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MESSENGER

Serving the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky since 1926



(above) Bishop Roger Foys and the over 1,000 pilgrims from the diocese at St. Dominic Church, Washington, D.C., Jan. 18, before the March for Life.

Piccola photo

‘Pray for a change of heart’ Bishop Foys says to pilgrims at March for Life

Laura Keener
Editor

This year 22 buses of pilgrims from the Diocese of Covington — most of them high school students — traveled to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life. On the morning of the March, Jan. 18, Bishop Roger Foys celebrated Mass with the over 1,000 pilgrims from the diocese.

In his homily Bishop Foys talked about the identifying characteristics of generations.

“Baby Boomers — the generation that was born between the years 1946 and 1964 — Baby Boomers in the 70s and 80s were charac-

terized as the ‘Me Generation,’” he said as he began his homily.

“The generations that had gone before were more considerate of each other and held their lives up to values and principles ... with the “Me Generation” all of a sudden values and principles went out the window. Instead of focusing on values and principles, people started focusing on the ‘high life.’ Instead of focusing on consideration and care and concern and compassion for others, all of sudden it became all about me. What can I do for myself? How can I make life better for myself? How can I get what I want — not need — but want?”

“Now, in the time in which we live, Millennials are described as

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Bishop Foys addresses Covington Catholic community — ‘I stand with you ... together we will work it out’

Laura Keener
Editor

You could literally hear a pin drop as the faculty, staff and student body of Covington Catholic High School waited in the gym, Jan. 23, for the arrival of Bishop Roger Foys. As Bishop Foys entered the gymnasium the entire assembly stood up, waited for Bishop Foys to take his seat and then in unison took their seats. He was there to address the students about the events that took place Jan. 18, after the March for Life in Washington, D.C., where a student standing face-to-face with an elder Native American was captured on video and ignited a firestorm on social media — making headlines around the world

Bob Rowe, principal, opened with a prayer; then introduced Bishop Foys.

“These last four days have been a living hell for many of you, for your parents, for your relatives, for your friends and it certainly has been for me,” Bishop Foys said as he began to address the assembly. “We are under all kinds of pressure from a lot of different people, for a lot of different reasons.”

Bishop Foys began by sharing how impressive the March for Life had been, especially the Mass celebrated at St. Dominic Church just before the march.

“I know many of you couldn’t be at the Mass because you had a problem with your buses. It was really a moving time,” said Bishop Foys. “Over 1,000 people gathered for that Mass and there’s a real reverence about it.

“I told the students before we dismissed that ... when they left that church and when they marched on the streets of Washington, D.C. for life, like we’ve done for the last 46 years, that they represented what was best about the Church and what was best about the Diocese of Covington; that we were sending out our best to stand up for life. It was a wonderful day, filled with real grace. That night I slept peacefully. It was the last night I’ve slept peacefully.”

Bishop Foys explained that by Saturday morning he and Curia



Bishop Roger Foys visited Covington Catholic High School, Jan. 23, to assure students, faculty and staff that he is “on their side” in the midst of a social media firestorm. (above left) Bob Rowe, principal, opened the all-school assembly with prayer.

staff were beginning to receive calls and e-mails from news stations and people from all over the world commenting about the confrontation in Washington. By Sunday morning the diocesan website was receiving over 200 thousand hits per hour and e-mails were coming in at a rate of over 10,000 an hour — crashing servers. Staff phones rang persistently for days — cell phones and office phones — until voicemail boxes were full; calls from media seeking a state-

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Day of Prayer and Penance for Life gathers faithful in prayer for a widespread conversion of hearts and minds

David Cooley
Associate Editor

While the March for Life took place in Washington, D.C., Jan. 18, it was a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life in the Diocese of Covington. Bishop Roger Foys declared it a Day of Prayer and Penance in anticipation of the 46th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision (Jan. 22, 1973), which legalized abortion virtually on demand in the United States. During the Day of Prayer and Penance for Life, morning prayer services were held at all of the primary and high schools in the diocese. These prayer services included a rosary for life, which took place at the same time Bishop Foys was celebrating Mass at St. Dominic Church with the pilgrims from the diocese in Washington.

In addition to the morning prayer services at the school, all parishes were instructed to remain open during the day for anyone who wanted to pray. Each parish was also asked to set aside some time for Eucharistic adoration. On the evening of the Day of Prayer and Penance a Holy Hour for Life was held at 10 designated parishes across the diocese. Everyone in the diocese was encouraged to attend a Holy Hour and pray for an end to abortion and that the nation’s laws will uphold the dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.

Father Britton Hennessey, parochial vicar, St. Augustine Parish, Covington, presided at the Holy Hour for Life at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, the Mother Church of the diocese. In his homily Father Hennessey thanked those in attendance and reflected on the Gospel passage taken from Mark, where Jesus cures a possessed boy after his disciples were unable to do so.

“The situation in our Gospel is not unlike the one in which we live today. Indeed, there is a great evil amongst our nation and our world that has a grip on too many of

our brothers and sisters. It is, of course, the ignorance of the sacredness and dignity of life from conception to natural death,” said Father Hennessey.

“Recall in our Gospel how the father of the possessed boy wants desperately to have his son freed from his curse. He besought the Apostles, but they, because of a lack of faith, were unable to cast out the demon. The desperate father then beseeches Jesus crying, ‘I do believe, help my unbelief.’ Just as the demon sought to destroy the life of the son in our Gospel, so, too, does our society seek to discount the value of human life at every stage in some way,” he said. “ ... [B]ecause there is such evil in our world, it can be quite overwhelming and disheartening to us. But that is where our faith comes in.”

Father Hennessey said that the “scourge of the culture of death” could only be cast out by faith, prayer and holy lives.

“Like the evil in the Gospel, this type of evil must be dealt with through the conversion of hearts and minds,” he said. “The much needed, widespread conversion can only be brought about through prayer and along with it — penance and fasting.”

Father Hennessey said that despite the existence of evil in the world, this is not a faithless generation.

“We, who are gathered here, the thousands upon thousands who gathered in Washington earlier today, and the billions of Christians around the world prove that faith is strong. Progress is being made, but there is still work to be done.

“In the presence of the Bread of Life, may we this day, recommit ourselves to fervently praying for the end to the culture of death. May we contin-

ue to embrace penances to atone for the wrongs that have been done. And, may we reflect the love of Christ to all, especially those who don’t believe in the dignity and sanctity of human life.”



(above and below right) Father Britton Hennessey, parochial vicar, St. Augustine Parish, Covington, presided at the evening Holy Hour for Life, Jan. 18, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. Deacon Gerald Franzen assisted. (left and below) On the morning of the Day of Prayer and Penance for Life students at all schools in the Diocese of Covington prayed a rosary for life. The schools’ prayer services took place at the same time Bishop Roger Foys was celebrating Mass for the pilgrims on the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Cooley and Keener photos



Be a part of the legislative process at Catholics@the Capitol

Laura Keener
Editor

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington and the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) will host Catholics@theCapitol, Feb. 9, 9:30 to noon, at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington. Doors open at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast. The CCK is the public policy arm of Kentucky’s four bishops, Catholics@theCapitol is an opportunity for people to meet legislators and to learn more about issues important to the Church that the CCK believes might come up during the General Assembly. The event is held every other year.

Bishop Roger Foys has sent invitations to all legislators who serve the 14 counties that make up the Diocese of Covington. Alan Pickett, director of Catholic Charities and organizer of the event, said that historically the event has been well attended by both legislators and constituents.

“The politicians seem to like the opportunity to speak and attendees can ask questions or make comments,” he said.

The program will begin

with directors from the CCK offering a brief overview of Catholic social teaching and then will introduce legislation they are following and that may be introduced in the General Assembly. Then legislators will have an opportunity to talk about their views on the legislation presented or anything else they might be working on.

Mr. Pickett said that what is most important is for the faithful to be a part of the legislative process.

“Everybody has something they care about, but — from year to year, season to season in the legislative process — what’s important, to me, is to instill in the faithful that we have a responsibility to have a voice in the legislative process and our voice is heard when we are proactive and reach out — legislators do listen and care. It’s important for Catholics to understand they can make a difference.”

There is no cost to attend the event. An RSVP is appreciated — e-mail vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org by Feb. 5.



Catholics@theCapitol

Feb. 9, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington.
Doors open at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast.



Meet this year’s DPAA chairs

With preparations underway for the 2019 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal, the new DPAA chairs met recently with the Office of Stewardship and Mission Services to map out a plan for the year. This year’s general chair, Matthew Zeck, and leadership gifts chair, Mary Paula Schuh, are pictured here with Michael Murray (standing), director, Office of Stewardship and Mission Services. The theme for the 2019 DPAA is “Our Citizenship is in Heaven ...” and announcement weekend will be March 16-17.



Frassati Speaker Series

Dr. Allen Hunt: From Megachurch Pastor to Catholic?

A Young Adult Event (Open to ages 18-39)

Feb. 5, 7 p.m., at Mother of God Church, Covington

When so many are leaving the Catholic Church for “megachurches,” why would a megachurch pastor convert to Catholicism? Come hear nationally renowned Catholic speaker and author, Dr. Allen Hunt, share his story



Holy Hour

For the first time in 2019 Bishop Roger Foys and the priests of the diocese gathered Jan. 17 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, for the monthly Holy Hour praying for reparation for the sexual abuse of minors, especially by clergy. These Holy Hours began in October and are scheduled for an entire year on the Third Thursday of each month. Anyone who would like to join Bishop Foys and the diocesan clergy in praying for the victims of sexual abuse and for priests at the Holy Hours are welcome. The next Holy Hour will be Thursday, Feb. 21.

