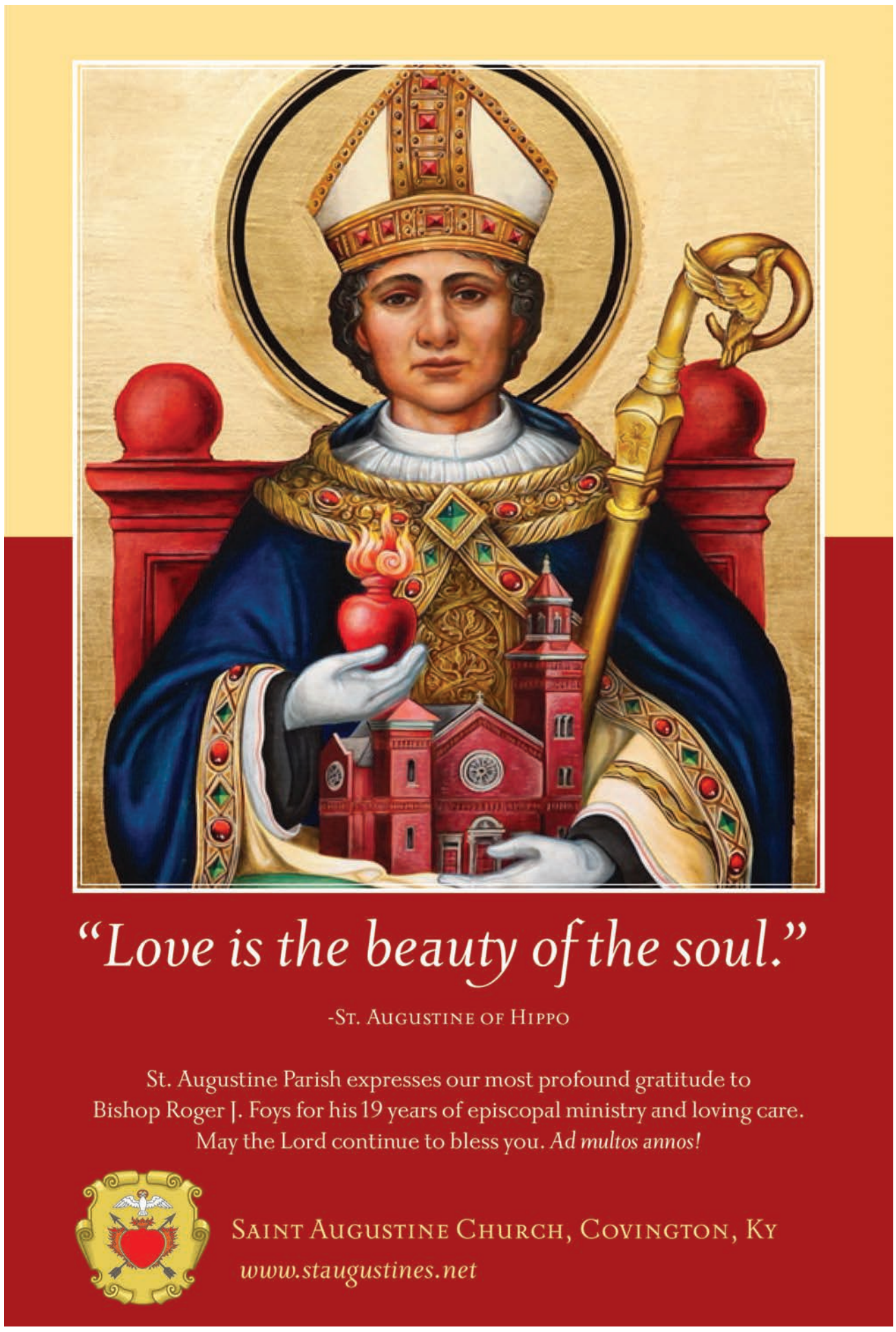
Congratulations to his Excellency Bishop Roger Foys for his distinguished service and leadership as Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. His Excellency also serves as the chancellor of Thomas More University. Over the past 19 years, Bishop Foys has had a positive influence in the growth of Thomas More University as a regional Catholic Liberal Arts University. As chancellor, Bishop Foys has served with distinction as he led the University through unprecedented growth and its transition from college to university.

Since his installation as Bishop in July 2002, Thomas More has been witness to his strong commitment to Catholic education. Through his tenure as chancellor of the University, Thomas More's enrollment grew to more than 2,000 students; academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels expanded; campus facilities grew through the addition of the Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel; the financial position of the University significantly improved under his leadership; and the University won two national women's basketball championships. Though he may be a Steelers fan, he will always be the Saints' number one fan.

On Oct. 1 2018, Thomas More College officially became Thomas More University. As Bishop Foys begins his retirement TMU kicked-off its centennial celebrations with Mass on the day of its founding as Villa Madonna College, Sept. 12, 1921. TMU is one of only 11 diocesan Catholic colleges or universities in the U.S. The Bishop of Covington is chancellor at the University. During his episcopacy Bishop Foys has shaken hands with 4,819 TMU undergraduates and 1,324 TMU graduates.

Bishop Foys played a significant role in the development of the Diocese of Covington Guarantee which provides annual scholarships of $20,000 per academic year to all graduates of the diocesan high schools. His unwavering commitment to Catholic education is further evidence of his strong held beliefs and values that a Catholic Education affords. More than 16,000 alumni call Villa Madonna College, Thomas More College, and Thomas More University their alma mater.

On Sept. 12, 2021, Thomas More University celebrated



its 100th anniversary. This is further evidence of Bishop Foys' outstanding and distinguished leadership and service. As the University celebrates its 100th anniversary, Thomas More will begin a new transformation by elevating its position as a Catholic Liberal Arts University. The University has plans to grow its physical campus, expand academic and athletic space on campus, and to strengthen its mission and commitment to its students.

In 2019 Bishop Foys blessed and dedicated the new Bishop Brossart High School Athletic complex, one of the $190,000,000 building projects completed in the diocese during his episcopacy.

Over the past 19 years, Bishop Foys has dedicated himself to the Diocese of Covington and to Thomas More University as it chancellor. We are grateful for all he has done to inspire, to challenge, and to provide a strong Catholic education to the Diocese of Covington. His exemplary service and dedication will serve the diocese, its students and families well for many generations to come. We are blessed to have Bishop Foys as our leader and dedicated servant to Thomas More University.

May God bless Bishop Foys. — **Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D., president, Thomas More University**

Bishop Brossart High School

During his time as shepherd of the Diocese of Covington, Bishop Foys has made enduring contributions to our entire Diocese. In particular, he has always put an emphasis on Catholic education, making it a priority during his tenure, and it is evident here at Bishop Brossart High School.

With Bishop Foys' leadership, we've achieved high recognition at Bishop Brossart High School. We've made great strides to live more fully our mission and especially our motto: Charity First. Because of his leadership and our continued growth, BBHS earned the distinction of being named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2018.

Not only did we receive academic excellence during his

(Continued on page 24)

ST. AGNES est. 1930

Bishop Foys,

Thank you for 19 years as the faithful shepherd of the Diocese of Covington, KY. Congratulations on your retirement.

Sincerely,
The Saint Agnes Parish

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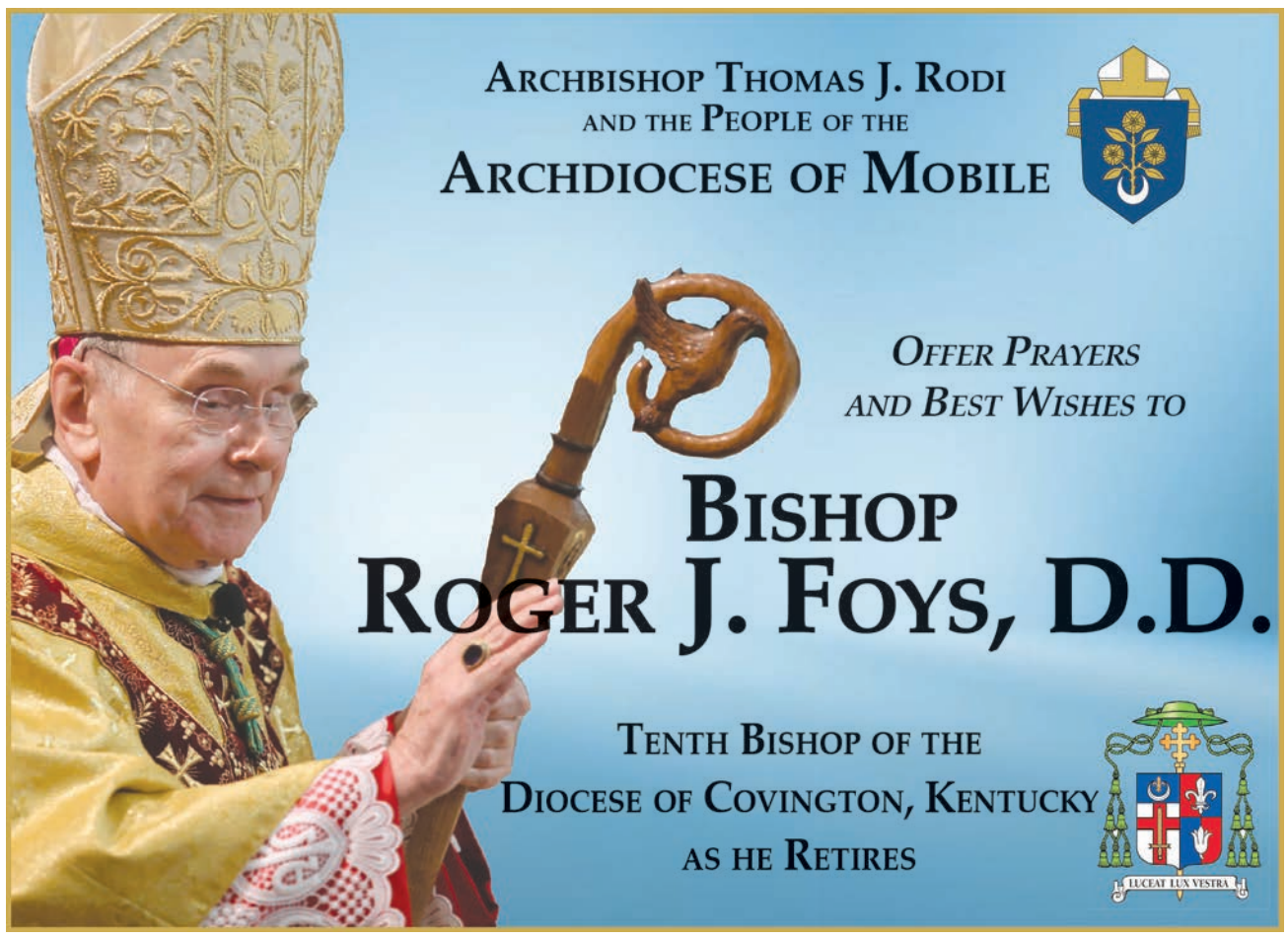

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time as bishop, we also were able to improve our facilities with his guidance. In September of 2014, we dedicated the Wilfred H. Neltner Center and the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel as part of our $8 million expansion. Then, in September of 2019, we opened the Mustang Athletic Complex (MAC) and the Munninghoff Family Stadium. This was a part of our $7 million athletic complex. We are blessed to have an area on our main campus and our athletic complex dedicated to our Mother Mary. We have our Grotto on our main campus and Meditation Garden at the MAC drawing our community to prayer. Bishop Foys played a vital role from beginning until completion in the creation of all these facilities

Covington Catholic High School honored Bishop Foys with its 2016 Northern Kentuckian of the Year Award in recognition of his leadership to the economic and social well-being of the Northern Kentucky. Each year, Bishop Foys celebrates an opening-school-year Mass for CCHS students.

We will forever be grateful to Bishop Foys for his tremendous leadership of Catholic education in our diocese. As Bishop Foys has said many times, "There are alternatives to Catholic schools but there are no substitutes." — **Chris Holtz, principal, Bishop Brossart High School**

Covington Catholic High School

Bishop Foys' passion for Catholic Schools has been evident to Covington Catholic High School, as well as throughout the diocese. He has exemplified the importance of our Catholic identity as the primary purpose of our schools through his steadfast support, presence and dedication to our learning communities.

During his tenure, Bishop Foys oversaw Covington Catholic's successful capital campaign which delivered more than $14 million in renovations and expansions to enable our mission to educate young men spiritually, academically, physically and socially. Over the last 14 years, our campus footprint grew from 19 to 33 acres, featuring the addition of first-class facilities such as the Marian Grotto, the Schott Athletic Building, the Dennis Griffin Stadium, the Yung Family Tennis Center, the Anthony Zembrodt STEM and Fine Arts wing, the Drees Student and Alumni wing, and most recently, the newly acquired Gardens of Park Hills, soon to become an athletics fieldhouse.

We have been blessed by his leadership over the last two decades which has advanced Covington Catholic High School in all aspects of our educational mission. — **Bob Rowe, principal, Covington Catholic High School**

Covington Latin School

Bishop Foys has served 19 years of Covington Latin School students and their families with pastoral wisdom, grace, humor and great leadership. From opening each year with a Latin Mass for our students and alumni to ending our year with a splendid graduation ceremony, his guidance and love has served the entire Covington Latin School. Furthermore, we can point to his example that has inspired a number of our graduates to pursue the priesthood, continuing the tradition begun by Bishop Howard in 1923. On behalf of the entire Latin School community, with grateful hearts, we wish him a peaceful and well deserved retirement. — **John P. Kennedy, Ed.D., headmaster, Covington Latin School**

Notre Dame Academy

The community of Notre Dame Academy offers sincere appreciation to Bishop Foys for his 19 years of dedicated ministry to the Diocese of Covington and his ardent commitment to Catholic education. Bishop Foys is known for saying, "There are alternatives to Catholic schools, but there is no substitute." Bishop Foys knows firsthand the value of a Catholic school education not only for individuals but also for communities. As a Catholic high school dedicated to Mary and committed to academic excellence, Notre Dame Academy (NDA) is grateful to Bishop Foys for supporting its mission to educate young women to make a difference in the world.

Bishop Foys has been a staunch advocate for Notre Dame Academy and the educational innovations at NDA that promote student achievement and success. We have been fortunate to have Bishop Foys join us for many celebrations over the past several years, most notably each year during Catholic Schools week and when Notre Dame Academy has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

Bishop Foys has also been a champion for women religious within the Diocese of Covington and has fully supported the faithful dedication and charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame throughout his time as Bishop of Covington. As a school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame within the Diocese of Covington, Notre Dame Academy appreciates the support Bishop Foys has offered women religious over the years and shares in his admiration for the continued presence of the SNDs in our diocese.

At Notre Dame Academy leaders are created through transformative education. Notre Dame Academy extends heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Foys for his example of courageous leadership these past 19 years. Thank you for making a difference in the Diocese of Covington Bishop Foys — we wish you well in your retirement! — **Jack VonHandorf, NDA principal and interim president**

Students at Covington Latin School assist Bishop Roger Foys as pontifical servers at the Cathedral and for pontifical celebrations at parishes. Given the intricate nature of pontifical celebrations these servers are specially trained and spend many hours serving at the altar. Each year, Bishop Foys congratulates the pontifical servers that are graduating from Covington Latin School. He also celebrates the undergraduates by joining at lunch for pizza.

(Continued on page 41)

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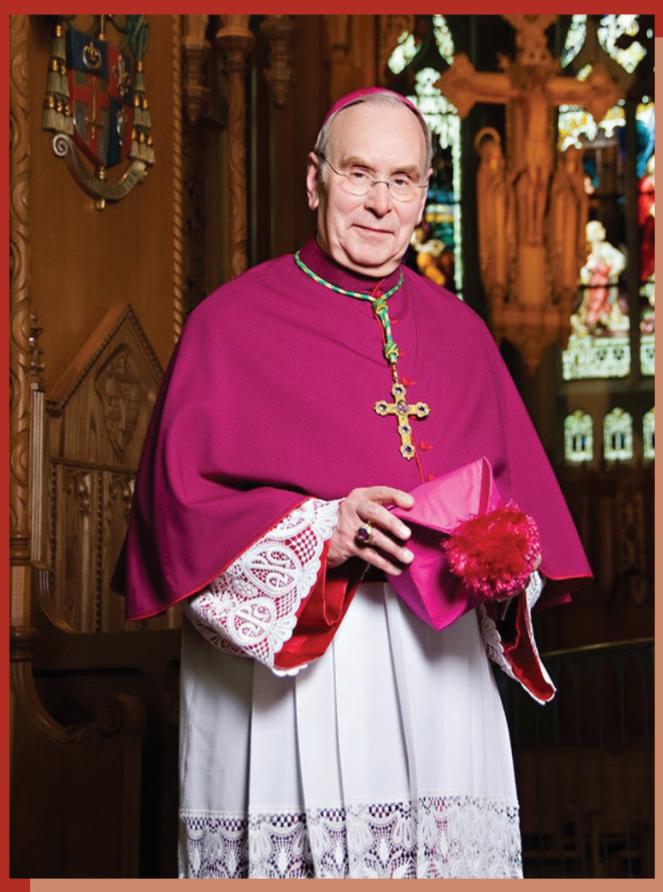


Saint Cecilia Crusaders

Thank you Bishop Foys for your many years of service to
the Diocese of Covington!
St. Cecilia Catholic Church and School

St. Cecilia Crusaders

Congratulations and Bountiful Blessings to
Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D. on his
Retirement as Bishop of Covington.
Luceat Lux Vestra!

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

SUMMIT21

Notre Dame Academy

OCTOBER
8-10
2021

Please consider inviting and sponsoring a youth for SUMMIT21. This awesome encounter with Christ in the Eucharist can be life-changing.

If interested, contact Sue at 859-466-1283.