Reporting Misconduct in the Diocese of Covington

Anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct by a cleric, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Covington is asked to contact Ms. Margaret Schack, diocesan victims assistance coordinator (859) 392-1515. Professional assistance and pastoral support will be provided in confidentiality and

with respect.

A copy of the “Diocesan Policies and Procedures for Addressing Sexual Misconduct” is available by contacting the Chancery, (859) 392-1510 or visiting www.covdio.org and going to “Sexual Misconduct Policy.”

Informando sobre conducta inapropiada en la Diócesis de Covington

Cualquier persona que haya experimentado conducta sexual inapropiada por parte de un clérigo, empleado o voluntario de la Diócesis de Covington está invitada a ponerse en contacto con Ms. Margaret Schack, coordindora diocesana para dar asistencia a las víctimas. Teléfono (859) 392-1515.

Asistencia profesional y apoyo moral serán ofrecidos de una manera confidencial y con respeto.

Una copia de “Normas y Procedimientos sobre Conducta Sexual Inapropiada” está disponible poniéndose en contacto con la Cancillería, Teléfono (859) 392-1510, o visitando www.covdio.org y marcando “Sexual Misconduct Policy.”



Bishop’s Schedule

- Jan. 25**
Individual meetings, 10 a.m.; 11 a.m.

Jan. 26
Deanery Pastoral Council convocation, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington, 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 27
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 10 a.m.

Jan. 28
Catholic Schools Week Mass, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, 7 p.m.

Jan. 29
Individual meeting, 10:30 a.m.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy, St. Paul Oratory, Curia, Covington, 3 p.m.

Confirmation, St. Cecilia Church, Independence, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 30**
Annual Catholic Schools Week Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

Jan. 31
Episcopal Council meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation, St. Pius X Church, Edgewood, 7 p.m.

Feb. 1
School visit, St. Cecilia School, Independence, 10 a.m.

Feb. 2
Franciscan Daughters of Mary, 20th anniversary Mass, convent chapel, Covington, 10 a.m.

Feb. 3
40th anniversary Mass for Father Gerald Reinersman, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, 11:30 a.m.

Talking to young Jesuits about social justice and evangelization

While I was in Chicago for the Christmas break, I had a wonderful meeting with around 30 young Jesuits, all in their “pre-tertianship” period of formation. This means that these men had already passed through their lengthy education in philosophy and theology and had been involved for some time in a ministry of the Jesuit order.

WORD ON FIRE



Bishop Robert Barron

The group I addressed included high school teachers, university professors, journal editors, and doctoral students — and almost all of them were ordained priests. They were massively impressive people: smart, articulate, passionate about their work and dedicated to the Gospel. They were very interested in my ministry of evangelizing through social media, and so we spent a good amount of

time talking about the “nones,” about the cultural challenges to proclaiming the faith today, about the new atheism, and about the pros and cons of the digital world. We also spoke a lot about prayer and the play between one’s interior life and one’s ministerial commitments. I especially enjoyed telling these young men about the Jesuits who have had an impact on my work: Bernard Lonergan, Henri de Lubac, Michael Buckley, Avery Dulles, the at least erstwhile Jesuit Hans Urs von Balthasar, and Michel Corbin, who was my doctoral director at the Institut Catholique in Paris. Toward the end of our time together, one of the men posed a question that, he warned, would “put me on the spot.” He said, “We Jesuits have been criticized a good

deal in recent years. Do you think any of these critiques are justified?” Now, I think it’s rather bad form to come into someone’s house and offer criticisms, but since I felt so comfortable with them, and since the question had been so directly asked, I responded, “Well, I think perhaps since the Council, many Jesuits have embraced the social justice agenda a bit too one-sidedly.” No one got up and left, which was a good sign! In fact, the discussion became especially lively and illuminating. I’d like to share some of what I said to these young Jesuits in order to address a general issue that I consider to be of great importance in the life of the Church today. At its 32nd General Congregation in 1975, under the leadership of the charismatic Pedro Arrupe, the Jesuit order committed itself to propagate the works of justice as an essential part of its mission. And since that time, Jesuits have become renowned for their dedication to this indispensable task. My concern, I told my interlocutors, is that an exaggerated stress on the fostering of justice in the political and economic arena can compromise the properly evangelizing mission of Christ’s Church. Mind you, a commitment to doing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, to righting social wrongs, to serving the poor and needy necessarily follows from evangelization. One of the permanent achievements of Vatican II is to show that conversion to Christ entails not a flight from the world, but precisely a deeper love for the world and a desire to alleviate its suffering. There is simply no question about it: an evangelized person works for justice. But when we squint at the issue from the other end, things get a bit more complicated. On the one hand, striving for justice can indeed be a door to evangelization. What attracted so many people in the first and second centuries to take a look at Christianity was none other

than the Church’s obvious care for the sick, the homeless and the poor: “How these Christians love one another!” But on the other hand, the commitment to social justice, in itself and by itself alone, cannot be sufficient for evangelization, which is the sharing of the good news that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is risen from the dead. The reason for this is obvious: a Jew, a Muslim, a Buddhist, a secular humanist, even an atheist of good will can be an advocate of social justice. One can fully and enthusiastically embrace a program of caring for the poor and the hungry without, in any sense, espousing faith in Jesus Christ. Many statistical studies reveal that young people today understand (and applaud) that the Church advocates for justice, even as they profess little or no belief in God, Jesus, the Resurrection, the Bible as an inspired text or life after death. I would argue that this disconnect is, at least in part, a result of the hyper-stress that we have placed on social justice in the years following the Council. I told my young Jesuit conversation partners that they ought to follow the prompt of our Jesuit Pope and go not just to the economic margins but to the “existential margins” — that is to say, to those who have lost the faith, lost any contact with God, who have not heard the Good News. Go, I told them, into your high schools, colleges and universities and advocate for the faith, speak of God, tell the young people about Jesus and his resurrection from the dead. Don’t for a minute, I continued, abandon your passion for justice, but let people see that it is grounded in Christ and his Gospel. *Bishop Robert Barron is an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Article originally published at WordOnFire.org.*

Squandering moral capital

The morality of tyrannicide is not much discussed in today’s kinder, gentler Catholic Church. Yet that difficult subject once engaged some of Catholicism’s finest minds, including Thomas Aquinas and Francisco Suárez, and it was passionately debated during the Second World War by German officers — many of them devout Christians — who were pondering the assassination of Adolf Hitler. (Their efforts were known and tacitly approved by Pius XII, but that’s another story.) What about today? Were I back in the classroom, I’d ask my students to construct a morally defensible argument for killing a tyrant. If the student followed Aquinas’s reasoning, the case for tyrannicide would involve a leader who was doing grave evil, who could not be removed from power except by being killed, and whose assassination would not make matters worse. Were those conditions met, Aquinas argued in his Commentary on Peter Lombard, a citizen might even be “praised and rewarded” for being the “one who liberates his country by killing a tyrant.” With the 30th anniversary of the Revolution of 1989 coming this fall, we’ll all be reminded that there are alternatives to killing tyrants or surrendering to evil: awakened consciences can discover nonviolent tools of resistance to tyranny, tools preferable to assassination. And consciences are awakened when men and women hear a

summons to moral heroism — to living in the truth, which is the greatest of liberators. That is why the current stance of the Holy See toward Latin American tyrannies is so disconcerting. For rather than calling the people of hard-pressed countries like Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua to effective, nonviolent resistance against tyrants on the model of Poland and Czechoslovakia in the 1980s, the Vatican is constantly bleating about “dialogue” with murderous thugs who’ve demonstrated for decades that they’re only interested in maintaining their power, masking their gross personal ambition and greed with a fog cloud of gibberish about “the revolution.” Now, however, 20 former Latin American heads of state and government have said, politely but firmly, that enough is enough. In a January 6 letter to their fellow-Latin American, Pope Francis, the signatories, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, acknowledged the “good faith” and “pastoral spirit” of Francis’s Christmas blessing Urbi et Orbi [to the city and the world]. But they also reminded the pope that Venezuelans “are victims of oppression by a militarized narco-dictatorship which has no qualms about systematically violating the rights to life, liberty and personal integrity,” a corrupt regime that has also “subjected [Venezuelans] to widespread famine and lack of medicine.” As for Nicaragua, President Arias and his colleagues noted that the Ortega regime has recently killed 300 Nicaraguans and wounded 2,500 others in a “wave of repression” against nonviolent protesters. In these contexts, the former leaders concluded, the papal “call for harmony ... can be understood by the victimized nations [as an instruction] that they should come to agreement with their victimizers.” Which is why the

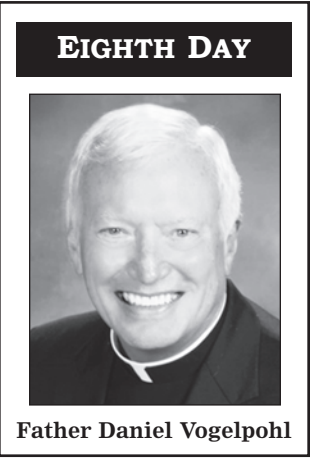
majority in Nicaragua and Venezuela received the Pope’s Christmas message “in a very negative way.” In 2013, the Church’s moral influence in world affairs was at its modern apogee. John Paul II was widely recognized as a pivotal figure in the nonviolent collapse of European communism and a significant player in the democratization of Latin America and East Asia. Drawing on John Paul’s social doctrine and his own penetrating insights into political modernity, Benedict XVI had made powerful statements about the moral foundations of the 21st-century free society in lectures at the Collège des Bernardins in Paris, London’s Westminster Hall, and the Bundestag in Berlin. What has the world seen since then? It has seen a papal initiative in Syria that, however well-intended, provided cover for the Obama administration to back off its “red line” about Bashar al-Assad’s use of chemical weapons against his own people. It has seen a Vatican that refuses to use the words “invasion,” “war” and “occupation” to describe Vladimir Putin’s Anschluss in Crimea and his war in eastern Ukraine, which has killed more than 10,000 and displaced more than a million Ukrainians, many of them Ukrainian Greek Catholics. It has seen a Vatican deal with China that is widely regarded as a kow-tow to ruthless, aggressive authoritarians. Where is the moral challenge to tyranny? Where is the summons to heroic resistance? Great moral capital is being squandered, in a world that desperately needs a moral compass. *George Weigel is distinguished senior fellow and William E. Simon chair in Catholic Studies of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.*

Adventures in the attic

The readings for the third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle “C” are: Nehemiah 8:2-4, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; and Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21.

Cleaning out the attic can be a real adventure. Forgotten treasures are often rediscovered. Those treasures are often accompanied by many memories, memories that often stir us to the core.

Young children most often enjoy cleaning out the attic with their parents. Most of the artifacts predate the children.



Father Daniel Vogelpohl

Most of the artifacts predate the children. The rediscovery of each object prompts mom or dad to tell the story that lies behind the treasure. Children love stories and they learn a lot about the family from hearing the stories.

Telling the story is what makes our memories come alive for others. Through storytelling our memory — our history — becomes theirs. When we recount our memories, our history, for others, we are, in fact, giving them that which is most uniquely ours. We are giving them ourselves.

Sometimes we clean out someone else’s attic. They are not there to tell the stories. Nevertheless, we can tell when we’ve discovered a “sacred object.” We may even stumble upon old letters and other documents that tell us the story.

Many years ago, I had the experience of cleaning out an old storage room above the sacristy of the church to which I was assigned at the time. It took me weeks to finish. There were so many wonderful artifacts and documents. I learned more about the parish than any discussion with the pastor or parish council could ever have yielded.

A similar thing is occurring in today’s readings. In the first reading from the book of Nehemiah, the Israelites have just returned from the many, many years of the Babylonian exile. During the exile, many had forgotten their roots, their heritage, even their God and God’s laws. The return to and rebuilding of Jerusalem became the occasion of rediscovering those things in the attic and retelling the stories behind them.

Thus, the first reading finds Ezra reading the law of God before the assembly. The people had gathered to hear this word of God, which many had never before known. The scene is painted for us in a way that describes our own liturgical actions.

“Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. Ezra opened the scroll that all the people might see it ... Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read ... Then Ezra the priest-scribe said to all the people, “Today is holy to the Lord your God.”

Notice that it is the Word of God that gathers the people together. It is the hearing of the word of God as an assembly that makes the day holy. The proclaimed word molds the assembly into God’s own people and makes them holy.

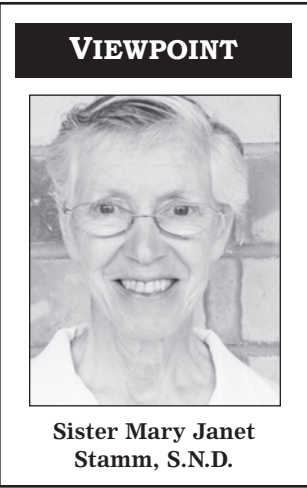
In today’s Gospel reading we find a similar situation. Jesus enters the synagogue where the people are gathered again to hear the word of God. This time the Word incarnate proclaims God’s word from Isaiah the prophet. But again, we find that this is no mere retelling of past events. Something is happening now as Jesus recounts the story of Isaiah. “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

As 21st century Christians we need to remember this same lesson. When God’s Word gathers us as an assembly as it does every Sunday, something is going to happen to us. This presumes, however, that we are ready and willing to really hear and act upon the Word. In rediscovering our past as God’s people, we discover who we are and should be now.

Father Daniel Vogelpohl is pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell

Sad but hopeful with good reason

Recently I was with family members for a special celebration of Mass. After Mass we shared some refreshments and enjoyed socializing. During this time I heard from a number of people that they could not hear what was being said during Mass.



Sister Mary Janet Stamm, S.N.D.

When I thought of the group gathered I realized how many were hearing impaired and make use of hearing aids. Still, they could not understand what was being said. I, also, fit into this group so I understand very well their frustrations and disappointments.

I firmly believe that in many or most of our parishes there are many, many people who either have a very difficult time hearing the homily, prayers and announcements or are not able to understand at all what is being said. This makes me very sad. I do know what this means because I cannot understand what is being said in all the churches I have been in and this is even with my hearing aids.

I really do want to understand and know what is being said. I want to be nourished with the Word of God and the homily.

It becomes very exhausting trying to grasp even a few words and make some sense of what is being said. I know that many other people also come to our parishes wanting to be nourished by God’s Word and the homily but leave Mass disappointed because they have not understood what was said.

Pro-life movement’s priorities should reflect its pro-women emphasis

As the United States approaches the 46th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Roe v. Wade, the pro-life movement is at a crossroads. The priority that the movement has for decades rightly given to the appointment of justices who recognize that the U.S. Constitution does not define a right to abortion has finally led to what should be a five-vote majority in favor of overturning or weakening Roe.

As pro-life activists journey to Washington again this month to bear witness to the more than 50 million unborn lives lost since 1973, it is time for the movement to ask what its priorities should look like now.

To be sure, it is not immediately likely that Roe v. Wade will be explicitly and conclusively overturned. Many commentators predict that the court, led by Chief Justice John Roberts, will steer a more incremental course, gradually validating states’ restrictions on abortion. The practical legal outcome of such an approach may not differ greatly from the results of an outright reversal.

As we have long argued, the proper constitutional settlement for the abortion question is for it to be returned to the states as a policy matter about which voters and legislators will and should continue to debate. Whatever the degree and method by which abortion is returned to “politics as usual,” it will remain a divisive political question. The pro-life movement’s work becomes more complicated, not less so, as the prospect of meaningful legal protections for unborn children dawns.

While judicial advocacy will continue to be important, developing and winning support for comprehensive pro-life legislation will require building a broader and more diverse coalition than the one assembled in opposition to Roe.

At the same time as the pro-life cause has its best prospects ever at the Supreme Court, Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York vowed on Jan. 7 both to codify Roe’s results in state law and to push to enshrine it even further with an amendment to the state constitution. Nine other states have laws that codify a right to abortion. Pro-choice advocates, understanding the threat to Roe, have

broadened their focus to include normalizing and even celebrating abortions.

At the end of 2018, *The New York Times* began running an extensive and tendentious set of editorials in defense of abortion, which are scheduled to run through January. (The entire series is already available online.) *The Times* paints a picture in which any legal attempt to defend the lives of unborn children is correlated with willingness — even eagerness — to “erode” the rights of women, driven by a desire for control over them. Carefully choosing the most extreme examples, the series implies that anyone who is not adamantly pro-choice is callously unconcerned about the lives of women.

Such unfair depictions will not surprise veterans of the pro-life movement. But they must concern us. The priority given to Supreme Court nominations has left the movement vulnerable to being reduced to the role of supporting player within an overall conservative political agenda. Along with pro-choice absolutism within the Democratic Party, this has hollowed out a vital part of national pro-life witness. Whatever one thinks of the historical prudence and necessity of the pro-life movement’s alliance with the Republican Party, its risks and limitations for the future are starkly evident.

Pro-lifers know well that the movement honors women, cares for women, is led by women and was founded by women. We should be passionate about making sure that the rest of the world can see our respect for women as well.

Imagine a future in which every proposal to defund Planned Parenthood is linked to increased funding for maternal health and protections for pregnant women in the workplace. Imagine how much harder it would be to caricature pro-lifers as anti-woman — and how much closer we would be to protecting all unborn children in law and welcoming them in love.

This editorial titled: “Pro-life movement’s priorities should reflect its pro-women emphasis” posted Jan. 8 on the website of America magazine, a national Catholic weekly magazine published by the Jesuits. The original headline, “The pro-life movement has always been pro-women. Our priorities should reflect that,” was shortened by Catholic News Service for space purposes.



MESSENGER series on the
Eucharist

in the “sacred species” and veiled in the objects of bread and wine, is in fact Jesus Christ! His very body, blood, soul and divinity!

But why when we celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist do we use bread and wine? The simplest explanation is that we are adhering to the command of the Lord when at the Last Supper “He took bread and gave it to his disciples...” and “He took the cup filled with wine ... ‘Do this in memory of me.’” Ultimately as believers this should be enough, but since God has given us a mind let’s delve a little deeper.

After being cast out of the Garden of Eden because of disobedience, God tells man that it is “bread you shall eat, by the sweat of your brow.” (cf. Gen. 3:19) Humanity also

In the sacrament of the Eucharist, why bread and wine?