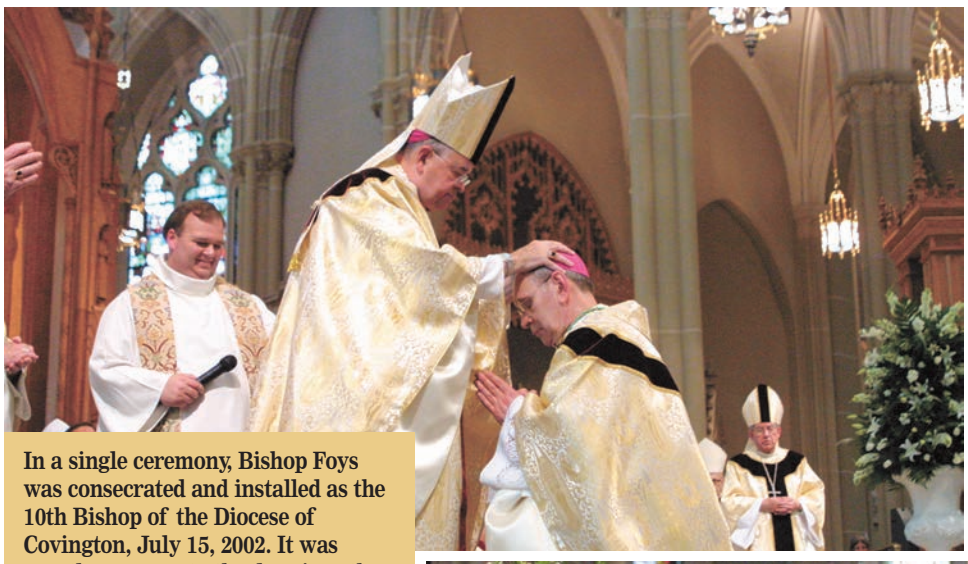
To learn more about SUMMIT21,
visit www.covdio.org/Summit21.

Newport Central Catholic
wishes Bishop Foys
a happy and healthy
retirement.
We thank Bishop Foys
for his 19 years of service,
dedication and commitment
to Catholic education.

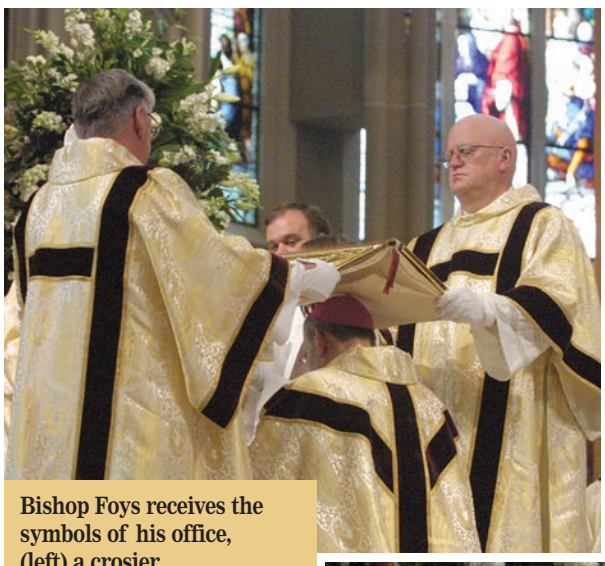
NEWPORT CENTRAL CATHOLIC
NEWPORT, KY

*"There are alternatives to Catholic schools,
but there is no substitute."*
— Most Rev. Bishop Roger J. Foys

Bishop Foys' Ordination — 10th Bishop of Covington



In a single ceremony, Bishop Foys was consecrated and installed as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington, July 15, 2002. It was exactly 79 years to the day since the Covington diocese last witnessed the ordination of its own bishop. The last being Bishop Francis Howard.
(above) As part of the ordination rite, the ordaining bishop, Archbishop Thomas Kelly of Louisville, imposed hands on Bishop Foys. The ancient ritual confers the Holy Spirit upon the one being ordained. The other 13 bishops in attendance did likewise.

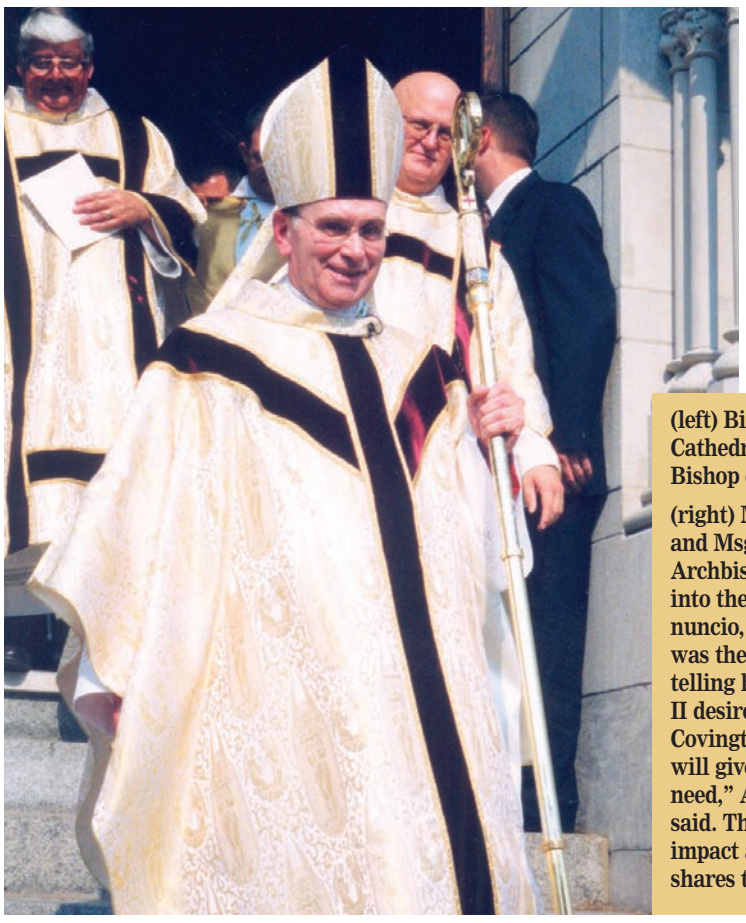


(above) After pledging his fidelity to the Gospel and to service of the church, Bishop Foys lay prostrate in front of the altar while the congregation joined in an ancient and solemn prayer, the litany of the saints, asking the entire communion of saints to pray for the one who was about to be ordained.

(left) Another ancient ritual where the Book of Gospels is held above Bishop Foys' head and then presented to him — a symbolic reminder that his first duty is to preach the Gospel.

(right) Behold the Lamb of God, during his installation Mass, Bishop Foys raises the Eucharist for the first time as Bishop of Covington.

Bishop Foys receives the symbols of his office,
(left) a crosier,
(right) episcopal ring and
(far right) the Book of Gospels. The crosier used at the ceremony was commissioned by Bishop Mulloy in 1953 for the 100th birthday of the diocese. "Take this ring, the seal of your fidelity. With faith and love protect the bride of God, his holy Church," Archbishop Kelly said as he placed the ring on Bishop Foys' finger.

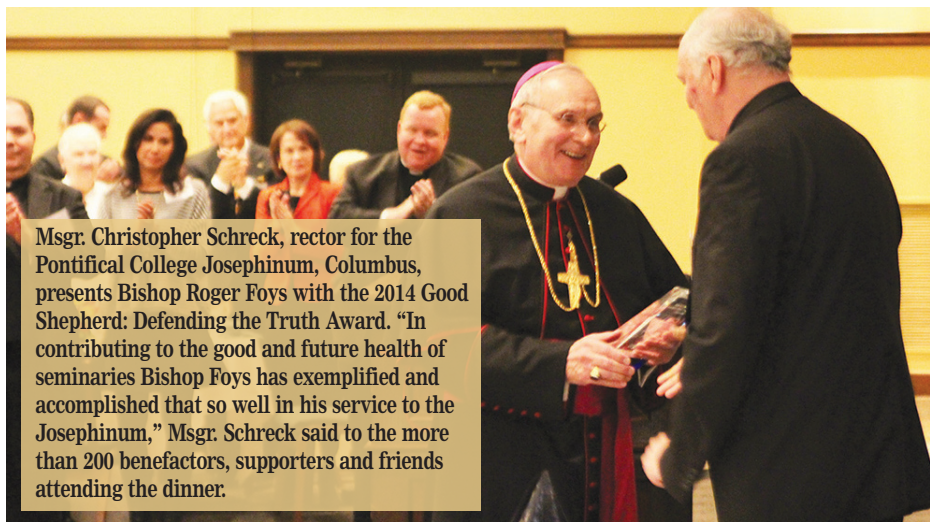


(left) Bishop Foys exits the Cathedral as the newly installed Bishop of Covington.

(right) Msgr. Gerald Reinersman and Msgr. Robert Wehage escort Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo into the Cathedral. As papal nuncio, Archbishop Montalvo was the one to call Bishop Foys telling him that Pope John Paul II desired to name him Bishop of Covington. "Don't worry, God will give you the grace that you need," Archbishop Montalvo said. Those words made a lasting impact and Bishop Foys often shares that advice with others.

(above) The Bishop's Choir, led by Dr. Gregory Schaffer, are a loyal band of volunteer vocalists and musicians dedicated to filling the Cathedral with liturgical music. Here, the Bishop's Choir gathers for a photo with Bishop Foys after the blessing of the Cathedral façade in 2021.

(left) On June 8, 2018, Bishop Roger Foys erected the personal parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Park Hills, for liturgical celebrations of the extraordinary form of the Roman rite. The parish began as a quasi-parish in 2016. The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist, a Public Association of the Faithful established by Bishop Foys in 2019, attend to the pastoral needs of the parish.



Msgr. Christopher Schreck, rector for the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, presents Bishop Roger Foys with the 2014 Good Shepherd: Defending the Truth Award. "In contributing to the good and future health of seminaries Bishop Foys has exemplified and accomplished that so well in his service to the Josephinum," Msgr. Schreck said to the more than 200 benefactors, supporters and friends attending the dinner.

Bishop Foys' affinity for Bassett Hounds is well known and throughout the years Bassetts have frequented the Chancery. In 2018, a new blessing had been added to Bishop Foys' — living and deceased — hoard of hounds. The day after her first well-puppy check to the veterinarian, puppy "Nibbles Niblet" came to the Curia office to visit. Marsie Newbold, parishioner, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, is the owner of Nibbles and of "Nubby Num-Num," who also joined the visit. Before being named Bishop of Covington he had owned two Bassets — Bashful and Baxter. In 2003, Dr. James Noll, learning of Bishop Foys' affection for the breed, arranged a visit from Bassets "Rain" and "Chloe," emotional therapists from Tri-state Caring Canines. Bishop Foys was gifted a Bassett, "Winn Dixie," early in his episcopate. Since the travel demands of the episcopacy were not well suited for owning a dog, Father Gregory Bach adopted Winn Dixie. To help fill the Bassett-void, Ms. Newbold began making annual visits with her Bassetts, "Nosey" and "Sam the Dog, II." Nosey died in the fall of 2016 and Sam died 2018.

(above left) On June 7, 2003, Father Stef Bankemper was the first man Bishop Foys ordained a priest for the Diocese of Covington. (above right) The last priest he ordained was Father Joseph Rielage, Jan. 29, 2021. While both were solemn ceremonies, the two ordinations couldn't have been more different. The Cathedral was packed for Father Bankemper's ordination, while only Father Rielage's sister could attend his, due to COVID protocols. During the years in between these two ordinations, Bishop Foys would ordain 41 more priests for the diocese.

(left) Bishop Foys drove through Covington with a relic of St. Rocco, August 2020, blessing the city's parishes. Additionally, Bishop Foys' spiritual response to the pandemic included a Eucharistic procession and blessing of the city, the daily ringing of all church bells at 3 p.m. —the Great Hour of Mercy — and a monthly Holy Hour

(right) Bishop Foys blesses the new Parish Kitchen facility. Due to changing demographics in the city of Covington, the Parish Kitchen moved from its Pike Street location to the corner of 16th St. and Madison Ave. The new location offers seating for 48 which is about 20 percent more than what was provided at the former location.

Diocese of Covington Statistics under episcopate of Bishop Roger J. Foys

(2002 – present July 2020)

Sacramental Life

21,595 receive sacrament of confirmation
5,143 received into full communion with the Church
43 priests ordained for the diocese
32 permanent deacons ordained for the diocese

Students Educated in the Catholic Tradition

14,860 graduates from Catholic high schools
4,819 undergraduates from Thomas More University
1,324 graduates from Thomas More University

Monies Raised for Diocesan Support

$27,095,213.14 in tuition assistance to Catholic high schools
$5,655,876.77 in assistance for urban schools
$49,905,662 raised for the DPAA
$12,217,196 DPAA rebates back to parishes
$190,000,000 used in building projects

Building Works Expanded

2 new parishes established: Cristo Rey, Florence (2004) and Our Lady of Lourdes, Park Hills (2016)
1 new school established: St. Timothy, Union (2017)
Bishop Camillus Paul Maes exhumed and entombed in Cathedral-Basilica
Cathedral-Basilica façade completed
Curia built and Cathedral-Basilica campus expanded
Freestanding Our Lady of Wisdom chapel built on the campus of Thomas More University
St. Mary's Park built
St. Paul Reliquary housing over 300 relics built in the Cathedral-Basilica

Spiritual Works

St. Anne Retreat Center established
Safe Environment Office established with training Program
A diocesan synod was convened and implemented
Certification requirements established for Religious teachers, RCIA team, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and lectors
Quarterly priest formation days and an annual priest retreat created
Total Parish Coverage becomes part of the *Messenger*
High school Pastoral Administrators established
Thomas More College reestablished as a University

Religious Houses Established

2 Public Associations of the Faithful erected: The Franciscan Daughters of Mary and the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist
First male-contemplative order: The Rosarians

Curia Departments Created (8)

Catechesis and Evangelization
Buildings and Property
Pro-Life
Safe Environment
Vicar for Religious
St. Anne Retreat Center
Deacon Formation (permanent)
Priests' Continuing Education

Teach, sanctify, govern: Curia assists Bishop Foys in his mission

Curia, by dictionary definition, is an official body that governs a particular Church (or diocese) in the Catholic Church. Under Bishop Foys' leadership, his staff has come to learn a different definition for the word Curia — the care of souls. Through the day-to-day operations of each diocesan office Bishop Foys' threefold mission — to teach, sanctify and govern — is realized. The Curia staff share how Bishop Foys' leadership has shaped them and the Diocese of Covington.

Chancery

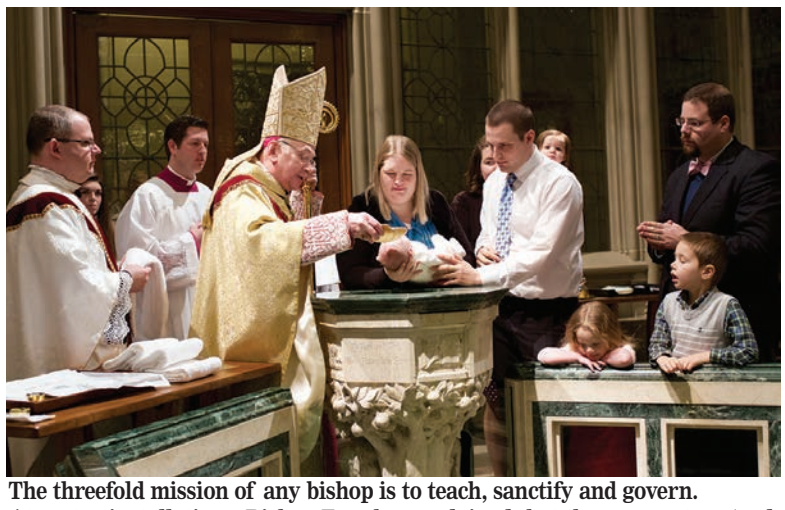
Father Ryan Maher, vicar general

It is difficult to convey in short paragraphs the gratitude I have to the Lord for sending Bishop Foys to us as our shepherd 19 years ago. On a personal level, which is the only way I know how to write these sentences, I have worked closely with Bishop Foys daily, in one capacity or another since the day Bishop Foys ordained me a priest in 2005.

He has labored hard in the vineyard of our diocese every day of his episcopacy. That is what a good shepherd does for the people under his care. Bishop Foys is the hardest working priest and person that I know. Being a priest and a bishop is not something that Bishop Foys does, rather it is who he is.

At the Cathedral parish Bishop has been a true father in the faith, especially through his preaching and celebration of the Mass, baptisms, weddings, and confirmations. Every bishop is called to teach, govern and sanctify. No small task to say the very least! A man of deep prayer, Bishop Foys has made countless decisions over the years, both small and large. Decisions made by any bishop affect the entire diocese, not just one parish or institution or school. It is not only about what is good for one parish or person that must be considered, but what is also good for the whole diocese must be taken into account as well.

Among many important things I have learned from Bishop Foys over the years, one is that the right decision is sometimes the unpopular decision and that the right decision is sometimes the difficult decision. But in the end the hopefully right decision, discerned through prayer and listening, is just that, the right decision. Some decisions have been easy for Bishop, others have not. But through it all Bishop maintained his trust in the Lord and relied upon the prayers and support of God's people. When faced with a difficult decision he prays, then he prays more. Bishop Foys has led our diocese with integrity and faith.



The threefold mission of any bishop is to teach, sanctify and govern. At pastor installations, Bishop Foys has explained that the way pastors (and bishops) sanctify God's people is by providing ready access to the sacraments. Celebrating the sacraments are sacred times between a priest and his people because they occur at some of the most joyful and sorrowful moments of life — baptism, Eucharist, confirmation, reconciliation, marriage, ordination and anointing of the sick. Bishop Foys said that being asked to celebrate baptisms and weddings was a life-giving highlight of his episcopacy, and what he missed from his days as a pastor.