Father Daniel Schomaker
Messenger Contributor

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life. The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.” (CCC 1324) The Church’s teaching in memoriam tells us that contained

offers back to God the “first-fruits” of the field — as seen in the offering of Abel and later in the offering of bread and wine by the priest-king Melchizedek. Prior to their journey into the desert as they fled Egypt, the Israelites ate “unleavened bread”; and when wandering in the desert, it was the manna or “bread from heaven” that God gave to sustain them.

The gift of bread to eat (which we pray for every time we offer the Lord’s Prayer) is a sign of “the pledge of God’s faithfulness to his promises.” (CCC 1334) Or another way to say this is that in the midst of the trials of life and on our pilgrimage towards the “promised land” (Heaven) and in our thanksgiving to God for any and all blessings, it is bread that always sustains us physically and reminds us of God’s closeness.

The gift of wine or “the fruit of the vine” also finds its way into the revelation of salvation history. Just as there was an offering of bread in the Old Testament, so too was there an offering of wine — often referred to as the “cup of blessing.” At the conclusion of the Jewish Passover meal, this “cup” “adds to the festive joy of wine an eschatological dimension: the messianic expectation of the rebuilding of Jerusalem.” (CCC 1334) We also see, in Jesus’ very first public miracle — the Wedding Feast at Cana — the centrality of wine, where he transforms water into wine, but not just any wine, the very best wine. And this miracle



takes place at a joyful celebration.

So, why do we use bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist? 1. Jesus said to; 2. Bread points us to the continual sustenance we receive from the Lord when we cooperate with his grace; 3. Wine points us to the joy of the Gospel and of our eschatological end, heaven; 4. Human beings are a compilation of body and soul; both need to be fed — bread sustains the body; wine sustains the soul.

Father Daniel Schomaker is vicar general; pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Covington; moderator of the Curia; and assistant director of seminarians in the Diocese of Covington.



Preparing for CRS Rice Bowl 2019

The diocesan CRS Rice Bowl Committee makes final preparations, Jan. 16, for the diocesan CRS Rice Bowl kick-off luncheon that will be held, Feb. 15, at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington. The event will bring student representatives from the Catholic elementary and high schools in the diocese together to learn more about the worldwide humanitarian efforts of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Each representative will return to his or her school community to promote CRS Rice Bowl, CRS’ popular Lenten program of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. CRS Rice Bowl brings youth of affluent countries in solidarity with youth from countries struggling with war, poverty and oppression. Committee members are (from left) Benedictine Sister Cathy Bauer, vocation director; Kendra McGuire, assistant superintendent of Schools; Marilyn Birmingham, database manager, Stewardship and Mission Services; Joan Lecoy, administrative assistant, Stewardship and Mission Services; Mike Murray, director, Stewardship and Mission Services; Claire Bach, religion teacher, St. Henry District High School; Alan Pickett, director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington; St. Joseph the Worker Sister Elizabeth Barkett, principal, St. Joseph Academy, Walton; and Jennifer Cox, DPAA secretary, Stewardship and Mission Services.

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*‘Wake up the world!
Be witnesses of
a different way
of doing things,
of acting, of living!’*
— Pope Francis

Religious Communities in the Diocese of Covington

Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery www.stwalburg.org
Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis www.brothersofthepoorofstfrancis.org
Passionist Nuns www.erlangerpassionists.com
Sisters of Divine Providence www.cdpkentucky.org
Sisters of Notre Dame www.sndky.org
Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker www.ssjw.org

Public and Private Associations

Franciscan Daughters of Mary www.fdofofmary.org
Missionaries of St. John the Baptist www.msjob.info

Serving Jesus in all of God’s people

Karen Kuhlman
Messenger Correspondent

Prayer is always at the center of the lives of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. Guided by the Rule of St. Benedict, they strive to live out the virtues found in the 1,500 year old Rule, seeking God in community, prayer and work. Integral to that monastic way of life is the virtue of hospitality.

The Rule mandates “Let all guests arriving at the monastery be received as Christ Himself, for He will one day say, ‘I was a stranger

Live: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us about Happiness, Meaning and Community.” They enjoy an easy camaraderie and join the Sisters for lunch in the monastery following gatherings.

Through the year, Oblates attend events at the Monastery such as the 2018 Fall Center of Spirituality Day and Msgr. William Cleves’ presentation of “Holiness in the Ordinary: Reflections on Pope Francis’s Exhortation, ‘Gaudete et Exsultate.’”

Formation day for new Oblates is held in June, and afterwards the Sisters are treated to an ice cream social hosted by the Oblates. They



The Oblates of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills, Ky.

and you took me in.’ Let great care and solicitude be shown particularly in the reception of the poor and of travelers, because it is in them that Christ is more especially received.”

The Second Vatican Council offered religious communities of women the opportunity to extend hospitality to the laity through associate communities. The Sisters noted that the Benedictine monks of St. Meinard’s Archabbey, Meinard, Indiana, had long used the word “oblate” to describe the members of their associate community. (Oblate, derived from the Latin oblatum, “to offer,” refers to one who offers himself to God.)

In 1986, the sisters began inviting those seeking a deeper relationship with God to become Benedictine Oblates of St. Walburg Monastery. Emulating the Rule, the Sisters welcomed women and men of the laity into the Benedictine community.

Sister Mary Tewes, a Benedictine Sister since 1955, has been director of the Oblates for 25 years. She says those who come to discern a vocation with the Oblate community are usually in midlife. They may have experienced a change in their lives or feel called to a deeper spirituality, yearning for a faith sharing community they haven’t found elsewhere.

Many of the 45 women and men Oblates come together at St. Walburg from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of each month to be a part of that faith sharing community. They begin each meeting with the ancient Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina and hear a reading of that Sunday’s Gospel. They pray together, often for particular intentions, such as in 2018 when the Oblates joined the network of Benedictines praying for the canonization of Dorothy Day. They discuss the book they are currently reading, which often includes a discussion of the Rule, such as Judith Valente’s “How to

work together on service projects through the year and are invited to attend the Sisters’ annual retreat in July. The Renewal of Oblation Ritual is held every October, and following the ceremony, everyone enjoys a festive meal with the Sisters.

Benedictine Sisters have played a tremendous role in the lives of many. Joan Moser says they have been an inspiration to her ever since her high school days at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago; all six of her daughters graduated from Villa Madonna Academy. She was delighted to be invited by Sister Martha Walther to become a part of the first group of Oblates in 1986. Joan said, “Our meetings have been inspirational as well as educational. I have met some very nice new friends and have received so much support from the Sisters and the Oblates.”

The Oblates offer themselves to God. Living out their Baptismal promises they “truly seek God with single-hearted faith” through a life based on hospitality, peace, moderation and balance in prayer, work and play. They meet God in the ordinariness of daily life, using their lives to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They share in the mission of the Benedictines, to serve Jesus in all of God’s people.

Sister Mary Tewes said, “To me, the most important thing about our Oblates is that they are following the call to live out the Benedictine charism that monastics have lived, taught and spread for the last 1,500 years; they share hospitality, a peaceful place, prayer. They serve others who may need help or simply seek renewal apart from the business of the world. As the number of religious decrease, and the number of Oblates increase, they are able to play a bigger role in leadership so that Benedictinism can flourish in the future. Through this new work of the Holy Spirit, the Oblates can help to build up the Church.”



February Birthdays

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Mother Seraphina Marie Quinlan, FDM | 13 Sister Marilyn Hoffman, CDP (formerly Sister Teresa Joseph) | 16 Sister Helen Charles Wilke, CDP | 23 Sister Viola Martin, CDP (formerly Sister James Michael, Sister Micki) | 24 Sister Henrietta Seiler, OSB |
| 3 Sister Mary Jennings, CDP | 15 Sister Jean Marie Hoffman, SND | 19 Sister Nancy Kordenbrock, OSB | Sister Marie Rose Messingschlager, CDP | Sister Mary Tereze Deye, SND |
| 10 Michelle Blevins, SND postulant | 16 Sister Elizabeth Ann Barkett, SJW | 21 Sister Leslie Keener, CDP | | Sister Jane Frances Kaelin, CDP |
| | Sister Mary Patricia Bruemmer, SND | 22 Sister Kimberly Porter, OSB | | 25 Sister Marie Sand, SND |
| | Sister Mary Ellen Strunk, SND | 23 Sister Mary Sharron Goller, SND | | |

For more information about consecrated life in the Diocese of Covington, contact Sister Fran Moore at (859) 392-1500.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Cooley photo

Newsworthy

Happy birthday to **Deacon Charles Hardebeck**, St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, Feb. 6; **Deacon Steve Durkee**, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Covington, Feb. 7; **Father Elmer Nadicksbernd**, S.V.D., chaplain, Holy Family Home, Melbourne, Feb. 8; **Father Joseph Shelton**, administrative assistant to the bishop, episcopal master of ceremonies, assistant to the chancellor, Feb. 8; **Father Matthias Wamala**, Feb. 8; and **Msgr. Donald Enzweiler**, Feb. 9.

The weekly TV **Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption** will be broadcast on Sunday, 5-6 p.m. on station Me TV WLWT, on channels: over the air 5-2; Spectrum 188 in Kentucky and Cincinnati Bell 23 or 291.

Have something to list in “**People and Events**”? The deadline for event notices is nine days prior to the desired publication date. E-mail messenger@covdio.org no later than the Wednesday before the week you would like the information to appear.

Planning an event featuring a speaker or minister from outside the diocese? In the Diocese of Covington, before contracting the services of a priest or deacon, man or woman religious, or lay person a request for verification in good standing must be submitted to the Chancery office no later than four weeks before the desired date of service. Screening applications and instructions can be found at www.covdio.org/chancery/.

There will be a Holy Hour on the third Thursday of every month, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 3-4 p.m., to pray for victims of sexual abuse by clergy and to pray for the Church. All priests of the diocese will be in attendance; the lay faithful are invited to join. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed, concluding with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and benediction. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available during the Holy Hour. The next Holy Hour will be held Thursday, Feb. 21.

Msgr. William Cleves and Deacon David Profitt will lead a Women’s Retreat, Feb. 8-10, at St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne. The retreat will focus on five lesser-known women saints and their impact on the Catholic faith. Cost is \$150 and includes all meals. Register by Jan. 25 at www.stanneretreatcenter.org or call 441-2003.

Msgr. William Cleves will offer **a free course on an introduction to philosophy, “The Love of Wisdom,”** at St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne, on the second and fourth Saturdays of subsequent months, after beginning on Jan. 26, 9 a.m. Call 371-9375.

St. Augustine Parish, Augusta, bingo, Jan. 27, 1-5 p.m., in



The Christmas story comes to life

The first-grade class at St. Timothy School, Union, presented the Nativity to family and friends. Each child in the class had a role in the play.

the school cafeteria. Attendees must be 18 or over to play. \$10 bingo, bingo pull-tabs, pickle jar; themed baskets, drinks, snacks and meal. The event is weather permitting and benefits the school.

Knights of Columbus, Father Kehoe Council #1764, first Friday fish fry, Feb 1, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Ludlow. Carryouts available on the day of the event, call 261-2704.

Knights of Columbus, Father Bealer Council, fish fry, Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Elsmere. Call 342-6643 for carryout orders.

First Friday Mass and healing service, sponsored by Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community, Feb. 1, Thomas More University, Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel, Crestview Hills. Music with Sacred Heart Praise Band, 7:15 p.m.; Mass, 7:30.

Bishop Brossart High School first Friday Mass, Feb. 1, 6:45 a.m., St. Francis of Assisi Chapel. A light breakfast follows the Mass.

The 20th annual Jack and Pat McGarr Memorial Euchre Tournament, Feb. 2, Bishop Brossart High School’s Hegenauer Hall. The \$25 entry fee includes dinner, snacks and soft drinks. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; players must be checked in by 6:15 p.m. To register, e-mail jackmcgarreuchre@gmail.com or text (513) 460-6599. Proceeds benefit the Jack and Pat McGarr Scholarship Fund and the BBHS football program.

The Catholic Men’s Conference of Western Kentucky, Feb. 2, RiverPark Center; Owensboro. Tickets: \$30 for adults; \$15 for students. Guest speakers this year are Dr. Edward Sri, Kevin Reilly and Mike Michalak. Information and tickets, kycatholic.com.

Discover Villa Madonna Academy’s Benedictine values at their K-6 open house, Feb. 3, 1-2:30 p.m. RSVP to Janet Baugh at admissions@villamadonna.net.

A 10-week session of **New Beginnings, a faith-based support group for divorced and separated persons**, Feb. 5-April 9, with meetings on Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. New Beginnings is sponsored by the Diocese of Covington and hosted by the Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation. Registration required. Information, www.covdio.org or call 392-1500, ext. 1529.

Madonna Manor Health Fair and Fall Prevention Clinic, Feb. 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Adelaide Center; Madonna Manor, Villa Hills. Information, 426-6400 or JBurkhart@chilivingcomm.org.

Thomas More University Institute for Religious Liberty, Crestview Hills, presents “Religious Freedom: Our First, Most Cherished Liberty,” Feb. 7, 7 p.m., Steigerwald Hall. Featured speakers include Archbishop William E. Lori, Baltimore and Dr. Hunter Baker of Union University, Jackson, Tenn. Free and open to the public. Visit www.ThomasMore.EDU/ReligiousLiberty.



Franciscan Daughters of Mary

Mother Seraphina Quinlan (left of center) and the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, Covington, not only welcomed a New Year, Jan. 1, but also a new member: Sister Molly Rusciolelli (center) from Waxhaw, North Carolina, joined the Public Association of the Faithful and its mission to love and serve Christ with joyful simplicity, upholding the dignity of every human person from the moment of conception until natural death, in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.



‘Concerned’ council members

Student council members at Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell, loaded the Be Concerned van with canned goods following their canned food drive.

St. Paul Parish, Florence, craft show, Feb. 9, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Admission is \$2. Children 12 and under are free. Information, e-mail SPcraftshow@gmail.com.

Retreat for physicians and healthcare providers — “Jesus the Divine Physician: Transforming our Hearts, Minds and Souls,” sponsored by the Catholic Medical Association Guild of Covington and directed by Father James Kelleher, S.O.L.T., Feb. 8–10, at St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne. Cost is \$200, includes lodging and meals; registration and payment due Jan. 24. Open to physicians, midlevels, nurses, pharmacists, healthcare administrators and medical students. Call Dr. Bill Wehrman at (859) 206-0746, or e-mail 1215wehrmawe@msn.com or www.covingtoncma.cathmed.org.

Catholics @ The Capitol, Feb. 9, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington. An opportunity to prepare to connect with legislators. At the event, Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) staff will provide a full briefing on the main issues of concern in this year’s session of the Kentucky General Assembly and will provide assistance in connecting faithful citizens with their state senator and representative. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

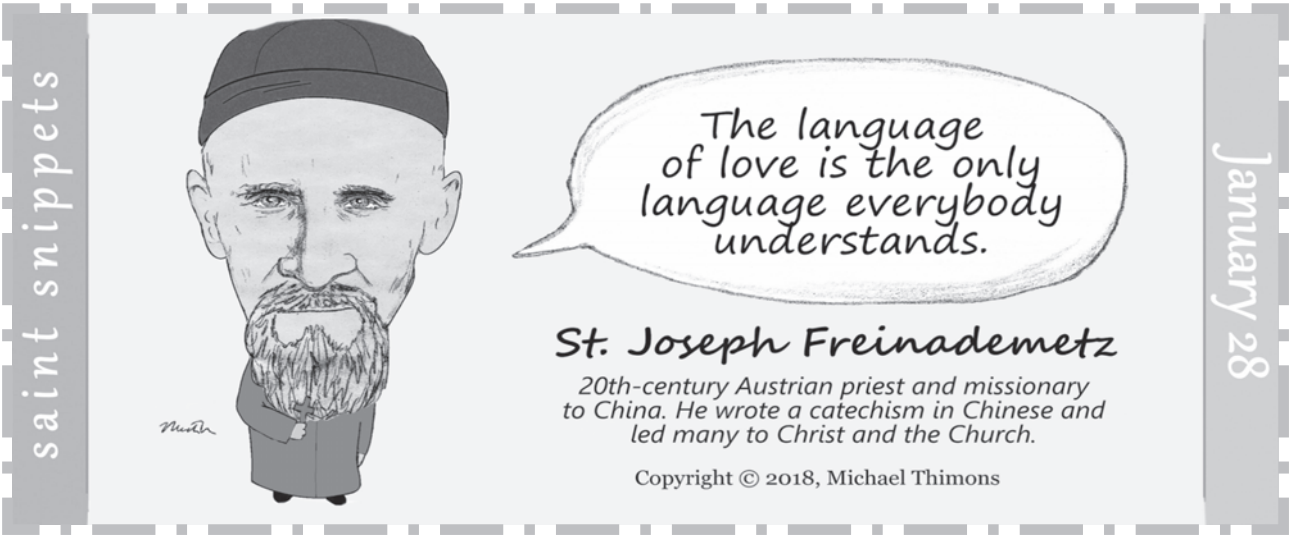
Covington Latin School invites students in grades 5–7 to attend an open house, Feb. 10. Sessions will be held at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Visit www.covingtonlatin.org.

St. Philip Parish, Melbourne, Ladies’ Stagette/Social, Feb. 10, 2–6 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.) \$25 prepaid ticket needed to get in; call Theresa at 466-6136.

The drama club at **St. Joseph Parish and School, Cold Spring, present its 42nd original musical comedy, “A Manor of Wife and Death,”** Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23 and 24; March 1 and 2. Times are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. Call 653-1217.

Newport Central Catholic High School, Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony Feb. 16, 7 p.m., in the gymnasium. Inductees for the 19th class are: Stephen Everson ’02, Sam Diehl ’06, Camron Jacob ’93, Jimmy Sandfoss ’94, Beth Bueter Barney ’00, Molly Messmer Simons ’86, Jennifer Wetterstroem Wolf ’97 and Coach Kevin Turnick. The 2006 State Champion Football Team is being honored as the “Team of Distinction.” Reservations before Feb. 8, 292-0001. Proceeds benefit athletic programs at NCCHS. Visit www.ncchs.com.

Father Robert Rottgers presents “Sacramentals, tools for your spiritual life — don’t leave your home without them!” Feb. 17, 7 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas. Included in his talk will be true stories of the powerful protection of the Epiphany Blessing for your home (instruction kits for the blessing will be provided). No tickets



required; everyone is welcome. Information, 441-3438.

Third Tuesday prayer meeting, sponsored by the Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community of NKY, Feb. 19, 7–8:45 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Parish Center, Ft. Mitchell. Features charismatic style praise and worship music, teaching, witnesses and healing prayers.