Bishop Foys' episcopal motto is "let your light shine." Over these 19 years Bishop Foys has let his light shine — the light of his faith, the light of his deep love for clergy, consecrated religious and people of our diocese. Through his leadership as our shepherd Bishop Foys has inspired vocations to the priesthood, and called forth many people of our diocese to use their gifts and talents and resources to build up the Church and serve the Lord. I give thanks to the Lord for bringing Bishop Foys to the Diocese of Covington to be our shepherd and I am so fortunate to have been able to work with him so closely over the years. I congratulate Bishop Foys on his well-deserved retirement and wish him many, many blessings in the years to come!

At his ordination to the priesthood in 2008, Father Daniel Schomaker places his hands in the hands of Bishop Foys and promises respect and obedience to him and his successors. A priest's promise of obedience is especially important as they are called and sent by Christ through the bishop. Bishop Foys says that the men he has ordained are in a special way his spiritual sons. During his episcopacy, Bishop Foys ordained 43 priests for the Diocese of Covington.

Father Daniel Schomaker, vicar general

Thirteen years ago Bishop Foys ordained me a priest and for the entirety of that time have I been assigned in some way to work directly with him. God could not have given me a better mentor and friend. I have learned how to be a priest and a pastor from him. Thank you Bishop! I pray that as you enter into retirement from administrative duties that the Good Lord will bless you with abundance. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Jamie Schroeder, chancellor

I have worked for the Diocese of Covington since 2009, first as the assistant director of Catechesis and Formation (now Catechesis and Evangelization) and currently as chancellor, but I appreciated Bishop Foys' leadership long before then. As a parishioner, I participated in the parish consultations that were part of the Diocesan Synod from 2003–2006. As a parent of five children who attended Catholic schools and as a former Catholic school teacher and Director of Religious Education, I was thrilled with the emphasis Bishop Foys placed on strengthening the religious formation of children in our schools and parish religious education programs.

Since my employment, I have been privileged to experience firsthand the additional ways in which Bishop Foys has strengthened our diocese. Viewed from the perspective of the Chancery Office, several highlights come to mind. The Diocesan Synod, completed in 2006, gave unified direction to the Curia offices, parishes and institutions. The Diocesan Annual Pastoral Planning process, first established as a method to implement the Synod policies, has continued to keep diocesan offices looking ahead to meeting the needs of the parishes and institutions of the diocese. The Deanery Pastoral Council was restructured so that every parish is represented and can provide valuable feedback as part of the annual planning process. A diocesan census was undertaken, the structure and function of parish pastoral councils were reviewed and updated, and the list goes on. Our Diocese has benefitted tremendously from Bishop Foys' administration, the exercise of his governing role.

I am grateful to God for Bishop Foys, and grateful to Bishop Foys for his dedicated service over the past 19 years. He has been a faithful shepherd and a caring spiritual father to us all. May God bless you, Bishop, with a happy, healthy, well-deserved retirement!

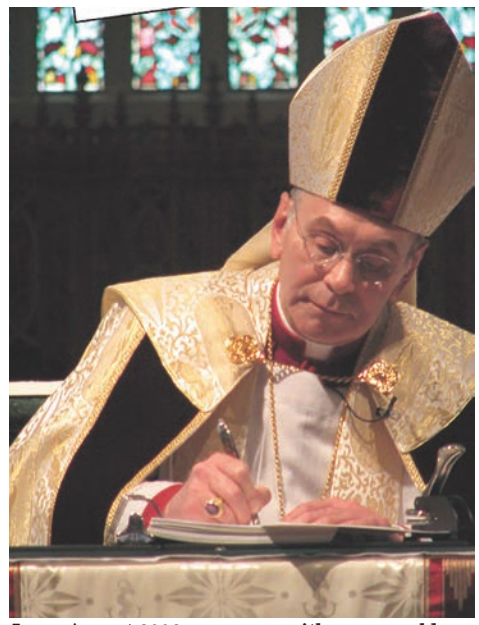
Buildings and Properties

Don Knochelmann, director

It has been an honor to serve as director of Buildings and Properties for the Diocese of Covington for the past 11 years. Since the creation of the Buildings and Properties office in 2010, several notable diocesan projects have been completed, including: the Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel at Thomas More University; the new St. Timothy School; the St. Henry Theater at St. Henry District High School; the Bishop Brossart High School Mustang Athletic Complex; the Covington Catholic STEM building; the moving of the Curia offices back to the See City and renovation of the St. Mary Lyceum into the Curia; the privately-supported St. Mary's Park and most recently, the Cathedral façade renovation that includes statues depicting the patron saints of each of the parishes in the diocese.

Bishop Foys is committed to the proper maintenance of all buildings and properties in the diocese, including its parishes and schools. In many ways, the care of these structures has been passed on from one generation to the next — all for the glory of God. To ensure that these places of worship and academia are maintained, Bishop Foys implemented a structure where all parishes and schools would be inspected regularly with long and short term plans discussed with parish and school leadership. An inspection occurs anytime a new pastor is assigned to a parish.

Bishop Foys has always said that our buildings are more than bricks and mortar but are concrete expressions of faith. Our churches are places of comfort where Jesus nourishes the body and soul with his Body and Blood, forgives sins and consoles the grieving. Our cemeteries are sacred ground where our beloved and, one day, ourselves rest and wait for Jesus' final coming and the resurrection of the dead. Our schools are places where children receive a quality Catholic education that assist in building a strong academic, spiritual and social foundation for life.



In an August 2006 ceremony, with an assembly of all the priests and deacons and representatives of all women religious, parishes, schools and apostolates of the diocese, Bishop Foys signs the Synod document. Three years in the making, the contents of the Synod document became particular law for the Diocese of Covington and set into motion a new life for the diocese as over the next 10 years, with the leadership of Charity Sister Suzanne Donovan, policies, procedures and programs were implemented in literally every ministry and apostolate of the local Church: Catholic Education and Faith Formation, Diaconal Life and Ministry, Diocesan and Parish Administration, Evangelization, Gospel of Life, Lay Apostolate, Liturgy and Prayer and Priestly Life and Ministry.

Catechesis and Evangelization

David Cooley, co-director and office manager

During Bishop Roger Foys' episcopate, there have been too many fruitful initiatives implemented in the categories of catechesis and evangelization to include an exhaustive list here, so I will touch on the important highlights.

First and foremost it should be noted that it was Bishop Foys' vision to have an office with the primary focus of religious education separated from the Department of Catholic Schools. The Office of Catechesis and Faith

(above) Bishop Foys blesses the newly completed façade of the Cathedral Basilica. The project added 24 saint statues, patrons of the diocese's parishes and missions, and two tympana. The new tympana, together with the center portal tympanum that was completed in 1917, now create a triptych of the Catholic Church's dogmatic teachings of Mary — the Annunciation that Mary would be the Mother of God; the Assumption of Mary to heaven; and the Coronation of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

Formation (now Catechesis and Evangelization), along with a Religious Education Advisory Committee, was established in 2006. His unwavering support for Catholic education — particularly passing on the faith to the next generation — has born great fruit throughout his tenure.

Bishop Foys oversaw the creation of the Catechist Certification Program to ensure that all religion teachers, parish catechists and lay faithful would have access to high quality, local, ongoing religious education and formation. Additionally, Family Life, Young Adult and Youth ministries were integrated into the office to support all the schools and parishes across the diocese.

Early on it became a priority for Bishop Foys to have a universal textbook series selected for the diocesan high schools, elementary schools and parish religious education programs. The textbook adoption processes resulted in separate committees selecting, and Bishop Foys approving, the Midwest Theological Forum's "Didache" textbook series for the high schools and Sophia Institute for Teacher's "Spirit of Truth" textbook series for elementary schools. Having the schools and religion programs use these approved textbook series and supplemental materials helps ensure that diocesan students have a high-quality Catholic education no matter what school or parish program they attend in the diocese.

More recently, Bishop Foys granted permission to begin using the brand new, state-of-the-art Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) program. This is the first comprehensive program designed by Catholic educators and highly qualified technological developers to bring the cutting-edge analytics we have come to expect in math and literacy to Catholic education. ARK produces data that can be analyzed in many ways and includes ready-to-use resources, creating greater opportunities to develop customized lesson plans for the classroom. This will help us discover strengths and weaknesses in our schools and continuously work toward improvement.

Additionally, Bishop Foys led the Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation in developing: a religious education homeschooling policy; revised high school religion curriculum; RCIA manual; catechist maintenance program after advanced level certification; and the establishment of a Religious Education Commission to support and promote religious education programs.

Under the leadership and guidance of Bishop Foys, the responsibilities of the office have grown in a way to be a ministry for the ministers. For example, 2018 saw the launch of the "Frassati Project," a bold initiative to better engage young adults in the life and mission of the Church. Under Family Life Ministry the office oversees marriage preparation and enrichment, Natural Family Planning resources, practical advice for raising faithful Catholics, and support for difficult family and life issues.

Our office serves pastors, principals, directors of religious education, RCIA directors, marriage preparation leaders, youth ministers, teachers and catechists by providing skill-development opportunities, Catholic resources and faith formation programs that help spread the Gospel of Christ throughout Northern Kentucky.

Ultimately, the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization is designed to be an extension of the bishop's teaching ministry. Bishop Foys began with and maintained a clear vision of how important Catholic education is and how important it is to offer spiritually enriching opportunities for the faithful in his care. He has been a great mentor and leader for our office. Through his guidance and that of the Holy Spirit, our work in the Lord's vineyard has produced rich soil for the Word of God. We are very thankful for Bishop Foys and for the faithful in this diocese.

Isaak Abraham Isaak, Co-director

Dear Bishop Foys: Throughout your tenure as shepherd of the Diocese of Covington, I have been amazed by your mobility. Your energy and stamina to continuously engage Catholics are clearly God given gifts as they seem to have no limit. From top to bottom you have crisscrossed this Diocese many times to sow the seeds of faith. Your flock has come to know you and love you. You have done many remarkable accomplishments in the diocese.

Fifteen years ago, I never thought any bishop could hire me in Northern Kentucky with my kind of awful accent. But you did hire me. Coming from Africa, and especially coming from a Nomadic Family in Africa, I had a very low self-esteem. I was fearful of everything and anything around me. However, as my own shepherd, you encouraged me, mentored me and loved me for who I am. Under your leadership I have been able to work with our Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, our parishes and schools.

I would also like to personally thank you for all of your prayers, Mass intentions and support for my wife Mary Kay when she was really sick with cancer. I know you still continue to pray for her. Your words of inspiration and dedication to us have always been an inspiration to me. No matter how exhausted or discouraged I have been I have always found warmth, love and support in your words. Now my wife Mary Kay and I are in a better place because of you; our Diocese is clearly a better place because of your service to it. I am glad you will be retiring here in the Diocese of Covington; my wife and I would sometimes love to take you out to dinner and personally thank you for all that you have done for us and the diocese.

I will pray for you. I wish you all the best as you step into a new phase of your life and ministry. Thank you, God, for the gift of Bishop Roger Joseph Foys.

Newly ordained deacons at the altar with Bishop Foys in 2019 are Deacon Joseph Wiedeman, lifting the chalice, and Deacon Barry Henry, looking on. During his 19 years as bishop, Bishop Foys has ordained 32 men to the permanent diaconate.

Deacons and Diaconal Formation

Rev. Msgr. William B. Neuhaus, director

Every autumn the permanent deacons of the diocese look forward to celebrating solemn vespers with their Bishop, and to the renewing in that beautiful liturgy of the promises made at their ordinations. Tellingly, the annual liturgy was itself instituted by Bishop Foys.

In that welcome annual event, the deacons are not only celebrating and giving thanks for the graces of their diaconal ordinations, but also for the wonderful leadership, support and guidance they have received from their Bishop.

That leadership, support and guidance has been evident to them throughout the almost two decades of Bishop Foys' episcopacy, beginning particularly with the synodal process of 2003–2006, which saw the Bishop welcome the deacons' development and submission of the 88 policy provisions of the Diaconal Life and Ministry section of the synod document.

They are grateful as well for his leadership, support and guidance for a whole host of subsequent developments and initiatives, including the creation of a diaconal policy and procedure manual; the establishment of the community of deacons organizations and bylaws for that community as well as for the diaconal assembly and the subcommittee structure for that assembly; the implementation of accountability procedures with regard to annual retreats and continuing education; the implementation of a diaconal annual review process; the creation of funeral protocols for deacons; and the implementation of programs to enhance the liturgical skills of deacons, especially as it pertains to pontifical liturgies, and to enhance counseling skills.

Mention must be made as well, of course, of the formal establishment of the Curia Office of Deacons and Diaconal Formation itself, as well the programs for aspirants and the formal education of candidates.

These programs, policies and procedures have greatly benefitted the spiritual lives of the permanent deacons as well as the fruitfulness of their varied and multi-faceted ministries.

And all of the above should be viewed against the backdrop of the wonderful numerical growth of the permanent diaconate in this diocese under Bishop Foys, from 20 deacons in 2002 to over 40 today in active ministry. Today, 26 parishes have one or more deacons serving in ministries of the altar and word and in that defining diaconal ministry of charity; Bishop Foys has ordained 32 permanent deacons; four candidates are in formation at Mt. St. Mary Seminary and School of Theology.

And all that being said, it seems to me that particular mention must be made of the unprecedented challenges which Bishop Foys was dealing with at the very time he began his long and fruitful episcopal nurturing of the permanent diaconate in this diocese, beginning with the Office of Deacons and Diaconal Formation taking its present form in 2003.

He has often mentioned to the permanent deacons, in thanking them for their ministries, that he came to this diocese from a diocese which did not have permanent deacons.

It would have been easy, it seems to me, for the Bishop in those days to have put the permanent diaconate on the back burner. Far from doing so, he has been extraordinarily supportive, creative and engaged for the permanent diaconate, and for that we are all so grateful.

Finance

Dale Henson, chief financial officer

For the past 19 years, Bishop Foys has led the Finance Office as it manages the temporal goods of the diocese in his name. Having been the treasurer in his former diocese, he has great business acumen. Anytime a business decision must be made, Bishop Foys listens to his advisors and makes an informed decision to ensure the best long-term outcome. He always has an eye to the future and how decisions today can have impact for years to come.

First and foremost, few ministries impact and affect the future of our Church as much as Catholic schools; and Bishop Foys is well known for his love and support of Catholic education. At the beginning of his episcopacy he formed the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE) as a consortium for the operation of the inner-city parochial schools of the diocese. The large financial demands of these schools were an unsustainable burden on the inner city parishes of our diocese. Some parishes were subsidizing their schools with as much as 70 percent of their weekly offertory just to keep the doors open. Prior to the formation of ACUE, that parish subsidy averaged over $2.5M each year. Due to the efficiencies and economies of scale that ACUE was able to achieve as well as additional diocesan funding, the subsidy paid by the inner-city

(Continued on page 30)

(Continued from page 29)

parishes today is 25 percent of their weekly offertory and totals just under $700,000 per year. More importantly, this consolidation undoubtedly saved many of these schools from closure.

Secondly, the School Lunch Program (SLP) is a federally funded program that operates the cafeterias in our schools. While the main focus of this program is obviously the nutritional needs of our school children, there is also a required intense regulatory and financial oversight to ensure that the program is in compliance with federal regulations. Three years ago, Bishop Foys moved the SLP to the Finance Office to improve the financial stability and regulatory compliance of the program. Since that time, the program has realized financial stability and continues to feed our school children close to one million meals each school year.

Lastly, Bishop Foys directed that the Diocese hold a Synod at the beginning of his episcopacy to update diocesan policies, improve operations, and facilitate spiritual growth of the faithful. As part of that Synod, a financial audit program was implemented to assist the parishes in their business dealings and organization. Originally, this was accomplished using outside auditors at a cost to the parishes. Almost four years ago, Bishop Foys approved the hiring of an internal auditor in the Curia to do these audits in-house, thereby saving the parishes the cost of these audits and simultaneously allowing more focus on trending issues as well as giving the diocese a better insight into parish operations.

These are just a few of the ways in which Bishop Foys' leadership has improved the financial health and sustainability of the diocese. His wisdom and his love of this diocese will be felt for many years to come.

On a personal note, I offer my sincere congratulations to Bishop Foys on the occasion of his retirement. He has been a wonderful "boss" and mentor to me. When I joined the diocese as chief financial officer a little over 13 years ago, I came prepared to serve my Church to the best of my ability with the skillsets and expertise learned over my career. What I wasn't necessarily prepared for was the difference in the way the Church conducts business versus corporate America. Bishop Foys taught me that it is possible to be charitable and be a good business person all at the same time. Now that his retirement is approaching, I pray for his good health and that he has the time to put himself first in the coming years.

Messenger and Communications

Laura Keener, editor/director

Structure and good order are two qualities that Bishop Roger Foys brings to all of his ministries. Communications is no exception. When communicating to the people of the Diocese of Covington, especially when sharing news that will have an emotional impact, he demonstrates a pastoral approach. The information is shared first with those who are affected most, usually a parish or school community, followed by all the priests of the diocese and finally the wider community. While this seems sensible and reasonable, in a world of social media where news outlets and, now, individuals clamor to have their voices and opinions heard first and shared widely, protocol can be a challenge. Yet Bishop Foys has found a way to be transparent with any announcements — good or bad — while keeping the integrity of the chain of communication.

In 2006, Bishop Foys supported the forming of a local coalition of pro-life agencies to organize a local celebration of life — Cross the Bridge for Life. Bishop Foys surrounded by his vicars general, administrative assistant and seminarians have participated each year.