2019 E6 Catholic Men’s Conference, “Armor Up,” Feb. 23, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m., at East Central Performing Arts Center, St. Leon, Ind. (just 30 minutes northwest of Cincinnati). This year features nationally renowned speakers Mark Hart (the Bible Geek), Trent Horn, Catholic apologist, Justin Fatica, Hard As Nails, and special guest: The Catholic Man Show. Visit www.E6CatholicMensConference.com.

Covington Catholic High School, spaghetti dinner and fine arts festival, Feb. 24, 4–6:30 p.m., at the school.

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills, silent directed retreat, March 1–3. Retreatants stay in the monastery Guest House and join the community for Liturgy of the Hours and Sunday Eucharist. Open to both men and women. Information, Benedictine Sister Dorothy Schuette: dorothysosb@gmail.com.

Vivian’s Victory Ball 2019, March 2, 6–11 p.m., Longworth Hall, Cincinnati. Visit www.viviansvictory.org.

Divine Providence Sister Alice Gerdeman, provincial superior, will present “Lent: A Justice and Peace Journey Toward New Life,” March 23, 9:30 a.m.–noon, at St. Walburg Monastery. \$20 fee includes snacks and materials. Call 331-6771 or e-mail sdhosb@yahoo.com for reservations.

Attention youth (grades 9–12) and chaperones! Register now

for the **diocesan pilgrimage to the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis, Indiana, Nov. 21–23, 2019.** The event will consist of a wide variety of opportunities for young people to experience God and his Church. A down payment of \$100 per person must be returned to the Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation by Feb. 28 to reserve a place. Visit www.covdio.org/catechesis-formation/youth-and-young-adult/#youthncyc, call 392-1500, ext. 1526 or e-mail mspears@covdio.org.

Help Parish Kitchen, a ministry of Catholic Charities, by providing warmth for the homeless this winter. New sleeping bags or new twin blankets may be delivered to: Parish Kitchen, Covington, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–11 a.m., or Catholic Charities, Latonia, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Call 581-7745 or e-mail mmeyer@covingtoncharities.org.

Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills, will have adoration every First Friday of the month, 7:30 a.m.– 3 p.m., in the chapel. Parents, grandparents, alumni, benefactors, etc., are asked to join the young men at Covington Catholic in prayer. Adorers must be VIRTUS compliant. E-mail tguard@covcath.org.

St. Thomas Parish, Ft. Thomas, “SpirFit,” a 60-minute fitness class focused on breath, movement and prayer; Tuesday and Thursday, 7 p.m., in the church basement. \$5 suggested donation per class (a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Church and select charities). Information, spirfit3@gmail.com.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington is **looking for volunteers for its jail ministry team.** Volunteers work with people who are incarcerated or about to be released from jail or prison along with supporting other efforts in the jails, in the community and in family support groups. If you would like to volunteer in this special ministry e-mail or call Dave Capella, Catholic Charities Jail Ministry Coordinator at dcapella@covingtoncharities.org or 581-8974, ext. 117.



Robotics tournament

Covington Catholic High School hosted the 4th annual Colonel Classic Robotics Tournament Jan. 5, where 50 different teams got the chance to compete against each other, including the CCHS robotics team. At the tournament, classroom STEM concepts are put to the test on the playing field as students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications and more.



Confirmation

Holy Cross Elementary School, Latonia, celebrated the initiation of 10 confirmandi. These students received the gifts of the Holy Spirit Jan. 15 and are ready to be Christ for others and defend the faith, as they become adults in the Church.

Covington Catholic

(Continued from page 1)

ment, or comments from individuals all over the world criticizing either the students for their behavior or the diocese for their lack of support.

“Soon, my brother bishops began to text me worrying about my welfare and yours. People care about you. People love and care and are concerned about the Church and they are concerned about you.”

Bishop Foys went on to summarize the situation that he, Mr. Rowe, the students, the Covington Catholic community and the diocese are now facing and about the investigation being done.

“This is a no-win situation. We are not going to win. No matter what we say, one way or another, there are going to be people who are going to argue about it, people who will try to get into people’s heads and say, ‘This is what he meant. This is what they meant when they were doing this and doing that.’ The best we can do is, first of all, to find out the truth, to find out what really went on, what really happened. So we do have investigators who are here today, a third-party who are not associated with our diocese, not associated with me or with the school, who are working on this investigation to find out what happened.

“I am the shepherd of this Church. I have to present not

only to the people of our diocese but also to the world the facts. Not the facts that someone has imagined or the facts that someone thinks or facts that people might determine from seeing a video. I encourage all of you, especially the students who were there at the march, to cooperate with the investigators. This is with the permission of your parents. We’re not going to have you do anything without the permission of your parents. And the teachers and chaperones who were there, I am asking you, too, to be cooperative with this.

“Father Michael Hennigen (school chaplain) has said that ‘The truth will set us free.’ That’s true. It is my fond hope, it is my prayer, that when the truth comes out you and I and the diocese will be exonerated. But I need something to present to God’s people and say, ‘Look! Here are the objective facts.’ This investigation isn’t going to be over overnight — it can’t be if it’s going to be thorough.

“Some people’s lives, as you know, have been affected for the rest of their lives and the honor of our school has been tainted. We have received, and probably you have received, horrible, vile e-mails. This brings out the worst in people.

“We have to ask ourselves, what are we going to learn from this? One of the things I hope we’ve learned, I hope you’ve learned, is that perception can become reality. A person can be doing something that is absolutely innocent

but if he gives the slightest hint, the slightest perception, that this is something wrong that is what people are going to remember, and then for them that becomes their reality.

“I’m going to ask you, as your bishop, to stay off social media in regards to this situation at least until it is resolved. Because the more you say — pro or con — the more you exacerbate the situation. You have to help, especially yourself, by getting off social media. Right now anything we say — you or I — anything we say is questioned. The devil is real; trust me. He has taken this good thing, this March for Life, and turned it into a media cir-

cus.”

Bishop Foys then talked to the students about the statements that have been released by the diocese and the school, which have been criticized.

“Some people think our first statement was too strong, but in my mind with what we saw and what we heard at the time, we had to say what we said and we meant it. If that behavior is genuine then we have to condemn it.

“We issued a second statement yesterday. Regardless of what you heard or what you’ve read or what you think—I am on your side. I want you to come out of this in a positive light.

“In our second statement I asked people to pray that we will arrive at the truth. The only way we can do that in an objective way is through a thorough and in-depth investigation. It is my hope and my prayer that, in the end, it will show exactly what happened and that we will be able to stand tall and proud. People will still criticize us one way or the other — people will believe it or not believe it — but at least we can say we’ve taken the time to talk to all the parties involved and to get all the footage we can that was taken that day and say, ‘Here, this is not what we think happened or what we would like to believe happened, but this is what in fact happened. If there was some wrongdoing we have to own up to that, too. Father Michael is right, it is the truth that will set us free.’


In closing he reminded the students how much he supports Catholic education and CCHS in particular:

“Anybody who knows me knows that I support Catholic education. Over the last 17 years I have come to Covington Catholic a number of times each year. I always open your school year with Mass and I celebrate with you your successes. It pains me, more than you can imagine, having to be here today; but we can get over this. I’m 73 years old, I have faced a lot of struggles and hardships — we will get over this, there will be time to heal, it will be all right. But in the meantime preserve the integrity of the school, be the best that you can be and lay off the social media for a while.


“Know that I stand with you, that I join with you in that ‘Spirit that will not die’ and that together we will work through this. Thank you and God bless you.”

As Bishop Foys turned the podium over to Mr. Rowe, he expressed his confidence in the principal. “Mr. Rowe has done a wonderful job here in his leadership. I have full confidence in him and he will continue to lead you,” he said.

In his final remarks before dismissing the assembly Mr. Rowe said, “Bishop Foys supports us — now we need to support him.”




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Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Jan. 27–Feb. 2



Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish's parochial vicar, Father Niby Kannai, earned his U.S. citizenship this fall, and the students celebrated him before Mass by joining in a group prayer for him.



January 2019

My dear Friends in Christ,

As we embark on yet another celebration of Catholic schools in our country and especially in our Diocese, we call to mind the importance of a thoroughly Catholic school education for our children. A Catholic school education provides more than just religion classes. A Catholic school education provides its students with the tools to live a life of faith, of charity, of dedication to values that will serve them for a lifetime. These tools are woven through the entire curriculum of a Catholic school, not just religion classes, as important as they are. Our country — and our diocese — has a wonderful track record of providing a Catholic school education to all who seek one.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week let us be mindful of the many, many people who make a thoroughly Catholic school education possible in our Diocese. So many people sacrifice so much so that our children can receive an education rooted in faith and dedication to Christ and to his Church. Let us pray for all our benefactors, for our diocesan administration, for our principals and the teachers and staff of our schools, for the parents who provide their children with a Catholic school education and for our students.

There are certainly alternatives to Catholic schools, but there are no substitutes.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.,
Bishop of Covington

Catholic Schools

THE MESSENGER • JANUARY 25, 2019



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Catholic Schools Week focuses on the values of a Catholic education

Michael Clines
Messenger Contributor

Under the leadership and in partnership with the National Catholic Educational Association, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week is “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”

Our schools observe the annual celebration throughout the week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families,



Michael Clines

parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our Church, our communities and our nation.