Bishop Foys revolutionized the impact of the diocesan newspaper, the Messenger, soon after he became the bishop of the diocese in 2002. Before, the newspaper was based on a subscription model, that is, individuals or families could choose to subscribe, a typical arrangement in most U.S. (arch)dioceses. Bishop Foys had another vision — that if the newspaper were sent to every home, it would be a source of unity throughout the diocese and could serve as his chief means of communication with the people of the diocese. After consulting with the presbyteral council and other advisors, he restructured the newspaper's finances on another model — each of the 28,000 families would receive the newspaper 44 times a year at no charge; the "tax rate" on the parishes would increase slightly to cover the additional cost. Overnight, the potential effectiveness of the diocesan newspaper doubled. The people of the diocese were united in a way they had never been before. Bishop Foys had a reliable, attractive way to speak with the faithful. And diocesan initiatives — to take just one example, the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal — and parishes and schools — think festivals, events and fundraisers — greatly benefited from the expanded exposure. While modern communication possibilities have greatly expanded — e-mail, Facebook, Twitter etc. — a printed newspaper regularly delivered into the home still is the best way to reach Catholic households, especially the increasing number of Catholics — regrettably, an estimated two-thirds — who are not frequent churchgoers. Bishop Foys, having recognized that potential, has used the newspaper as one of the pillars of his episcopacy.

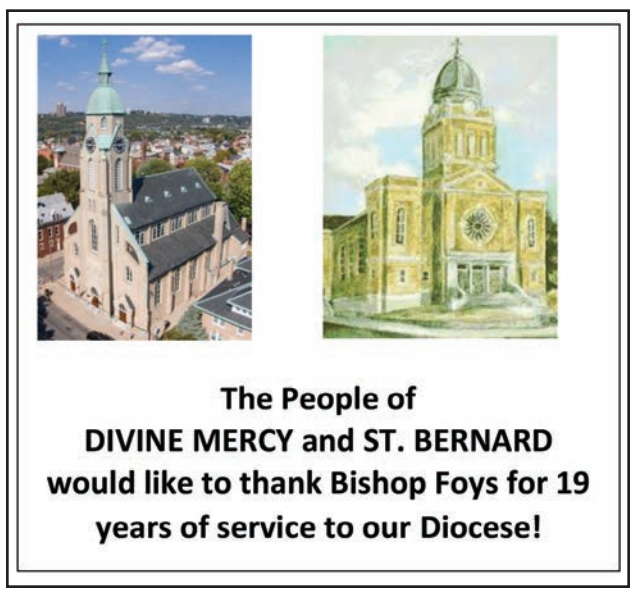
On a personal note, I have followed Bishop Foys up and down through the Diocese of Covington and have had the unique privilege to have visited every parish and mission in the diocese, except one — St. James Mission, Minerva. I missed the chance in 2016 and a scheduled celebration in 2020 was cancelled. These were not drive-by visits but celebrations, including Bishop Foys celebrating Mass with the priests and people. They were always joyous and even during difficult times the faithful of our diocese demonstrated their love for Bishop Foys and he for them. It has been a profound pleasure for the Messenger staff — Laura Gillespie and Kim Holocher, and former staff, Tim Fitzgerald, Mike Ifcic, and Monica Yeamans — to shine a light on Bishop Foys and the faithful of the Diocese of Covington — to God goes the glory.

Pro-Life Office

Faye Roch, director

Our Catholic faith is at the heart of Bishop Foys' ministry. Here at the Curia, he made daily Mass a part of our work day. When I mention this to employees in other dioceses, they are in awe of this. This is one of the many ways that Bishop Foys has allowed Curia staff to grow in faith.

When I started in 2002, there was not a full-time pro-life office, with a full time staff. That changed in 2009. I can say with great pride that the Diocese of Covington is known for having a bishop who is very supportive of pro-life efforts. Since becoming Bishop of Covington, Bishop Foys has traveled every year, when able, to the March for Life in Washington D.C., missing the trip only in the case of his quinquennial visit to Rome and for severe weather (blizzard). Bishop Foys' presence in Washington D.C. during rain, sleet, snow and sun is quite impressive as an estimated 10,000 youths have witnessed his commitment to all life



Bishop Foys' commitment to Catholic education is unparalleled. Each year he attended the graduation ceremonies of all nine Catholic high schools in the diocese; 14,860 graduates have received their diplomas bearing his signature.

— from conception to natural death.

Also during his episcopacy, the Pro-Life Ambassadors program began. These high school and college students are the future pro-life leaders. By promoting the Gospel of Life these young people give witness to dignity and sanctity of the human person both now and in the future.

We have established a Catholic Medical Association, where medical professionals are able to grow as a community and are supported by their peers in practicing their healing ministry in accordance with their Catholic faith. In these challenging times we need true Catholic medical professionals.

Under Bishop Foys' leadership, in 2006, a coalition of pro-life agencies started Cross the Bridge for Life which has brought thousands of people together from the Tri-State area to walk in the name of the sanctity of life. Bishop Foys has also been present at almost each and every one of these events, again showing our community his commitment to the sanctity of life.

I cannot say enough about how Bishop Foys not only voices support in promoting the Gospel of Life, but also is present at Masses, celebrations and events and is a visual witness and commitment to our diocesan community. From diocesan Pro-Life Masses, essay banquets, Life's a Ball and presiding over daily Mass here at the Curia, Bishop has shown that his heart is with his people and those he has served so faithfully.

Bishop Foys, you will be truly missed and we all have become better Catholics because of you. Many blessings to you as you enjoy a very well deserved retirement. "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matt 25:21).

Safe Environment Office

Margaret Schack, former director

Imagine beginning a new job in a strange city with people you have never met. Imagine being the boss, the one who needed to run the show making major decisions that affect people's lives. That was what Bishop Foys faced in 2002 as he traveled from Steubenville, Ohio to Covington, Kentucky. His consecration and installation as Bishop of Covington occurred on July 15, 2002. The next day he awoke to the job of shepherding 90,000 plus Catholics in 14 counties.

He could not spend all his energy shepherding his flock because Boone County Circuit Court classified the lawsuits involving sexual abuse cases as a class action. The class action consumed substantial time between 2002 and 2006. Bishop Foys' energy was spent meeting victims both in Lexington and Covington. Those meetings deepened Bishop Foys' compassion for the wounded and vulnerable among us. That compassion shifted the focus from legal proceedings to suffering individuals. His door has always been open to those suffering.

Now we express our deep gratitude to Bishop Foys for shepherding us for 19 years.

As we look forward to the arrival of Bishop-elect John C. Iffert from Belleville, Illinois, we know that he will have a mentor in Bishop Foys.

Mark Guilfoyle, diocesan attorney and Diocesan Review Board member

In the 1992 Presidential election, Ross Perot famously stated that "Everything that should be up is down, and everything that should be down is up." Well, when one evaluates Bishop Foys' 19-year episcopacy, it is quite apparent that everything that should be up is up, and everything that should be down is down.

Bishop Foys ordained 43 priests! Catholic elementary schools in the urban core and throughout the diocese are stable and well supported by our diocesan community. Diocesan institutions like St. Elizabeth Healthcare and Thomas More University are vibrant contributors to the Northern Kentucky community at large. By just about any metric, it is easy to see that Bishop Foys is leaving our diocese in a much better condition than when he came to us from Steubenville.

Bishop Foys also deserves great credit for celebrating the contributions women religious have made — and continue to make — in our Diocese. The 2012 Year of Women Religious was a centerpiece of this well-deserved recognition. There would be no Thomas More University, St. Elizabeth Healthcare and many of our schools without the dedication and ingenuity of our sisters in the diocese. Bishop Foys was right to continually trumpet their good work.

One of the things I will miss most about Bishop Foys is his preaching. His homilies were always rich with theological depth, accessible to everyone in the audience, and delivered with an appropriate tinge of humor. He helped us all to better appreciate and understand the Word of God.

Thanks so much, Bishop Foys. We are all very happy that you will spend your retirement right here in Northern Kentucky.

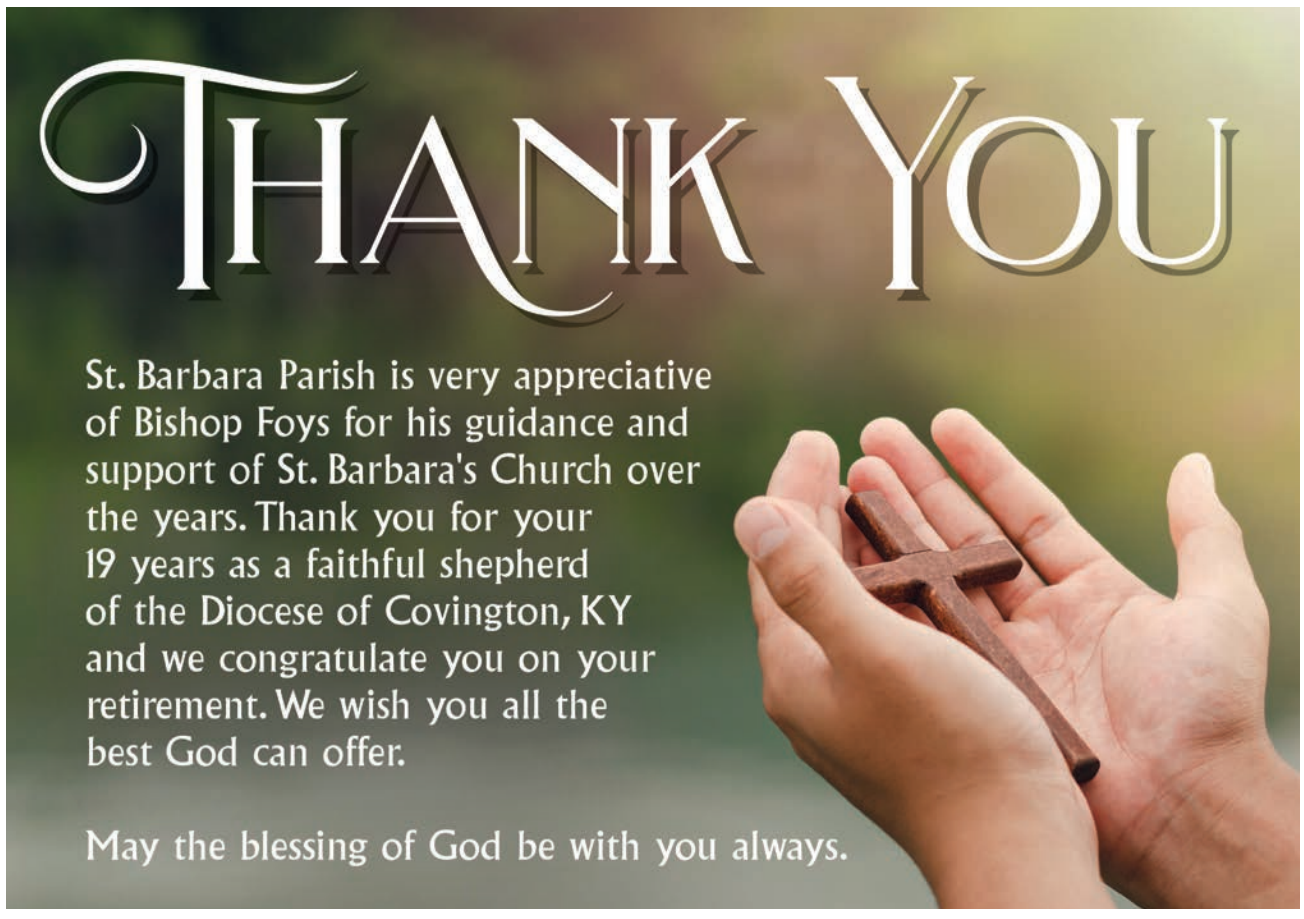
Deacon Dave Profitt prepares the newly dedicated altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Anne Retreat Center in 2016. When the Sisters of Divine Providence were looking to sell their motherhouse in Melbourne, Bishop Foys purchased the bucolic grounds for use as a diocesan retreat center.

William Burleigh, chair, Diocesan Review Board

A friend of Michael Novak (Catholic journalist and novelist) once said of Pope John Paul II, "You have a pope that knows how to pope." Well I say, we have had a bishop that knows how to bishop. Bishop Roger J. Foys, in his two decades as bishop, as far as I am concerned, did most

(Continued on page 32)

until we meet again
may God hold you
in the palm of his hand
CONGRATULATIONS
BISHOP FOYS
IN FRIENDSHIP UNITY & CHRISTIAN CHARITY
THE LADIES ANCIENT
ORDER OF HIBERNIANS



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everything right. Really giving himself, at the cost of his own health, to bring the diocese out of the clerical abuse scandal. I think most people have no idea of the courage that was required for him to take the steps that he took. He had to oppose other bishops to extract the kind of settlement and the time that he took to listen and console the victims. He had an open door to any victim that wanted to talk.

Known for his mistake-free, one takes, Bishop Foys prepares for the annual taping of the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal video. Every diocese has an annual appeal, but Bishop Foys revolutionized Covington's DPAA structure so that every parish in the diocese could also directly benefit from the annual campaign. With the DPAA 100 percent of monies collected over a parish's goal is returned to that parish for parish programs and projects. During his episcopacy, $49,905,662 was raised for the DPAA and $12,217,196 DPAA rebates were sent to parishes.

I watched him as he took care of the seminarians. He was a great promoter of vocations and there is a whole cadre of young priests serving the diocese who we can credit Bishop Foys for bringing along. I would watch him at the Josephinum when both of us were on that board; he would come early and celebrate Mass for the seminarians from Covington and he would always sit with them when there was a meal. The seminarians always came first.

He is a wonderful guy and he has a great sense of humor. His sense of humor sustained him during the dark times.

Most recently what he has done to the façade of the cathedral demonstrates his vision of the Church and what the Church should be — not just in the celebration of the liturgy but in its architecture. A couple weeks ago I was with Duncan Stroik, who designed the church at All Saints and is now a famous church architect, he couldn't get over what Bishop Foys had done with the cathedral. He said this just doesn't happen in modern times that someone has the appreciation and vision to complete a century-old building the way Bishop Foys has done.

I also admire Bishop Foys for the way he has given us plenty of running room to take care of the little Marian Park next to the Curia. Also, his determination to live in a neighborhood, a community that was riddled with poverty rather than living, like some, in palaces and not getting their hands dirty in caring for the flock that has all of the human heartache and human poverty that is present in the Diocese of Covington. Bishop Foys was part of that, he understood it.

Schools

Kendra McGuire, superintendent

Over the last 19 years, Bishop Roger J. Foys has dedicated much of his time and energy to ensuring the success of Catholic education in the Diocese of Covington. His love and passion for this ministry has been evident in so many ways. Bishop Foys made his support known by participating in school activities and visiting schools. He attended the high school graduations every year, encouraging the students to live what they have learned and thanking the parents for choosing a Catholic education for their children. He celebrated diocesan-wide Masses for our high school seniors, the teachers, and during Catholic Schools Week. He has visited the schools, celebrated Mass with the students, and supported many building and renovation efforts to ensure our facilities meet the needs of the community. Despite having 37 schools and nearly 9,000 students he has been a leader who is visible to the school communities and always voiced his support for Catholic education.

Bishop Foys has worked hard to ensure the Catholic faith is the primary reason for our schools. Under his leadership we have a strong religious education curriculum and materials for our students. We also have a Catechesis program for the teachers in our schools. And Bishop Foys always reminds us of the mission of all Catholic schools — which is to transmit the faith. Today, because of his work, our schools are united in our mission to serve the Lord by passing on the faith to the next generation of children.

Perhaps the greatest gift that Bishop Foys has given to the diocese is his support of our urban schools. At a time when many dioceses are closing urban schools due to funding challenges, Bishop Foys was determined to keep Catholic education available in these areas. He has been instrumental in supporting the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education which has met the funding needs of these schools so we can continue bringing Christ to those children who live in the urban areas of our diocese.

On behalf of the Department of Catholic Schools and all of our schools, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Foys for his full support of Catholic education. His leadership has impacted our schools in such a positive way and will bear fruits for many generations. May God bless him for all of his work and in his words, let us remember that "there may be alternatives to Catholic Schools but there is no substitute."

St. Anne Retreat Center

Deacon Dave Profitt, director

Like a lot of people that I've spoken to over the past few months, I'm torn over the retirement of Bishop Foys. On one hand, I'm happy for him, happy that he can enjoy a retirement he so richly has earned. On the other hand, I'm sorry to see him retire. I know personally, I'm going to miss the leadership he has shown during his time here as our bishop.

Bishop Foys has been a big part of my growth as a man, as a deacon and as the director of St. Anne Retreat Center. He's never hesitated to correct me when I need it, yet he's always there to support me in my ministry. He has a knack for getting the best out of people while gently leading. That's a great characteristic to possess and one that all of us here in the diocese will miss.

Without question, the great progress we have made here at St. Ann Retreat Center would not have been possible without his leadership and guidance. He has supported us in our efforts to make this a beautiful place of rest and renewal for all. When I began here, I had a vision of what this place can become and although we're not there yet, we're much closer.

I'm certain Bishop-elect John Iffert will be a wonderful leader for our diocese. We need to pray for him because he has big shoes to fill. We pray that he will bring his vision and his way of doing things to our diocese to help us grow further. It's not an enviable task to replace someone who has done such a good job and I'm sure the Bishop-elect feels that. Let's all pray that the guidance he receives from the Holy Spirit will help him in his preparation.

Well done Bishop Foys, enjoy the rest you have earned. We're all grateful that you will continue to be a part of our diocese. We owe you a great deal for all of your hard work and dedication to the Church. God bless you and best wishes.

First Communicants of the Cathedral Parish quietly talk with Bishop Foys before they receive the sacrament. Celebrating the sacraments and bringing people to Christ, Bishop Foys said, "that's what I've tried to do my entire priesthood — I hope I've done that."

Stewardship and Mission Services

Michael Murray, director

The concept of Stewardship is a lifestyle which, with faith and gratitude, acknowledges that God is our creator and provider of all we have. Recognizing that everything is a gift from God, a steward willingly gives a portion of their gifts of time, talent and treasure to others, especially to those who are in need.

The Office of Stewardship and Mission Services exists to serve the mission and vision of the Diocese of Covington, its parishes, and parishioners by promoting and facilitating effective stewardship practices. The office also works to secure the financial resources necessary to support, sustain and enhance diocesan and parish priorities. Through this Church ministry, we seek to create an environment where Catholics choose to embrace stewardship as a way of life by gratefully sharing their gifts to the glory of God.

Stewardship has been a high priority in the Diocese of Covington under the 19-year leadership of the Bishop Foys, the tenth Bishop of Covington. Throughout his episcopacy, Bishop Foys stressed the importance of our faith community receiving God's gifts gratefully, cultivating them responsibly, sharing them lovingly with others, and returning them with increase to God. He also taught us that stewardship is a personal response to the Gospel call to conversion of mind and heart, so that we can participate fully in God's plan for our world.

Bishop has shown his shepherd's heart, leading the way toward stewardship. He actively promoted the funding of seminary education, led the yearly annual appeal effort to raise funds for diocesan ministries and programs, and championed the cause of Catholic education for those less fortunate especially families living in the urban communities of northern Kentucky. He has also worked passionately with many of our faith community leaders to foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood, diaconate and consecrated religious life. To say that he has left his mark on our faith community would simply be an understatement.

A powerful example of Bishop Foys' legacy can be found with the yearly Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal. Upon his arrival in 2002, not only did he change the name and branding of the appeal, but he instituted a rebate program to benefit those parishes who exceeded their appeal goal. With this new appeal strategy, parishes received 100 percent of the monies they collected over their appeal goal. This change has had a dramatic impact on our parish communities, and has created important funding sources for many parish ministries and programs. Bishop also made available 10 percent of the diocesan appeal goal for an initiative named the DPAA Service Grants. Many parishes, diocesan ministries and local nonprofits have taken advantage of these grants to expand their ministerial efforts in their communities.

During my 12 years as stewardship director, I have personally witnessed the re-instatement of the annual Seminary Ball as an important initiative in generating much needed support for seminarians and their educational funding.

Bishop Foys also instructed the Stewardship Office to conduct a special summer collection to benefit our inner-city Catholic schools, reinforcing the importance of supporting our diocesan mission directed toward the urban core of our community. My office was also asked to partner with Catholic Relief Services and our Catholic Charities organization to offer our Catholic elementary and secondary schools an opportunity to learn about poverty, both domestically and internationally, through the CRS Rice Bowl Kick-off luncheon event. These efforts, and many others not mentioned here, were brought about by Bishop Foys' response to the Lord's call to answer the needs of our faith community.

From the first moments of his episcopacy, Bishop Foys was confronted with the scourge of the sexual abuse crisis in the diocese. His approach was survivor-centric, groundbreaking at the time. Bishop Foys would meet with any survivor who desired a meeting; he has met with over 200 survivors. Additionally, since October 2018, Bishop Foys and the priests of the diocese pray a monthly Holy Hour for the victims and survivors and anyone who has been affected by clergy sexual abuse and for healing within the Church.

As we prepare for Bishop Foys' retirement on September 30, stewardship staff members Jennifer Cox and Liz Champ join me in expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Bishop Foys for his 19 years of ministry and leadership. We rejoice in his ministerial time with us, and the legacy that he is leaving. He has shepherded our diocese through significant challenges and changes, both in the parishes and on a societal level. From day one, Bishop Foys has shone light and love into some of the darkest places of our diocese and its communities. He has been an advocate for those who have needed it most, and

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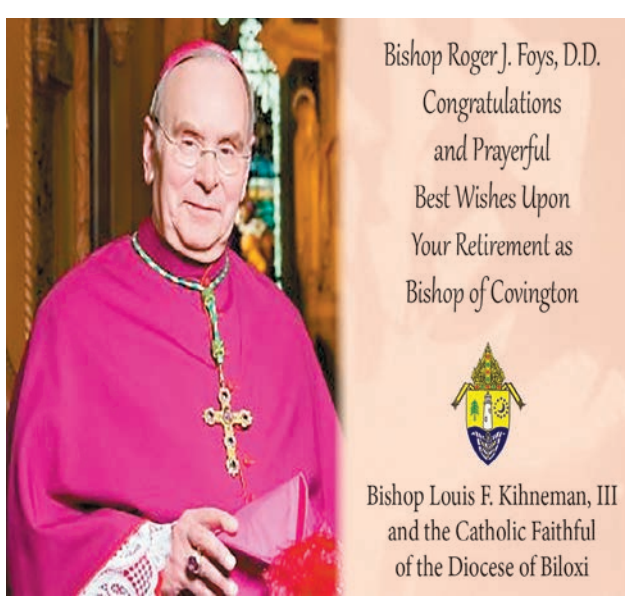


Bishop Foys' support of diocesan Women Religious remembered

Wonderful celebrations

As Bishop Foys begins his retirement, the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery wish him every blessing of good health, peace, joy, fun and extra sleep in the years ahead. We are grateful for his dedicated leadership and care for the diocese.

Bishop Foys often speaks about the history of religious communities in the diocese, the contributions we've made, and our role in the development of the educational and health care systems. He continues to appreciate all of our ongoing efforts to serve the Covington Diocese in the varied ways in which we minister. He has been especially supportive of the academic and religious efforts at Villa Madonna Academy, the community's sponsored school.

We are grateful for his support of women religious in our diocese. He has shown his appreciation in many ways, especially with the Year of Religious which we celebrated before the Vatican declared a year of religious. Our year was filled with wonderful celebrations including a special Mass at the cathedral and open houses.

Bishop Foys' quarterly meetings with the superiors of the communities provided time to share the happenings in each of our communities, give support to one another and discuss concerns. Following the December meeting Bishop Foys treated us to a delicious and enjoyable meal. Collaboration among the communities for the refugees in our area and the poor was sparked by these meetings resulting in opportunities to help meet important needs in the diocese.

Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery enjoy a carriage ride during the picnic for Women Religious in 2018.

Each year Bishop Foys honored the jubilarians with a lovely Mass celebration at the cathedral and luncheon. Even during the COVID pandemic the jubilarians were remembered by giving them a rose, wine and a gift card.

An annual picnic for all the communities has been such a fun and joy-filled occasion. Being together casually with sisters from all the congregations was a great experience that had not occurred until Bishops Foys encouraged it. The Serra Club took up the task and planned wonderful events including live music. They provided great food, and were always willing to aid any of us needing help carrying our food to our places. Wonderful camaraderie and lovely prizes accompanied the day. This was one signup list at our monastery that got filled in quickly!

Bishop Foys, blessings on your deserved retirement! Your worries are over! — *Sister Aileen Bankemper, OSB, prioress, Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills*

An answer to prayer

Bishop Roger Foys has celebrated many significant community events with the Sisters of Divine Providence in these years of his episcopacy. Provincial Chapters of Election and Business were begun with Eucharistic celebrations presided by him. Jubilees of many Sisters were celebrated with him at wonderful liturgies and receptions. Our new Province Center was dedicated and blessed by him. Many Evening Under the Oaks gatherings were attended by Bishop Foys. Our 125th anniversary in 2014 to mark our Sisters' first arrival in America was a joyous occasion which began with a beautiful Mass at the Cathedral presided over by Bishop Foys.

Our Sisters knew in 2010 the time had arrived to "right-size." Our beloved Provincial House since 1927 was way too big for our smaller community. An answer to our prayers through the intercession of St. Joseph to find a suitable owner for our St. Anne Convent and the retreat center ministry was answered in 2012. Under the leadership of Bishop Foys, the property was transferred to the Diocese of Covington and most importantly the retreat ministry continued in that sacred space. The Sisters were overjoyed! We appreciate our neighbors and the good work that continues there.

Bishop Foys presents Divine Providence Sister Margaret Stallmeyer with the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice, one of nine women religious awarded. Others are: Sister Janet Marie Bucher, C.D.P.; Sister Celeste Marie Downes, S.J.W.; Mother Margaret Mary Fields, C.P.; Sister Marla Monahan, S.N.D.; Sister Frances Moore, C.D.P.; Mother Mary Christina Murray, S.J.W.; Sister Mary Ethel Parrott, S.N.D.; and Sister Mary Catherine Wenstrup, O.S.B.

In 2020, Bishop Foys nominated three of our Sisters to receive the papal medal, the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice. Sister Margaret Stallmeyer, Sister Janet Bucher and Sister Fran Moore were bestowed this honor in recognition of distinguished service given to the Church. We are proud of them and grateful to Bishop Foys for his recognition of their contributions to the diocese. Quite a few of our Sisters have been involved in various ways either in schools, parishes, Thomas More University, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Catholic Charities or volunteering in our diocese during his episcopacy.

On a personal note, meeting with Bishop Foys on a regular basis throughout the year with other religious superiors of the diocese for updates and social time was always informative and enjoyable. Being part of his weekly correspondence was another effort on his part to keep us informed and this was much appreciated.

We know that his good work and legacy will continue to be a blessing to many. Our doors in Melbourne are always open to welcome him again! — *Sister Barbara Rohe, provincial superior, Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne*

Fatherly care and great prudence

The Franciscan Daughters of Mary are very grateful to Bishop Foys for establishing our community in this diocese with the purpose to uphold the dignity of every human person from the moment of conception until natural death. His wisdom and guidance, particularly in the early days, has been invaluable, given with fatherly care and great prudence.

Thank you, Bishop Foys for always being so supportive of our community and apostolates, participating in all of our events from all of the sisters' vows, annual fund-rais-

Bishop Foys,
Prayers & Best wishes
From
Our Savior Parish!
Covington, KY

ers for the Rose Garden Mission, our Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway, Christmas Toy giveaway, etc.

What we will miss most is your humor, which we were always so grateful for. — *Mother Seraphina Quinlan, Franciscan Daughters of Mary, Covington*

Congratulations to Bishop Foys

During the one episcopal tenure of Bishop Foys, the Covington province of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) has had three provincials. Most recently, Sisters of Notre Dame have formed a new province, SNDUSA, from four previous provinces. SNDs maintain a presence in the diocese of Covington similar to what preceded the new formation.

It has been a blessing for us to participate in ministry in the diocese since our congregation's 1874 arrival. We have been enriched by our association with laity, clergy, and fellow religious in this local Church. We have shared in many fruitful developments since Bishop Foys succeeded Bishop Muench in 2002.

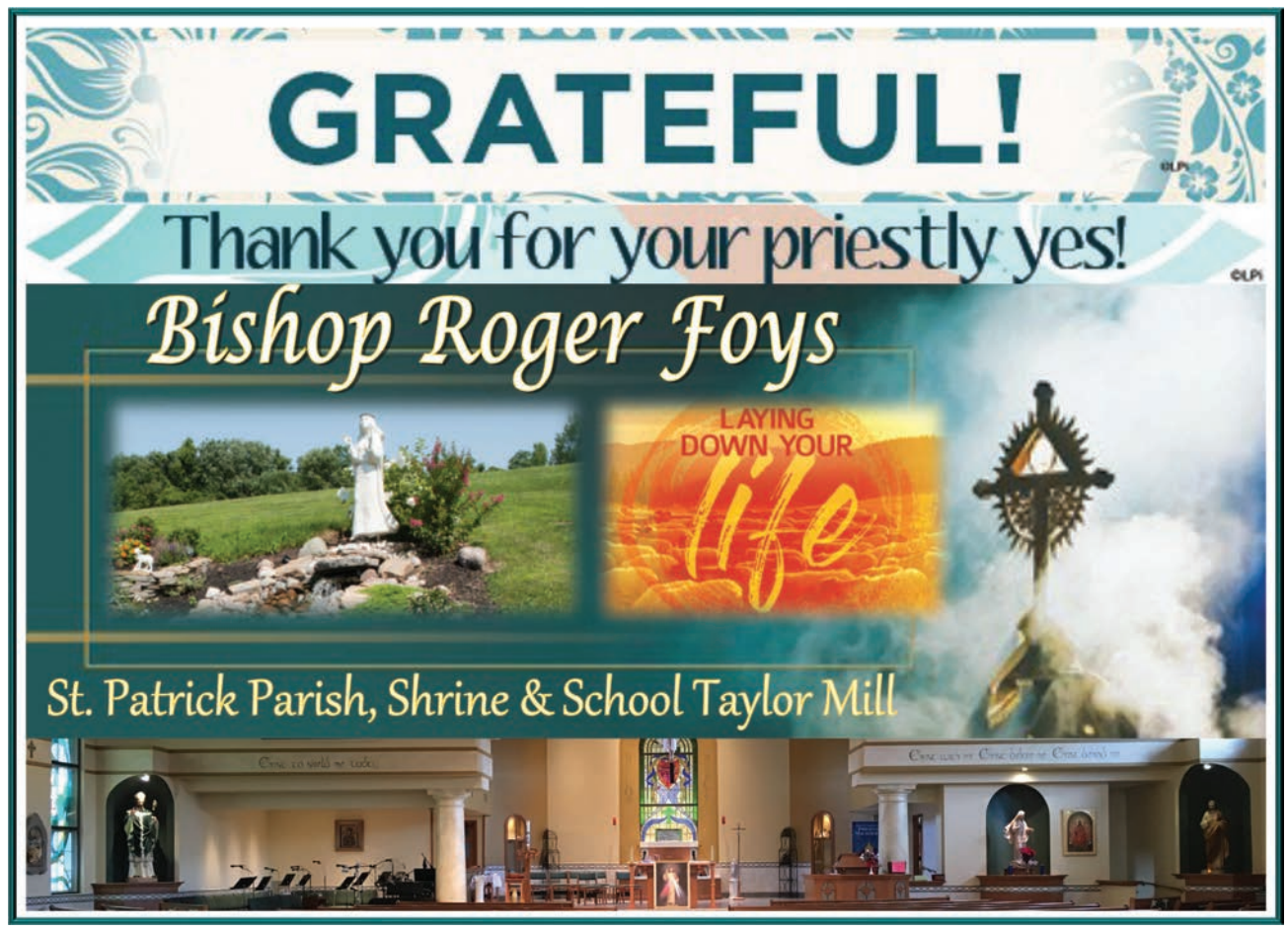
Four SND sponsored ministries are in the Covington diocese. In keeping with our shared commitment to urban education, we established the Notre Dame Urban Education Center in 2010. The diocese was simultaneously formalizing and expanding support in the cities through the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE), and we served in ACUE schools. We were blessed to participate in ever-evolving roles in pastoral and administrative endeavors, parish schools, childcare, boards, and synodal undertakings. Clergy and laity have been residents in our sponsored eldercare, and have likewise ministered alongside us there.

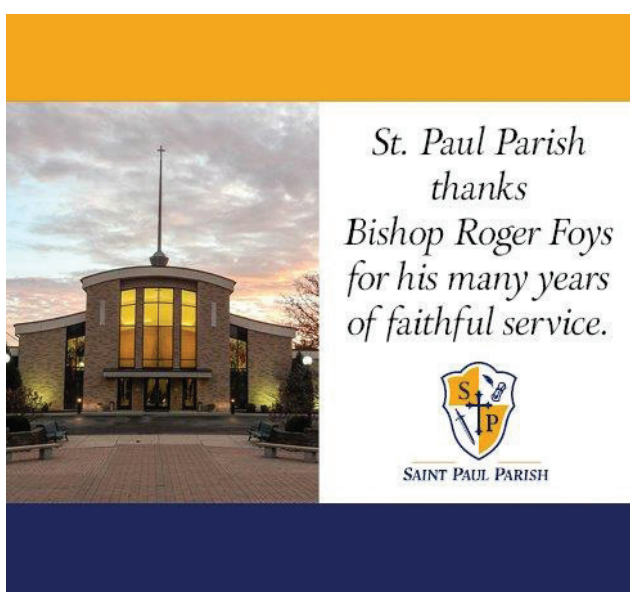
Following the universal Year of the Priest in 2009-10, Bishop Foys initiated a year of support and recognition of religious well before the universal Year of Consecrated Life in 2014-15. Bishop Foys has been very explicit in affirming the historical and ongoing contribution of religious at any number of public events. The diocese and Serra Club have been supportive in many ways. Bishop Foys has been especially instrumental in encouraging interaction among the various orders serving in the diocese through quarterly leadership meetings, pre-pandemic picnics, and yearly celebration of jubilees.