Catholic Schools Week also prompts me to reflect upon all the wonderful people who make Catholic education possible. I thank all the priests and school administrators who provide leadership and commitment to educating the whole child — religiously, intellectually, physically and communally. My appreciation goes out to the teachers who accept the responsibility that the greatest impact on student achievement is the teacher and center that responsibility on our faith. I recognize the commitment the

parents make to send their children to a Catholic school, and value the vital role that they play in our school communities. I know that most of our schools could not exist without the commitment of the thousands of benefactors who recognize the value of a Catholic education to the students and to the communities of Northern Kentucky.

Often during Catholic Schools Week communities are invited to come and see Catholic education in action. If you get the chance, I hope you can visit and/or get involved. You will witness the academic, faith development and service activities that Catholic school students pursue all year long. We pray; we learn; we connect; we participate and we act.

Michael Clines is the superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Covington.

Teachers and Catechists — agents of learning, serving, leading and succeeding

Isaak A. Isaak
Messenger Contributor

From Jan. 27 to Feb. 2, we are blessed once again to celebrate Catholic Schools Week in our diocese and in the dioceses across the United States. Each year, the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) selects a theme and every Catholic school throughout the country plans activities around this theme. These activities include attending Mass at local parishes, sending student and teacher representatives to the local Mother Church, in our case the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, and other pertinent school activities for students, families and the communities at large.

The 2019 theme for Catholic Schools Week is “Catholic Schools: Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed.” This is a very vital and appropriate



Isaak A. Isaak

theme for all of us, especially for teachers and catechists during this week’s celebration, because this is what they do on a daily basis. Learning leads to serving, to leading and to succeeding in life. It is truly a beautiful theme.

Teachers and catechists are indeed agents of learning, serving, leading and succeeding. So, on this special occasion of Catholic Schools Week, I want to thank the men and women who are involved in our schools and parishes in educating our youth in the Catholic faith. I also want to thank all the DRE/CREs, RCIA directors and coordinators, youth, young adult and campus ministers. Their services to our holy mother Church are invaluable.

The teaching of the faith comes to us directly from the Lord himself. It is a command: “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations. ... Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you ...” (Mt. 28:18–20). This command of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is getting fulfilled every day in our schools and parishes and across the nations of the entire world. It sounds to me that the deposit (divine revelation) of our faith is in good hands — the teachers and catechists. Without them how would our youth know the deposit of our faith? For this we are grateful to them.

Catholic Schools Week is also a good occasion for me to personally thank Bishop Roger Foys. It is under his leadership that we developed significant catechetical norms and policies in our diocese. These norms and policies are the Elementary Religious Education Curriculum and Sacramental Catechesis Guidelines for Pre-school through Grade Eight; the High School Religion Curriculum, the Theology of the Body curriculum, the RCIA Policies and Guidelines Manual, diocesan youth and young adult start-up guides, and grade school and high school textbooks. Bishop Foys had all these resources developed so that our teachers and catechists are supported and strengthened in their services. All of these resources can be downloaded from the Diocese of Covington Office of Catechesis and

Faith Formation web page: <https://www.covdio.org/catechesis-formation/>.

I believe that these resources will unify our schools and parishes in teaching the faith, especially when a student transfers from one school to another for various reasons. It is my hope that teachers and catechists will rely upon these resources to teach the faith in their religious education programs. They are intended to be an overall view of catechesis. They offer the basic teachable concepts that need to be included in a total religious education program, but with the understanding that these concepts can be presented in a variety of ways depending on the developmental level of youth. All core concepts are to be applied in age-appropriate ways at every level of learning.

Our teachers and catechists are sowers of the seed, that is, the Word of God. These resources will assist them in doing just that. It is my hope and prayer that whenever they sow the seeds of faith, they will take roots in the lives and experiences of all the youth of our diocese.

Teachers and catechists are ordinary people who perform an extraordinary duty because they teach as Jesus teaches, and teach in his name. They are faithful to the author of life by dedicating themselves to deepening the faith of the present generation. In order for this deepening of faith to continue in their lives, catechists and religion teachers need ongoing faith formation. Adequate preparation and ongoing faith formation are indispensable for every catechist, religion teacher or a volunteer for teaching the faith. As a lifelong learner, the catechist or religion teacher becomes informed in the faith and acquires the necessary skills to communicate the Gospel message effectively; is open to a growing knowledge of Catholic doctrine, Scripture, relational skills and teaching methods; and remains current on contemporary Church and social issues.

This celebration of Catholic Schools Week is also a good occasion for me to remind our religion teachers and catechists about our diocesan administrative regulations for religious education certification and accreditation. These administrative regulations were established in 2006 by our bishop to assist in the understanding of what is required for those who wish to minister as catechists or religion teachers. With the assistance of the Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation, the diocese is able to provide top quality instruction at an affordable price. Please, see our webpage for a current schedule of courses: <https://www.covdio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Adult-Faith-Formation-Course-Brochure-2018-2019.pdf>.

It is imperative to remember that catechesis involves an essential partnership of the family, the parish community, and those who serve as catechists and religion teachers at all levels. Since catechesis is the sharing of faith, the focus is on people. It requires faith-filled, knowledgeable and skilled people who strive to grow in faith themselves and also to share their faith with others. Those who serve as catechists and religion teachers carry out, in the name of the Church, the systematic, intentional catechetical efforts to enable our people to grow in faith. So, it is a serious responsibility.

Jesus, Teacher of Teachers and Catechist of Catechists, teach and catechize our teachers and catechists throughout this year and beyond. Amen!

Isaak A. Isaak is the director of the Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation in the Diocese of Covington.

Teaching the basics

Janice Wurtz
Messenger Contributor

As a judge of the Eighth-grade Pro-Life Essay Contest, I recently spent part of my weekend reading pro-life essays from eighth-grade students in our diocesan Catholic schools. This is a wonderful chance to see inside the work that our students, teachers, administrators and pastors accomplish each year. The guidelines for the judges from the Pro-Life Office always remind us that these are eighth graders, and that the topic itself has greater significance than perfect grammar. This admonition might lead one to believe that the task involves overlooking a lot, but to the contrary, the task brings me to awe and appreciation for Catholic Schools.

Many of the student essayists write from personal experience and tell stories of family members, relationships with siblings and family, or a lesson learned from a movie, field trip or playground experience at school. The most unique thing about these students and their essays is their understanding that the lessons they have learned in school are transcendent, what we call the natural law. Few eighth graders articulate this concept, that the laws of God transcend the opinions of humans. Yet, this fact shines through in every essay that I read: that we are called to recognize the dignity and value of human life, and to reject all attacks on its dignity.

I am so very fortunate to work within the teaching ministry of Bishop Roger Foys. I play an insignificant part in Catholic education, compared to the teachers, administrators, pastors and parents on the frontlines. Education is the path toward self-reliance, success and leadership that our nation provides for all children. However, in our nation only private schools have “permission” to explain to students that abortion, suicide and euthanasia are not matters of personal choice. The expression of religious beliefs in public schools is strictly forbidden, in an effort to offend no one. The Constitution is often presented to students as an archaic document, much in need of reform; and no one in a public school may explain why the inalienable rights endowed to each of us by our Creator include life.

Our Catholic schools do a wonderful job of teaching all of the important lessons for life as citizens. An internet statistic purports that 30 percent of our members of Congress are Catholic. It is important to continue to educate as many children as we possibly can with a consistent ethic of life, with appreciation for the dignity of all



Janice Wurtz

(Continued on page 13)

a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools

The infographic features a central circular logo with a white background. Inside the logo is a stylized open book with a rainbow-colored cover and a yellow cross above it. Below the book, the text "Catholic Schools" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the tagline "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Surrounding this central logo is a circular ring divided into 12 colored segments, each containing a number from 1 to 12. Each segment is connected to a larger, light blue triangular area that contains a specific reason for choosing Catholic schools. The reasons are as follows:

- 1. We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
- 2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
- 3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
- 4. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.
- 5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
- 6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
- 7. We teach children respect of self and others.
- 8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
- 9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
- 10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.
- 11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.
- 12. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

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Catholic schools — communities of learning, serving, leading and succeeding



We are still Brossart

A giddy sort of energy wound its way through the halls of Bishop Brossart High School. It was a Friday in May 2018, mere weeks away from the last day of school. The weather was warm that day, and the sky cloudless. For the last time of the year, the juniors were called down to the Munninghoff Theater to hear classmates’ speeches and elect next year’s senior leadership to the Student Council. The students quickly assumed their seats, expectantly chattering about this year’s crop of candidates. Their chatter subsided as the speeches began, and the eager audience got what they were looking for: bombastic claims; allusions to pop-culture that baffled most of the teachers; and unrealistic promises (instead of a chicken in every pot, it was an exam exemption in every class). Most of the speeches fit this mold, but there was, it must be noted, an exception. One of the candidates used his allotted time to compliment the other candidates on their qualifications and ideas. Instead of inflating himself and his accomplishments, he talked, humbly, about how happy he was to even be considered for a leadership position and what a great job his classmates would do if he were not the one elected. In contrast to its mild tone, this speech received riotous applause, and the student who broke the mold, Austin Alwell, is now BBHS’s senior class president.