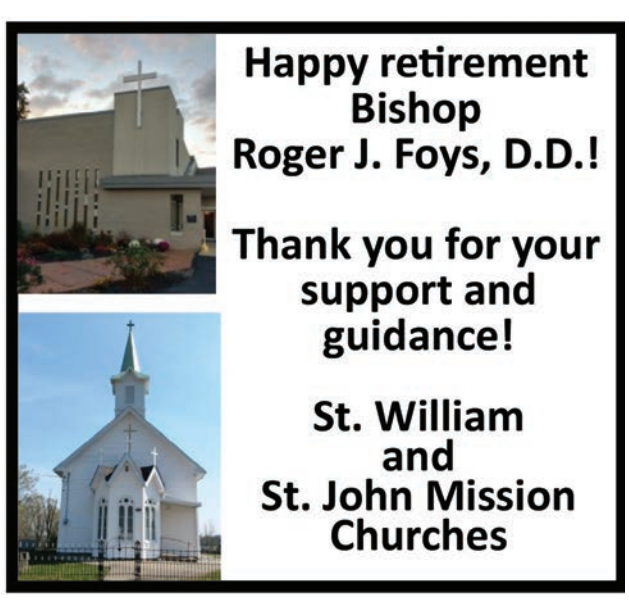
The SNDs are particularly grateful for Bishop Foys' appointments of chaplains to our sponsored high school. Our provincial center has been blessed with daily Eucharist and pastoral services from our much appreciated chaplains, Fathers Robert Rosing and Robert Ross. Bishop Foys has almost always been able to preside at the liturgy for our annual jubilee celebration. And his generous support of our Fourth of July Festival is likewise appreciated. Other kindnesses may be

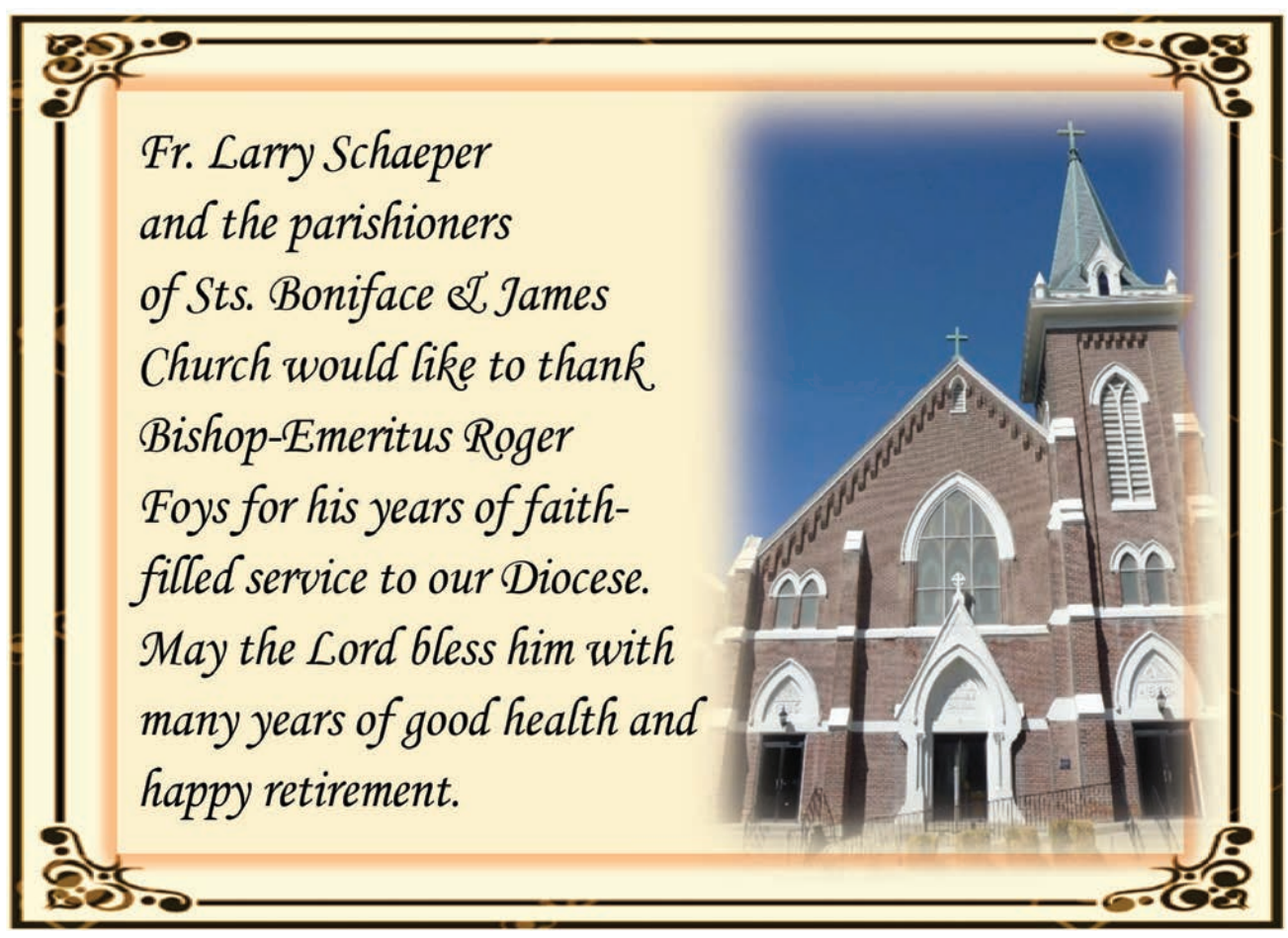
(Continued on page 36)

Bishop Foys presides at the final vows of two Franciscan Daughters of Mary.









(Continued from page 35)

known to only a few of us.

We congratulate Bishop Foys after almost 20 years of service in this diocese. We wish him every blessing and happiness in the time of official retirement, and assure him of our prayers. — *Sisters of Notre Dame, Covington*

Strengthening the bonds of community

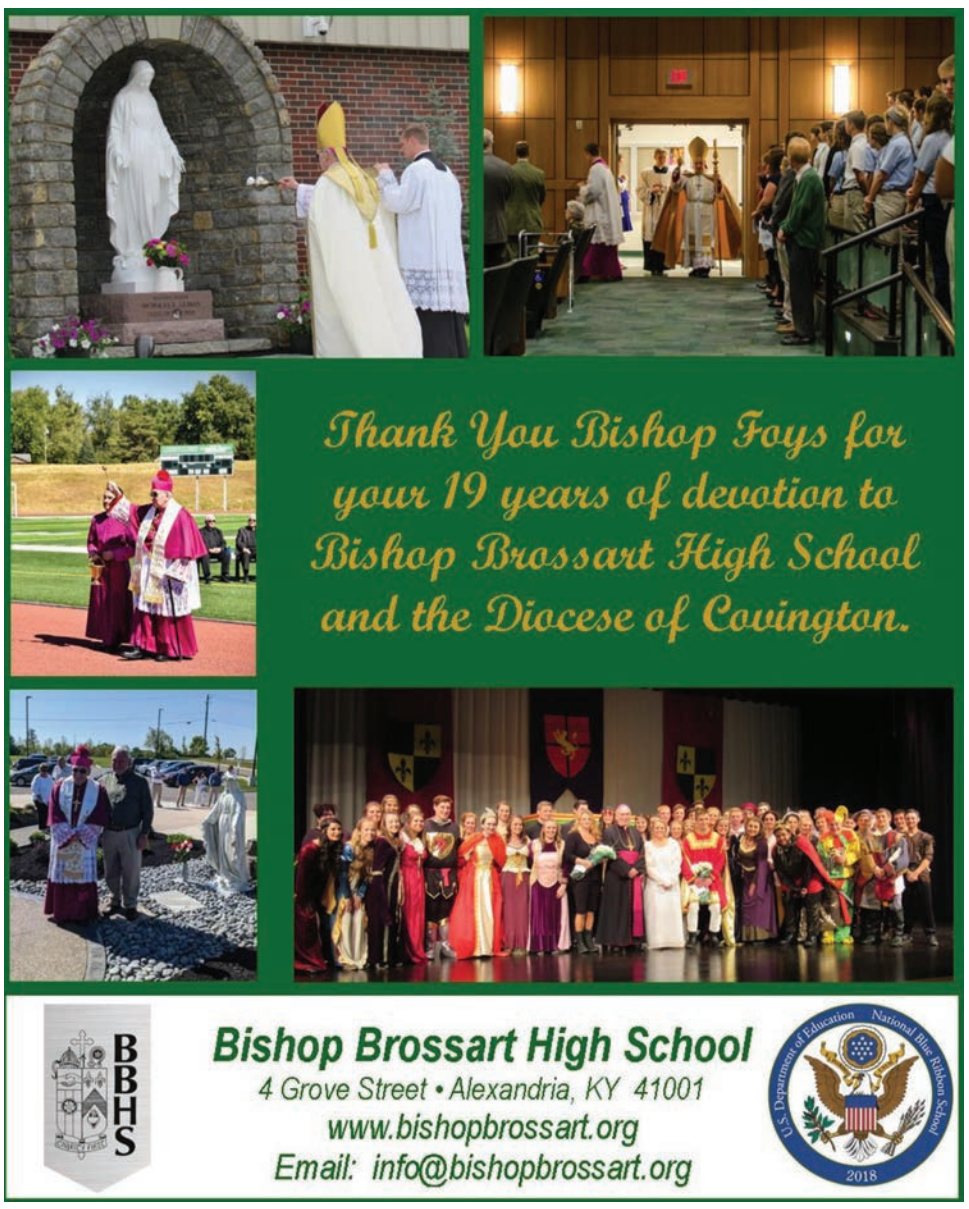
The Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker would like to wish the Bishop Roger J. Foys many blessings on his retirement. He has always encouraged and supported religious life during his tenure as Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. It was under his leadership that the diocese celebrated the Year for Religious. It was a wonderful way for the people of the Diocese of Covington to learn about religious life in general and the many religious communities that live and work in Northern Kentucky. It also allowed the Sisters of the different communities to get to know each other's charisms and missions.

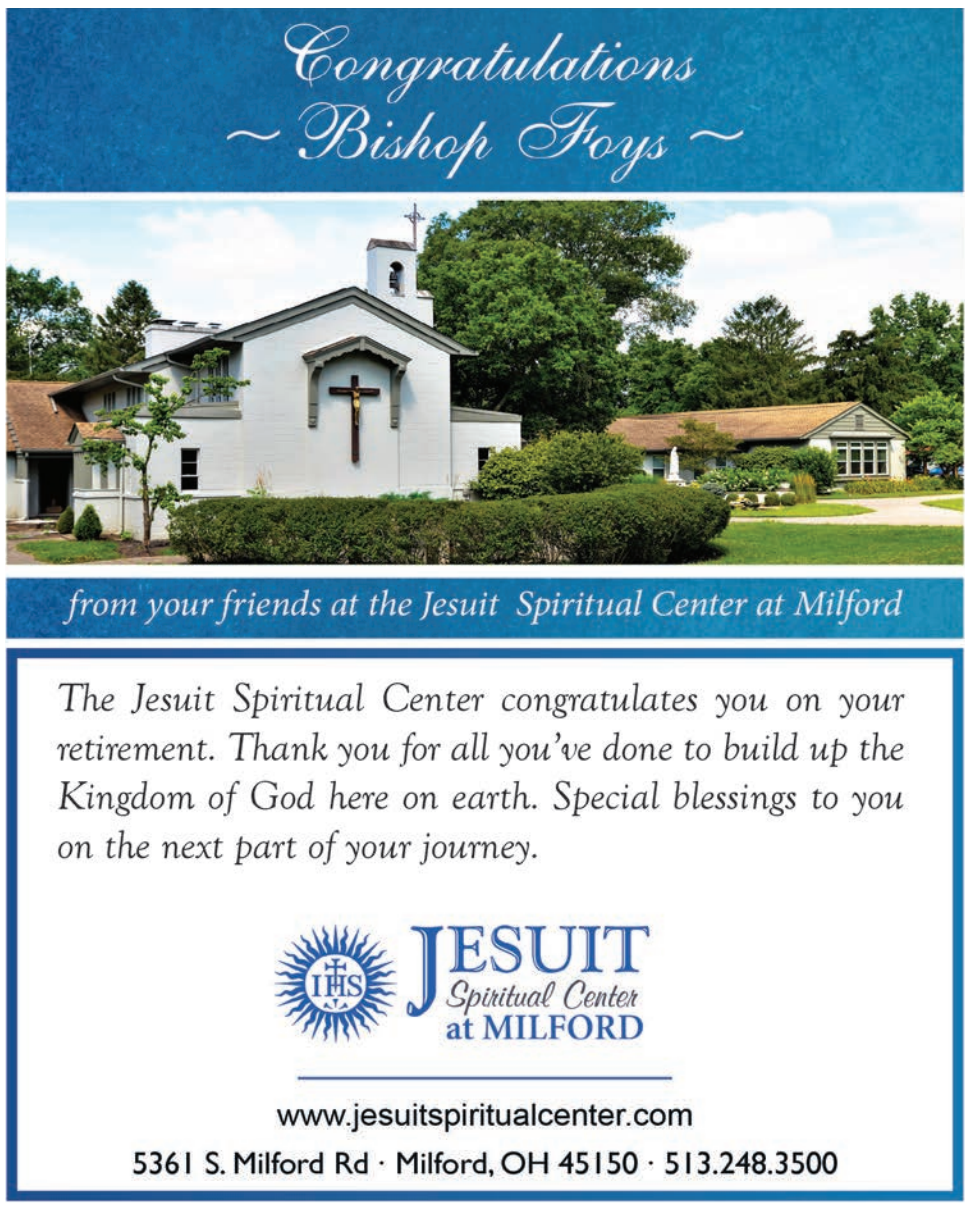
It was also during his time in Covington that the Bishop instituted regular meetings with the superiors of each community. The meetings have grown into a wonderful opportunity to share with each other the joys and challenges that we all face in living our consecration. The meetings have strengthened the bonds between the communities. We have grown closer to each other and have had the chance to support each other.

As a small, diocesan community, we could always count on Bishop Foys' support, kindness and generosity. We know that he will continue to keep all religious in his prayers as we will keep him in ours. — *Mother Christina Murray, Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker, Walton*

Sister of St. Joseph the Worker Mother Christina Murray and Divine Providence Sister light candles during the Mass celebrating the Year for Women Religious.

Bishop Foys with Notre Dame Sisters Reinette Kroger and Lynette Shelton on the five year anniversary of the Notre Dame Urban Education Center in 2015.





The Parish Community of

SAINT THOMAS IN FORT THOMAS

expresses our thanksgiving to Almighty God
for the ministry and service of

Bishop Roger J. Foys

as 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington.
We promise our continued love and prayers as you
enter your much deserved retirement.

Rev. Ross Kelsch, Pastor
Rev. Raymond Enzweiler, In Residence
Rev. Albert Ruschman, Retired
Deacon Charlie Hardebeck

SAINT THOMAS
FORT THOMAS

St. Philip Parish

A Family of Faith

THANK YOU BISHOP ROGER FOYS FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE HERE IN THE COVINGTON DIOCESE.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND MAY YOU ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT.

ST. PHILIP PARISH

Thank you Bishop Foys for your 19 years of service in the Diocese of Covington.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

Thank you Bishop Foys for your 19 years of selfless service to our Cathedral Parish and the Diocese of Covington. You have been a great Bishop and will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations & may Our Lord Bless You with a long Healthy and Happy Retirement.

Mark & Rosa Bird

Congratulations

Bishop Foys

Thank you for your dedicated service to our diocese and your continued support of our school.

COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL
Bonitatem et Disciplinam et Scientiam

Congratulations Bishop Foys on your retirement.

Thank you for your dedication to Catholic education.

"There are alternatives to a Catholic education, but there are no substitutions."

"The other Roger" & Diane Keller

Thank you, Bishop Foys

FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT

You give hope to the children living at DCCH Center. Through your dedication to the mission and urging our community to help, generous donors give strength and peace of mind; volunteers give compassion, comfort, and care; and foster families give joy and unconditional love. Together, we all give these children a brighter future.

Thank you.

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For Children & Families

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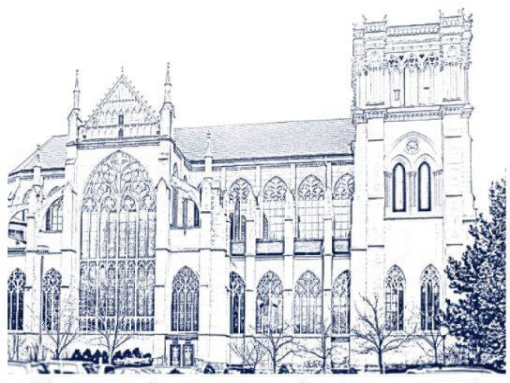
THANK YOU,
BISHOP FOYS

FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN OUR DIOCESE. YOU ARE IN OUR GRATEFUL PRAYERS.



MAY OUR PROVIDENT GOD BLESS YOU!

Sisters of Divine Providence

People and Events

Wall of remembrance

Students at St. Cecilia decorated the Wall of Remembrance honoring those who lost their lives in the September 11th attacks. In the crosses are the names of all the victims.

Knights support Catholic Charities

The Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus Golf Committee recently presented a check in the amount of $15,000 to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington. The funds represent the proceeds of the Knights' annual golf outing held in July. Pictured (from left) are: Bill Kopp, Dustin Reed, Bob Merkle, Keith Cahill, Vicki Bauerle, Catholic Charities development director, Alan Pickett, Catholic Charities executive director, Dennis Elix, Suanne Ledonne, Dave Ledonne, Carl Biery and Deacon Bill Theis.

An architectural tour will be presented by The Angelico Project with Dr. Ceil Dorger, Sept. 18, 8:30–11:30 a.m., beginning with breakfast, 8:30 a.m. at Mother of God Church, Covington and ending at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Cost $10 per person or couple; $25 per family, and free to Angelico members. Visit angelicoproject.org/tour.

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, Art Gallery presents the carvings of Chris Rust, chainsaw carver, Sundays, Sept. 19–Oct. 10, noon–4 p.m. Monday–Saturdays by appointment, (859) 630-2874.

"Spirit & Grace Encounter," sponsored by the Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community of NKY, Sept. 21, 7–8:45 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Parish Center, Ft. Mitchell. In addition to music and prayer, this month's speaker, from CLAY Ministries, will focus on a new worldwide Consecration to Our Lady of Fatima.

The Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky, annual golf outing, Sept. 23 at Twin Oaks Golf Club. Shotgun start 9 a.m.; cost $100/golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch buffet, refreshments, and door prizes. Contact Mike Murray 392-1500 or mmurray@covdio.org.

St. Thomas High School Homecoming, Sept. 25, for anyone who attended for at least one year between 1949 and 1976 plus a guest. Former teachers and one guest are also invited to attend. Cost $50 per person and RSVP is required. For information and RSVP form go on facebook under St. Thomas High School/Grade School, Ft Thomas, KY – Announcements. Contact tomdierig@gmail.com or 781-8743.

A new adult faith formation program "Light a Fire: Re-ignite Your Catholic Faith" will be held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month,7 p.m. at Kelley Hall, St. Joseph
Parish, Cold Spring. The first session is Monday, Sept. 27. The series is open to all adults and there is no pre-registration required — individuals may simply show up to any or all sessions based on their interest and availability.

The Bishop Brossart High School class of 1970 will host its 50th class reunion at Bishop Brossart High School Oct. 16. Call Ruth (Laible) Schadler 781-6318. Reservations due by Sept. 30.

A directed retreat for women and men focused on "The Presence of God" will be held at St. Walburg Monastery Guest House, Villa Hills, Oct. 8–10. Retreatants are invited to join the monastic choir for Sunday Liturgy of the Hours and Mass. Each retreatant will have a private room and enjoy individual spiritual direction on all three days. Due to Covid-restrictions at the monastery, lunch and dinner will be "on your own," bringing food in or going out. The number of retreatants is limited to six persons. Arrangements and fees are determined with your reservation. Spiritual directors are Benedictine Sisters Cathy Bauer and Dorothy Schuette. Call 443-8515 or e-mail dorothysosb@gmail.com.

The 19th annual Bishop Brossart High School Emerald Gala is Nov. 13, Seither Sports Center, 7 p.m.–12 a.m. The theme for the night is Totally 80s. For information, visit BBHSGala2021.GiveSmart.com or e-mail gala@bishopbrossart.org.

Summer Festivals

Holy Cross High School, Latonia, Sept. 17, 6 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.–midnight

St. Timothy Parish, Union, Sept. 17, 6–11 p.m.; Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.–midnight; Sept. 19, 12:30–6 p.m.

St. William Parish, Williamstown, Sept. 19, noon–8 p.m.

St. Benedict Parish, Covington, Sept. 24 and 25, 6 p.m.– midnight

St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, Oktoberfest, Oct. 1 and 2, 5 p.m.–midnight; Oct. 3, 3–8 p.m.

Bishop Foys,
Congratulations on your retirement.

Thank you for your nineteen years of service in the Diocese of Covington. May you enjoy many blessings and peace in the years ahead.

Mother of God
Catholic Church

SERRA INTERNATIONAL

The Serra Club for Vocations, Northern Kentucky, congratulates **His Excellency, The Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D.** on his nineteen years of service to the Diocese of Covington. May you have a blessed retirement, Bishop, knowing that your ministry was a blessing to us all.

Bishop Foys,
Sharing and carrying on your ministry of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington, with gratitude for your 19 years of service and leadership.
On behalf of the thousands served, hundreds of volunteers and the entire staff at Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities
Diocese of Covington
Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

Thank you Bishop Foys for your 19 years of service to the Diocese of Covington.

Carmelite Sisters & Carmel Manor

CARMEL MANOR
A MISSION TO CARE

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys

Congratulations on your retirement.

May God bless you.

Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker

Saint Joseph Academy

Taylor Manor Nursing Home

THANK YOU!
Bishop Foys

For your dedicated service to God and the Church of Covington,
For your untiring zeal for Pro-Life issues
And for your constant support, encouragement and guidance to the
Franciscan Daughters of Mary

Pax Christi!

Bishop Foys

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your service!

St. Pius X Parish and School

Congratulations
Most Reverend
Roger J. Foys, D.D.

Prayers and blessings on your retirement. Thank you for your dedication to the Diocese of Covington.

Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States

One Heart. One Hope. One Mission.

(Continued from page 24)

St. Henry District High School

If you asked any faculty or staff member within the Diocese of Covington to quote something that they've heard Bishop Foys say regarding Catholic education, there's a good chance they would all have a similar answer: "There might be alternatives to Catholic education, but there are no substitutions."

Bishop Foys' support of Catholic education is something that he speaks of quite often and over the past 19 years he has put his words into action more times than I could count. Whether it be saying Mass for our students or attending a fundraising event, Bishop Foys has been one of St. Henry District High School's (SHDHS) most faithful supporters. To me, this support was never more evident than in the fall of 2014 when he granted us permission to explore the possibility of undertaking a major expansion project.

If granted, this project would be more than just a major commitment on the part of SHDHS, it would be a major commitment for Bishop Foys and the diocese. Bishop Foys not only gave his permission, but he and his office were instrumental in guiding us through the entire process. He recognized the importance of this project for not only our school, but for the future of Catholic education in Northern Kentucky. Honestly, Bishop Foys did much more than simply recognize the importance of the project. He went above and beyond to ensure that it was a successful reality. We were thrilled that Bishop Foys was able to bless our beautiful new facilities in February 2020.

Because of Bishop Foys' unwavering support over the past 19 years, SHDHS is now well poised to foster our mission of "providing a well-rounded, college-preparatory education that teaches students to live the Catholic faith by embracing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ" for generations to come.

Bishop Foys, I want to personally thank you for your dedication to Catholic education and, most especially, to St. Henry District High School during your tenure as Bishop of Covington. On behalf of the entire Crusader community, we pray for God's many blessings upon you as you enjoy your well-deserved retirement. — **David Gish, principal, St. Henry District High School**

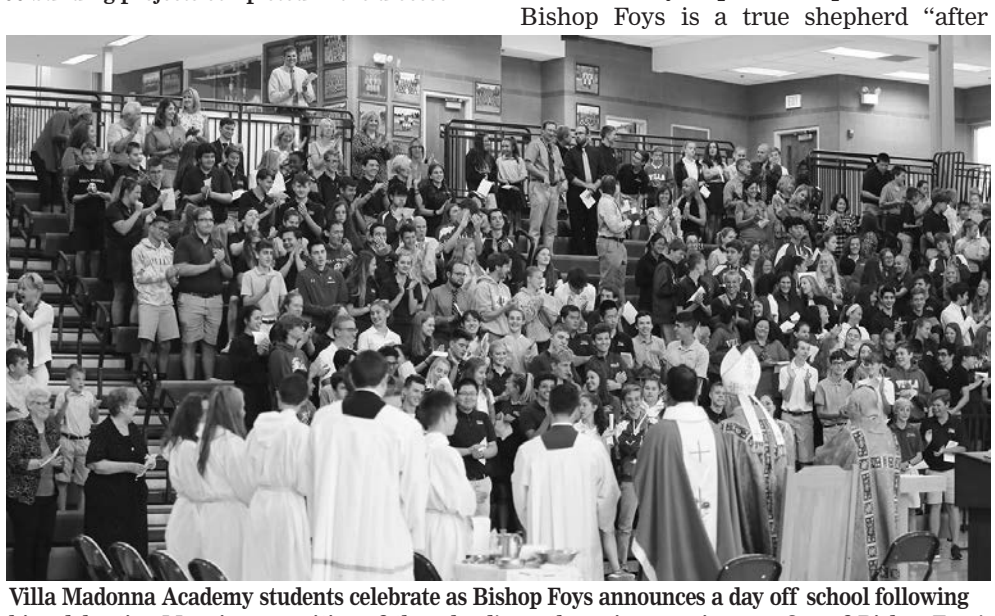
Catholic Schools saw capital improvement not only in its sporting complexes but also in technology and fine arts. In 2020, Bishop Roger Foys and then principal Dave Otte cut the ribbon on the new 650-seat Drees Homes Auditorium, another one of the $190,000,000 building projects completed in the diocese during his episcopacy.

Villa Madonna Academy

One of the hallmarks of a Benedictine school is hospitality. Villa Madonna Academy is forever grateful to the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery who established a foundation for education in the area and whose legacy we continue in the spirit of St. Benedict.

Bishop Foys always acknowledged the contribution of our Sisters, and in every high school graduation he graciously thanked the Sisters for all they have done. Too, in the spirit of hospitality, he was forever appreciative of our faculty and staff, of our parents and students. Together, as a community, we serve as witnesses to our faith, and Bishop Foys always recognized the importance of our ministry and Villa's dedication to academics, spirituality and transmitting the Catholic faith.

As the Executive Director and high school principal of Villa Madonna Academy, I always enjoyed my breakfasts with Bishop Foys. Twice a year, we met over a delicious morning meal complete with conversation that included not only the state of the school but also our favorite scary movies. We recounted various memories, including the time my son sold him the winning raffle ticket at VillaRama! Regardless of the topic, I always left knowing that Bishop Foys truly listened to my input. And, after all, "listen" is the first word in the Rule of St. Benedict. — **Pamela McQueen, executive director/High School principal, Villa Madonna Academy**



Villa Madonna Academy students celebrate as Bishop Foys announces a day off school following his celebrating Mass in recognition of the school's 150th anniversary in 2019. One of Bishop Foys' delights was to award students an unexpected day off — something he enjoyed as a child. He admits that he has taken some heat from teachers and parents but students rarely complained.

Prince of Peace School, Covington

In my eight short years in this diocese, it has been my repeated experience that Bishop Foys is a true shepherd "after [Christ's] own Heart" (Jer 3:15, "Pastores Dabo Vobis"). From his prayerful support of my (and every) vocation to

(Continued on page 42)

Thank you to
BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS
"The LORD bless you and keep you!"
Numbers 6:24
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(Continued from page 41)

his authentic fatherly concern for (and jovial encouragement of) my eighth grade confirmands to his indefatigable defense of all Catholic schools in our diocese, Bishop Foys has given priceless moral support and spiritual leadership. I am especially grateful for his support for my brother priests. In a day and age when that awesome vocation is especially unpopular and criticized, it is a gift for our good priests to have such a strong bishop. Our prayers of thanksgiving will continue for Bishop Foys, especially at the Mass, all the way home. — **Claire Therese Heyne, principal, Prince of Peace Montessori, Covington**

St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill

Being the principal of a school in the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education has given me an opportunity to understand the positive impact that Bishop Foys has had on Catholic education in our diocese in a way that few would understand. When I became the principal of St. Anthony in 2010, we had only 45 students in our K-8 school. Our enrollment this year is at 67. If it were not for the support that Bishop Foys had given St. Anthony, I am not sure that our wonderful school, which serves a diverse student population, would still be in operation. Because of Bishop Foys, we continue to be able to offer a Catholic education to families who may otherwise be unable to afford it. I am truly grateful that he appreciated the value of a Catholic education and the mission of ACUE and what it means to all of our teachers, students, and families. — **Veronica Schweitzer, principal, St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill**

St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs

Bishop Foys has been an abiding Christ-like presence to the people of the Diocese of Covington. He has been especially visible to the students and teachers of our Diocesan Catholic Schools. Bishop Foys begins the opening of each new school year with the faculty of all schools in the Diocese at a very special Mass at the Cathedral in Covington. He is the celebrant of the Mass and it is very impressive, spiritual and heartwarming as he brings together all the teachers and principals to celebrate our faith in a holy Mass. The Bishop's homily addresses the importance of Catholic education. It is the perfect way to begin each new school year.

Notre Dame Sister Ethel Parrott, Father Daniel Schomaker, Bishop Roger Foys, Notre Dame Sister Suzanne Rose and Father Michael Greer join some cast members following the "100 Years in the House of God's Goodness: Centennial Celebration" play, November 2014, celebrating 100 years of Catholic education at Prince of Peace School, Covington. Prince of Peace is one of the six urban elementary schools that make up the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education.

Bishop Foys meets with our eighth-grade students before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. He gathers them in our school cafeteria to talk with them and answer their questions. Finally, at the Confirmation Mass he addresses the students. He explains to them, how the apostles (after the crucifixion) were afraid until the Holy Spirit came to them giving them courage and strength. Now the Holy Spirit is coming to give the eighth graders that same kind of confidence and courage so they continue to grow in the Catholic faith. Bishop Foys also allows time for each student to have a photo with him.

He is the perfect example of a true Catholic leader. Bishop Foys will be missed. — **Sally Zeck, principal, St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs**

St. Mary School, Alexandria

When I began my teaching career at Bishop Brossart in August of 2002, I attended the Diocesan New Teacher Orientation, where Bishop Foys made an appearance as the "new bishop." Nineteen years later, as we prepare for the arrival of another new bishop, I am thankful to Bishop Foys for his support of our Catholic schools. I'm sure that Bishop Foys' quote, "There are alternatives to Catholic schools, but there are no substitutes," will continue to resonate with educators for years to come. It summarizes our belief that what we do is special — that educating children in the Catholic faith is a sacred vocation.

The Diocese of Covington has accomplished a great deal under Bishop Foys. What I will personally remember most is the impact that Bishop Foys made on students when he came to speak, particularly at confirmations and high school graduations. I can say with confidence that I've never heard Bishop Foys give a bad speech or homily. His talent as a public speaker was highlighted by his practical advice to students and his sense of humor. At each confirmation, he taught the eighth graders to acknowledge their fears, but to also recognize the joy and passion that the Holy Spirit inspires in us, just as it did for the early disciples. He would also make fun of the Bengals, which, while disheartening to ardent Bengals fans like me, was usually justified. At graduation ceremonies, Bishop Foys would pass along the invaluable advice that his parents gave him: "Roger, be good, work hard, and make us proud." It was a simple, but powerful message. If we take this advice to heart, it can make our aspirations as Christians pretty clear.

Bishop Foys, thank you for your leadership of and service to our diocese. On behalf of the St. Mary School community, I wish you a healthy, happy, and peaceful retirement. And, as you would say at the end of each graduation ceremony, "Now go party!" — **Matt Grosser, principal, St. Mary School, Alexandria**

BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS

Saint Joseph Parish
Cold Spring

With sincere gratitude for your nineteen years of faithfully shepherding the Diocese of Covington

We pray your retirement brings the peace and rest you deserve

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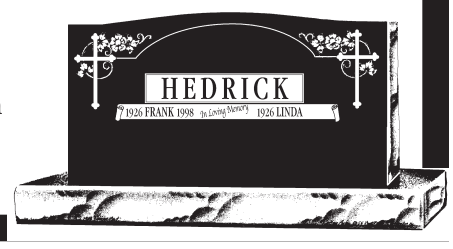

WE'RE HIRING!

DCCH Center for Children and Families is seeking Therapeutic Behavioral Specialists for ***full time and part time positions*** in our Residential Treatment program. We are looking for individuals for ***all shifts during the week and weekend***. The primary responsibility of this position is the therapeutic ***supervision of children*** with emotional and/ or behavioral difficulties. Positions include a ***full benefit package, tuition reimbursement and optional pension plan***.

If you are interested call John Ross at ***(859) 331-2040 ext. 8239*** or email your resume to ***jross@dcchcenter.org***.

DCCH CENTER For Children & Families

Thank you, Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., for your unwavering leadership.

The Thomas More Community expresses gratitude for your commitment and service as Chancellor of the University and your support of students to engage the power of the liberal arts within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Your tireless dedication to catholic education in the Diocese of Covington will be remembered, as will your annual encouragement to our graduates of Thomas More University to **Make It More**.

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The Catholic University of the Diocese of Covington

Make It **More**.

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2019 GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY REPORT

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Mother of God Cemetery
announces
VISITATION DAY
Sunday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m.

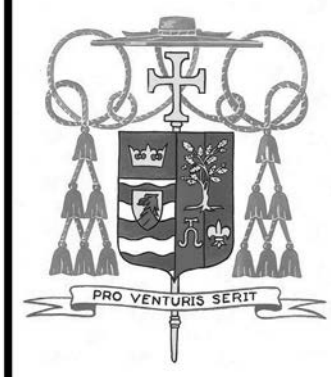
Services will be held in the Mausoleum Chapel.
Chairs will be available.

Bishop Foys,
Congratulations on your retirement;
Thank you for your many contributions, and
May God bless you in the future.

Knights of Columbus, Father Bealer Council #3908
Elsmere, Kentucky

Thank You Bishop Foys and God Bless You!

The Office of Deacons and Deacon Formation
and the Deacon Community



His Excellency,
The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, D.D., M.A
Bishop of Lake Charles,
with the clergy, religious,
and laity of the
Diocese of Lake Charles
extend congratulations, prayerful best wishes,
and gratitude to
Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D.
for his many years of Episcopal service to the Diocese of Covington.

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES

BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS, D.D.

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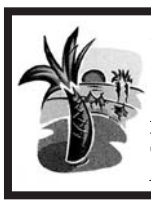

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SCHOOL CAFETERIA MANAGERS

The School Food Services Office of the Diocese of Covington Department of Catholic Schools seeks candidates for School Cafeteria Managers at Bishop Brossart High School and Blessed Sacrament School. Monday - Friday, during the school year. The School Cafeteria Manager's primary responsibilities involve overall supervision of the School's meals program, including: managing employees; ordering, receiving, and managing inventory; preparing and serving meals; operating the point-of-sale system; and interacting with school staff, students, and their parents. Organizational and interpersonal skills are essential to this position. To request an application, contact Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org. Scan and return the completed application by e-mail, including references with contact e-mail addresses and compensation history. Applications may also be faxed to 859/392-1589.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Diocese of Covington's Stewardship and Mission Services office has an immediate full-time opening. This office is responsible for stewardship formation and education; research and planning; development of Diocese-wide support for parishes, ministries, and schools in areas of programs; and business and fund development. The Administrative Assistant supports the work of the Director, and works collaboratively with two other members of a tight-knit team. Candidates must be practicing Roman Catholics with good skills in MS Office software, and the multi-tasking environment also requires good organizational ability and a very professional manner.
Send a comprehensive resume, along with a cover letter including compensation history, and at least three references with contact e-mail addresses by e-mail or by fax to Stephen Koplyay, skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859-392-1589.

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If interested please send your resume to Renee Murphy at Renee.Murphy@milaint.com.

CAFETERIA STAFF

Various schools in the Diocese of Covington currently have openings for full-time, part-time and substitute workers. Hours would occur during the school day. Duties include food preparation, serving and general cleanup. Interested individuals may **contact Jackie Kaiser at jkaiser@covdio.org, or call her at 859/392-1536**.

CLIENT SERVICES SPECIALIST

The Diocese of Covington Catholic Charities is seeking to hire a client care services specialist. The position is 40 hours per week. Its primary purpose is to assist, serve and support clients and inquirers seeking services and assistance, manage their case files and provide customer service through the entire process. Also, provide other office administrative support. To apply, e-mail or fax a letter of interest along with a C-V or comprehensive resume with compensation history, and a minimum of five references with their contact email addresses, to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589. Must be practicing Catholic. Please see job posting at https://www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events/job-opportunities for more complete details.

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Please email resume or work history to Renee Murphy at Renee.Murphy@milaint.com

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Saint Mary Afterschool Program, in Alexandria, is looking to hire that special someone for a teacher's aide position. This position requires someone 18 years or older who loves to work with children. This is ideal for college students or retirees as hours and days worked are flexible. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: assistance with homework and actively supervising and engaging children ages Kindergarten through eighth grade. Hours are from 1:30 to 6:15, five days a week.

If you are looking for a very rewarding job with competitive wages, please contact Dee Manning at 859-635-4531 or msdeemanning@fuse.net. Come join the fun and be part of our great team!!

MENTAL HEALTH & PREGNANCY/ADOPTION COUNSELOR

The Diocese of Covington's Catholic Charities ministry is seeking to hire a Counselor for our Mental Health and Pregnancy/Adoption Programs. The position is 40 hours per week, including some evening hours. This staff person performs all the duties of a licensed counselor for our general counseling practice serving individuals and families, with a partial emphasis on pregnancy and adoption. Major areas of responsibility include providing assessment, case management, diagnoses, and therapy to children, families, and adults within the outpatient program; and facilitating groups, and providing services to pregnant clients, their partners, and/or their families, including counseling, case management, parenting support, and foster care coordination and supervision. The successful candidate will be an actively-practicing Roman Catholic individual with a Master's degree in Social Work or a related field, and experience with diverse populations of families, couples, children, and adults. We prefer LCSW or LPCC licensure, or eligibility within two years. Qualified individuals should submit a letter of interest along with a detailed resume or C-V, including compensation history and at least 3 references with contact e-mail addresses, by email or by fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR at skoplyay@covdio.org, fax 859-392-1589.

(Continued from page 19)

years he has labored tirelessly to ensure that the fullness of the Catholic faith is taught in our schools and parishes, to administer the goods of the diocese, and, most importantly, to celebrate the sacraments with God's people as often as possible. Bishop Foys has been and will continue to be, for me, an image of the Good Shepherd; a Father who is willing to lay down his life for his family. — *Father Joey Shelton, pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Augusta and St. James Parish, Brooksville*

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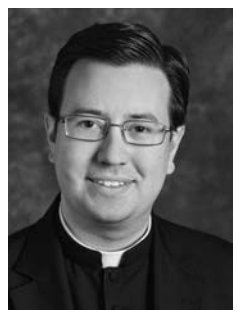
Faithful and generous service

Bishop Foys has had a tremendous impact upon my life, vocation, and ministry over the past 19 years, during which he has served as the Bishop of Covington. Honestly, aside from my own family, it would be hard for me to name another person who has had as much of an effect on my life as he has. When Bishop Foys first came to our diocese, I was 12 years old and a student at Covington Latin. Shortly thereafter, I began serving Mass at the Cathedral. During those years as an altar server, I began to discover the beauty of the Sacred Liturgy and I found in Bishop Foys a man who very obviously loved the priesthood and the Church. It was through that experience that my heart and mind were opened to the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. In fact, I still recall very clearly the morning of Palm Sunday during my senior year of high school, when Bishop Foys came into the sacristy before Mass and asked me to consider going to the seminary. His support and encouragement made an enormous difference in my ability to respond to the vocation that I had been discerning.



Father Ryan L. Stenger, J.C.L., J.V.

And, having been a priest now for seven years, I can say that his support has never waned. I have never doubted that I could count on his encouragement and counsel in any situation and I have been blessed very much by his friendship. I have worked very closely with Bishop Foys in a variety of capacities over the last several years and I have seen him consistently extend that care and support to my fellow priests as well. And I have also seen that Bishop Foys' faithful dedication to the Lord and His Church, which made such an impression on me nearly 20 years ago, has not slackened over the years, but remains alive in his priestly heart and continues to serve as an inspiration and model for me today, as I try to give

Best Wishes
BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS, D.D.

Catholic Mutual Group would like to extend a sincere farewell and congratulations to Bishop Roger J. Foys, D. D. on his many years of service to the Church and best wishes as he enters retirement.

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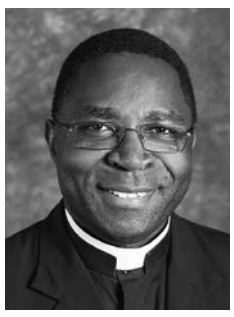
myself ever more completely to Christ and the people I serve.

As the bishop who accepted me into the seminary and ordained me, Bishop Foys is very literally the reason that I am a priest today. And I know that by his support, example, and friendship, he has helped me to become a better priest as well. For all of these gifts I am eternally grateful and I hope sincerely that, as he approaches his retirement, Bishop Foys will know the immense gratitude of the countless people whose lives have been touched by him during his years of faithful and generous service to our diocese. — *Father Ryan L. Stenger, J.C.L., J.V., pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs*

With a grateful heart

I believe there can be no more effective words than those written on human hearts; and there can be no greater inspiration than a living example of profound leadership and priestly ministry. This description fits my experience of Bishop Roger J. Foys. His life example brings to mind the words of Prophet Jeremiah (3:15), for he is truly a shepherd "after the Lord's own heart" in word and deed. I feel blest to have come to the Diocese of Covington from Uganda, and I feel blest to know Bishop Foys.



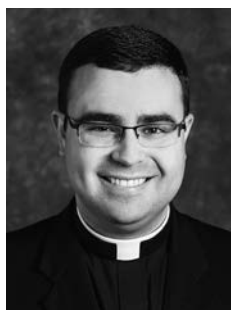
Father Matthias Wamala

Bishop Foys' deep faith, humility, closeness to his presbyterate, genuine integrity, and encouraging presence have greatly inspired my priestly life. As a good preacher and pastor, he has always been attentive to the needs of individuals and attuned to the struggles of the vulnerable. He welcomed me into the diocese and offered me the privilege of serving in this country. Through him I have received the opportunity to grow in my priesthood.

I am indebted to him for his encouragement and generous support. I will always cherish his great sense of humor and steadfast kindness — it has always been easy to approach and speak with him. I will certainly miss his paternal care. In all, serving under Bishop Foys as my shepherd, it has been easier to be a priest. I THANK HIM! — *Father Matthias Wamala, parochial vicar, Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger*

With the heart of a shepherd

Reflecting upon the impact that Bishop Foys' ministry has had on my own life, I am filled with deep gratitude. I met Bishop Foys during his first year as our bishop when he Confirmed me. After the Confirmation Mass, I thanked Bishop Foys and he invited me to consider the priesthood. That invitation took root in my heart and changed my life. Throughout high school, as I spent time in prayer and discernment, Bishop Foys became a regular supporter and encouraged me to continue to discern where God was leading me. Throughout my years of seminary, Bishop Foys was a constant spiritual father and his loving, fatherly guidance was absolutely critical to my discernment and embracing of my vocation to serve as a priest of Jesus Christ! It is customary for a newly ordained priest to ask another priest who has had a significant impact on his life to preach at the new priest's first Mass. While there were many priests who had inspired and supported me, none had more of an impact on my journey to the priesthood than Bishop Foys. For that reason, I invited him to preach at my first Mass and I was honored that he accepted the invitation. Throughout my years as a priest so far, Bishop Foys has continued to be a constant source of wisdom, guidance, and support, and has been a true spiritual father, brother, and friend. For three years I had the tremendous honor of working directly with Bishop Foys as the Vocation Promoter for the Diocese, Vice-Rector of the Cathedral, and Assistant Episcopal Master of Ceremonies. During those years, I was able to learn directly from him how to serve God's people in a variety of circumstances. I have always been inspired by his genuine love of the priesthood, the people he has been sent to shepherd, and the loving, fatherly way in which he cares for every person in this Diocese, especially the priests under his charge. Bishop Foys often describes priests as being "pastors with the heart of a shepherd." First and foremost, that compliment applies to Bishop Foys, and I am eternally grateful for the ways that I have benefited from his answering the Call from the Lord to be a priest and then to be the Bishop of Covington. Thank you, Bishop! May God bless you in your retirement! — *Father Andrew L. Young, VF, pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Maysville*



Father Andrew L. Young, VF

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(Continued from page 33)

we are most grateful for all Bishop Foys has done.

May God continue to bless Bishop Foys and his priestly ministry as he prepares for the next chapter of his life.

Tribunal

Divine Providence Sister Margaret Stallmeyer, director

The Tribunal staff wishes to offer our congratulations and deepest gratitude to Bishop Foys on the occasion of his retirement. Our congratulations because this retirement is so well deserved. For 19 years Bishop Foys has served this diocese giving it his full attention, his concern, his love and his prayers. We know this first hand because this is how he has always treated each one of us who join in his exercise of judicial power.

Our gratitude because of the many ways Bishop Foys has shown us support. The tribunal is the diocesan court, charged with protecting and pursuing the rights of the Christian faithful. It renders judgments at the request of and on behalf of people seeking justice. The bishop, as the chief judge of the diocese, delegates this authority to the Tribunal while maintaining oversight of it. The staff have been blessed with Bishop Foys' care and support and especially with his trust, allowing us to carry out this ministry.

During his episcopacy he has made sure that the Tribunal was adequately staffed, sending priests to study canon law and hiring religious sisters and lay women. Bishop Foys encouraged the Tribunal in its efforts to make the annulment process accessible to our Hispanic community. He supported the staff's efforts to train and update priests, deacons and lay persons to serve as advocates. In 2015 when Pope Francis issued *Mitus Iudex Dominus Jesus*, the apostolic letter reforming the canonical processes for a declaration of nullity, Bishop Foys encouraged Tribunal personnel to participate in workshops and conferences to prepare for the implementation of the new directives. Then he eagerly assumed his role as judge in the execution of the new brief process, allowing the Tribunal to expedite certain qualifying cases. After the untimely death of Father James Ryan which left the Tribunal without a judicial vicar, the Bishop stepped in to preside personally over the Tribunal for an interim period of time.

In these ways and so many more, our Bishop has been a shepherd to the Tribunal staff and to the many persons we serve. Thank you Bishop Foys! Have a wonderful and restful retirement and know we are counting on seeing you in your new role as Bishop emeritus!

Worship and Liturgy

Deacon Peter Freeman, director

During his episcopacy, Bishop Foys was focused on improving liturgies throughout the Diocese of Covington. Not only were liturgies to be celebrated correctly, he directed liturgies to be enriched in beauty and sacredness to bring the people of the diocese closer to God. Music at parish Masses received more guidance and parish musicians were invited to workshops.

Bishop Foys encouraged respect for the Lord's Day and the primacy of Sunday Eucharist. Under Bishop Foys' leadership, diocesan norms for parish celebrations were reviewed and revised as needed in accord with the Church's revisions of sacraments and other rites, especially in regards to RCIA, marriage, funerals and the sacrament of reconciliation.

One of the key areas of focus on education and uniformity of the liturgy in the Diocese of Covington was in regards to the roles of lay people as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion and as lectors. Revised guidelines for training and certifying lay people in these roles was promulgated by Bishop Foys. Today, lay people are trained for these sacred roles and receive commissions to serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and lectors in their parishes.

Bishop Foys also directed that other forms of prayer from the Church's tradition be renewed and encouraged throughout the diocese. Education regarding Liturgy of the Hours was shared and praying the Liturgy of the Hours was encouraged at all parishes. Praying vespers — or evening prayer as it is popularly called — was especially encouraged during the Advent season.

Renewed focus was also placed on Eucharistic adoration. Several parishes within the diocese built and opened chapels for perpetual adoration. The Worship Office maintains a schedule of hours of Eucharistic adoration held each week at parishes; it is published on the diocesan website.

Bishop Foys has also declared Days of Prayer and Penance and Thanksgiving for diocesan observances. He has established a monthly Holy Hour for Absolution for priests in regards to the sexual abuse scandals. The sacrament of reconciliation is available to all who attend — not only priests. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed along with Eucharistic adoration and benediction. Under Bishop Foys' leadership, the Office of Worship maintains a schedule of days and times for the sacrament of reconciliation at all parishes throughout the diocese.

Bishop Foys instructed the Office of Worship to provide direction to parishes, and help prepare the rites, for all liturgies that are presided over by the bishop. This includes all parish confirmations, special Masses and pontifical blessings at various parishes and religious institutions. Bishop Foys has always been one to go out to various locations to bless anything from new building construction and church renovations, to laundries at nursing homes and newly installed elevators at parish churches.

Under Bishop Foys' direction, the Office of Worship provides assistance to him for about 125 liturgies per year.

The director of the Office of Worship also chairs the Diocesan Worship Commission that is responsible for reviewing any major liturgical changes that may need to be promulgated, as well as new construction or renovations of sacred spaces within the diocese. The Worship Commission meets to discuss and make recommendations to the bishop for his approval.

I personally wish to congratulate Bishop Foys on his retirement and to thank him for allowing me to serve in this position and for the kindness and consideration he has shown me over the past years.

With gratitude for your devoted years of generous ministry to the Diocese. Wishing you good health, peace and joy in the years to come.

St. Walburg Monastery Benedictine Sisters

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DBL Law
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Bishop Foys: The lawyers and staff at DBL Law wish you all the best in your retirement. We thank you for your passion and dedication in shepherding your flock in Covington for the last nineteen years.

St. Paul, patron of the Diocese of Covington, spoke of his ministry in words that apply well to your own episcopacy:

> *"Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God's grace."*
> (Acts 20:24)

St. Paul was able to declare victory, and we hope you have the same sense of accomplishment:

> *"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."*
> (2 Timothy 4:7)

Having kept the faith and steadfastly borne witness to the Word of God, we hope you will heed Jesus' words:

> *"Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."*
> (Matthew 11:28)

Your race is not finished, and we are glad you will spend your retirement among friends in Kentucky. Enjoy some well deserved rest!

LUCEAT LUX VESTRA

THANK YOU, MOST REV. BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS, D.D.

On behalf of our 10,000+ associates and the people of Northern Kentucky, St. Elizabeth Healthcare offers you many blessings, appreciation and good wishes in retirement. Thank you for leading the ministry, faith and health of our region.

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With deepest gratitude and prayerful good wishes,
Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, Rector/President,
and the seminarians, faculty, and staff
of the Pontifical College Josephinum,
honor and congratulate

His Excellency, The Most Reverend

Roger J. Foys

on the occasion of his retirement as
Bishop of Covington

Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God's grace. - Acts 20:24

Blessings on Your Retirement

THANK YOU, BISHOP FOYS, FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE DIOCESE OF COVINGTON!

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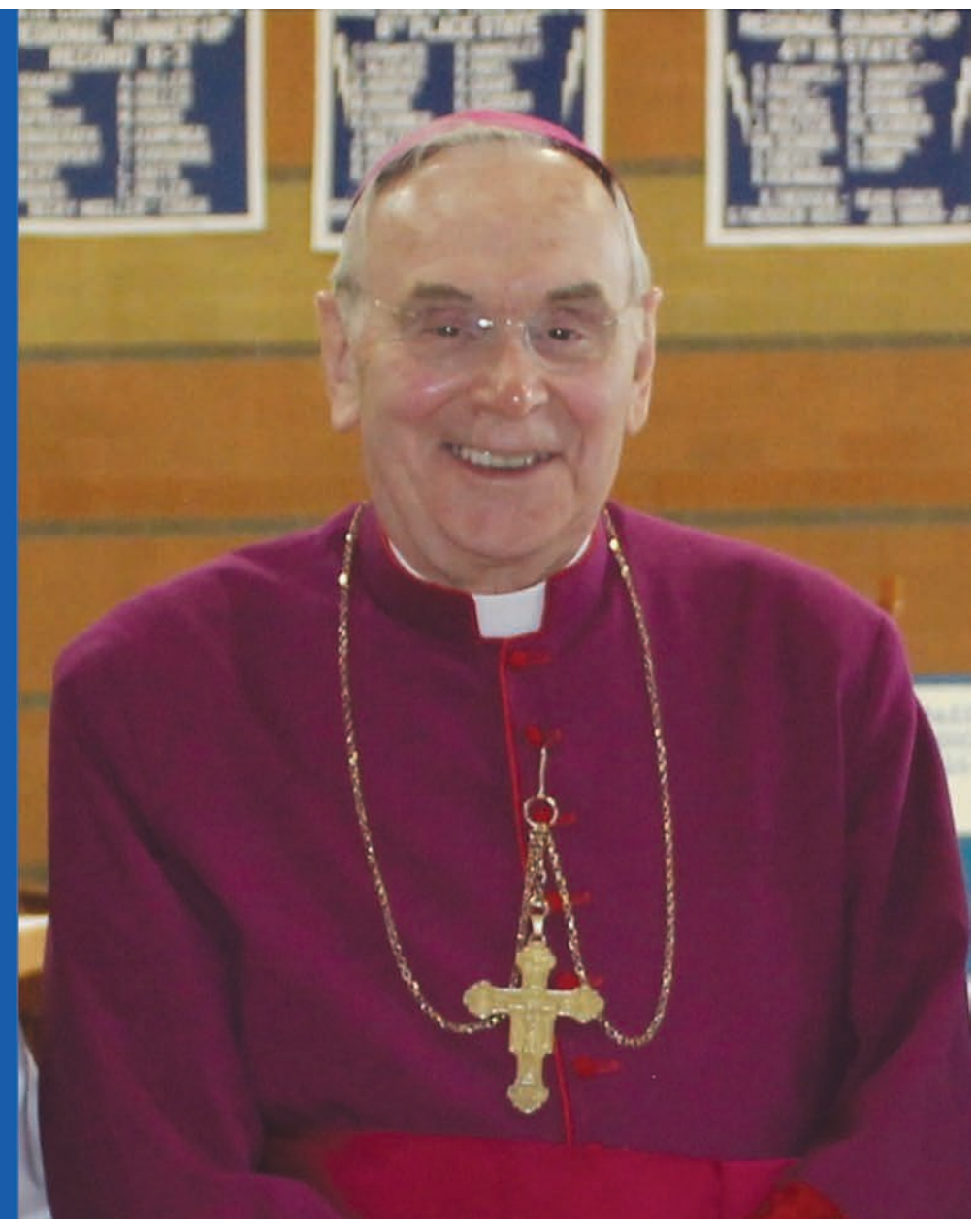
MADONNA ACADEMY



'Let Your Light Shine'

With deepest gratitude, the Curia staff of the Diocese of Covington congratulates Bishop Foys on his 19 years as guiding light and shepherd.

Ad multos annos!

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