Bishop Brossart High School is an exceptional school, but it is not exceptional for its many noteworthy accomplishments. It is exceptional because a student like Austin Alwell — who embodies humility, generosity and goodwill — can rise as a leader among his peers. Like Austin, who recognized the value of his classmates, we at BBHS recognize the tremendous educational opportunities that many schools in the Diocese of Covington offer. There is not a bad choice among them. We do, however, think that we have something to offer students that is unique and invaluable. Therefore, if we mention that we are proud of our recent designation as a 2018 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, it is because we venerate and celebrate the hard work of students and staff that led us this honor. If we mention that we are excited about beginning construction on a new multi-sport athletic complex (catering to football, baseball, softball, soccer, track and cross country), it is because we are proud of the support we have received from the community and thrilled about the prospect of dedicating our new track to a 40-year veteran of BBHS, Dave Schuh. If we mention our diverse course offerings and the extremely high involvement of students in extracurricular activities, it is because we are proud that a school of our size can offer so much and that our students take advantage of the many opportunities provided to them. And finally, if we mention that our students and staff strive to live up to Bishop Brossart High School’s motto of Charity First, it is because we hold that principle as our lodestar — the defining characteristic of a Mustang.

We are excited about the changes taking place at Brossart, but beyond everything that is novel, noteworthy and new, we are most excited about what hasn’t changed at Brossart. We are still a school dedicated to a holistic model of education. We are still a school where learning is valued and academics aren’t given short shrift. We are still Brossart.

Article submitted by Bishop Brossart High School.



Covington Catholic High School: a “House of Blue”

A two-time National Blue Ribbon School (in 2016 and 2007) and the only all-male high school in the Diocese of Covington, Covington Catholic High School is approaching the century mark. 2018-19 marks the 94th school year for the “House of Blue,” as well as the pending completion of a \$9 Million major construction project of new and renovated facilities on the current campus. The physical footprint is changed, but inside the school the steadfast focus is on the mission to embrace the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in order to educate young men spiritually, academically, physically and socially.

While the approach and traditions remain fundamentally the same across generations of Colonels, there are new spiri-

tual challenges and opportunities, new breadth and depth to academic standards, new athletic seasons and goals, and new social connections that both educate and inspire students’ futures in the following ways:

- Spiritually. A young man experiences the humble satisfaction of participating in community service with his fellow Covington Catholic brothers. Our students contribute almost twice the required hours of community service each year, via efforts such as tutoring at inner-city schools and actively working at Special Olympics events in Northern Kentucky. In addition to Mass and other sacraments, which are regularly offered at school, our young men seize opportunities to grow and communicate their faith, such as at the annual March for Life and mission/retreat trips.
- Academically. Students are challenged via a wide range of academic offerings and program levels. We celebrate the exceptional achievements of our students, such as: the 2018 graduating class ACT average composite score of 26 and greater than 85 percent pass rate on AP Exams (both well above state and national averages); 7 National Merit Finalists (the most of any school in Northern Kentucky); 43 AP

Scholars; 43 students accepted to the Kentucky Governor’s Programs for Scholars, Arts and Entrepreneurs over the past five years; and \$22 Million in academic or athletic college scholarships being earned by more than 95 percent of the Class of 2018. We also boast of a range of class levels and disciplines (across core subjects as well as the arts, languages, religion and social sciences, and our exemplary science, technology, engineering and mathematics integrated curriculum — STEM), which allows each student the opportunity to be challenged in his area(s) of academic strength, while balancing with a strong college prep curriculum in other areas, individually suited to him.

• Physically. Covington Catholic has 13 KHSAA-sanctioned athletic teams (involving approximately 66 percent of students, and state championships in both football and basketball, as well as 11 regional champion or runner-up team finishes in 2017-18), as well as through participation in intramural sports, including a basketball league which involves about two-thirds of the student body in friendly but vigorous competition.

• Socially. Students have access to a multitude of organized extracurricular clubs and experiences, but also with a “House System” which fortifies the brotherhood to embody “A Spirit That Will Not Die.” Whether as the Colonel Crazies

(Continued on page 17)

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school year now being accepted.

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(Continued from page 15)

supporting our athletic teams in impressive — even award-winning — fashion, or on an individual level by supporting a classmate through good and bad, Covington Catholic students develop into young men in a spirited and supportive atmosphere.

Contact Covington Catholic High School: www.covcath.org or (859) 491-2247.

Article submitted by Covington Catholic High School.

About Covington Catholic:

Awards:

- National Blue Ribbon School in 2016 and 2007 (the only Kentucky high school to win twice in the last decade)

Enrollment:

- 586 students from more than 45 schools across NKY/Cincinnati
- All-male

Academics:

- 3 curriculum levels
- STEM program with engineering focus
- Top programs in art, CAD, music and more

Athletics:

- 13 KHSAA sports and club/intramurals
- Team state championship in five different sports over the last 15 years; football and basketball state championships in 2017-18

Social and spiritual life:

- Dozens of clubs, including Robotics, Mock Trial, Corps of Cadets, Outdoor Pursuits and Magnified Giving Philanthropy Club.
- Brotherhood with fun traditions, supported by a school wide “House System”
- Sacraments, retreats, service, religion classes

Facilities:

- 30-acre campus, two miles from the Ohio River
- \$9 Million in capital facility improvements and expansions completed in 2018-19

Alumni:

- 95 percent attend four-year university and five percent military/other
- 95 percent receive academic or athletic scholarships
- More than 8,500 alumni including a NASA flight surgeon, a Navy Blue Angel, pro athletes, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, physicians, lawyers and other professionals across the region and beyond

YOU WILL BE BLESSED WHEN YOU GO IN, AND BLESSED WHEN YOU GO OUT.

— DEUTERONOMY 28:6



2

Nat'l Blue Ribbon School Awards

7

National Merit Finalists in 2018

26

Average ACT Score

The Covington Catholic High School “House of Blue” was established in 1925. New milestone achievements abound, but tradition, brotherhood, and spiritual foundation are what make our House the Colonel family’s home.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Covington Latin School — achieve, excel, belong

Exceptional students require exceptional educational opportunities. Ranked by Cincinnati Magazine and Niche as the #1 private school in Northern Kentucky, Covington Latin School has developed an unparalleled reputation by fostering an atmosphere of academic and spiritual leadership through its accelerated curriculum.

Acceleration is a distinctive hallmark of Covington Latin School and offers an avenue for bright and enthusiastic fifth-, sixth- and seventh-grade students to advance one to two years; to move at a pace, level and complexity appropriate to their individual needs, while surrounding them with like-minded and engaged peers who share their intellectual

curiosity.

And the results are impressive: the Covington Latin Class of 2018 averaged over \$212,000 per student in scholarship offers and had an average ACT® composite score of 30.2. Graduates go on to excel in the nation’s finest colleges and universities, with 98 percent holding bachelor’s degrees and 48 percent with advanced or terminal degrees (MD, Ph.D., JD, etc.). Alumni have compiled tremendous records of achievement and leadership in the Church, business, law, engineering, medicine, public service, education, science and technology sectors.

But a premier Catholic education is more than cultivating intellect and accomplishments alone. Covington Latin maintains a deep and abiding commitment to its Catholic identity. Our in-depth theology coursework builds on the foundations developed within families and provides comprehensive understanding of the Catholic faith. Our campus

ministry puts this knowledge into practice by through weekly all-school Masses at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, class retreats and humanitarian service work.

Wide-ranging athletic and extracurricular involvement reflects CLS students’ commitment to academic, social, spiritual and personal aspects of their total formation. A broad spectrum of clubs and organizations, ranging from ski club, Junior Classical League and Literary Guild, to academic team, broadcasting and drama clubs, reflect the wide-ranging extracurricular interests of our students.

We offer KHSAA-recognized varsity athletic teams in archery, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and volleyball. Latin School values the lessons taught by athletic participation: leadership, strength of character, teamwork and sportsmanship — respect for one’s opponents, acknowledgement of victory with humility and acceptance of defeat with grace.

Students are best prepared for college and the world beyond by having a strong spiritual foundation and learning in a supportive, diverse, coeducational atmosphere — reflective of, and therefore preparatory for, the world they will inherit. Our students come from varied economic, educational, cultural and geographic backgrounds, drawing enrollment from throughout Southern Ohio, Indiana and seven counties in Northern Kentucky.

We believe that financial wealth should not determine access to the best education, nor should it shape a learning community. Covington Latin offers tuition assistance to families across a broad spectrum of financial circumstances to ensure the Latin School experience is accessible to all deserving students.

There has never been a more exciting time to be at Covington Latin School and we invite families interested in exploring the possibilities Covington Latin may hold for their children, to attend the open house Sunday, Feb. 11. Sessions are held at 1 and 3 p.m. — reservations are available at covingtonlatin.org or by calling (859) 291-7044.

Article submitted by Covington Latin School.

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30.2 AVG. ACT

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DISCIPLINE,
AND
KNOWLEDGE

Open House 2/10 1 & 3 PM
Entrance Exam 2/23 9AM
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HC Holy Cross District High School — providing opportunity, developing dreams

Holy Cross District High School has a proud tradition of providing a strong faith-filled education for our students. Since our founding in 1929, the vision has transformed to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. Holy Cross has undergone a transformation that makes it, in some ways, unrecognizable to alumni from past eras. Our dream was to build our school into one of the strongest schools in the area. There have been expansions to curriculum, extracurricular activities and the campus. And yet, despite this growth, Holy Cross has retained the virtues and advantages of the small school, fondly remembered by alumni — small classes, a supportive family atmosphere, individual attention and a high level of involvement.

The student body of Holy Cross is as diverse as that of any school in the diocese, coming from an amazing range of socioeconomic and academic backgrounds. Over the years, the school’s curriculum has grown to match this diversity. Five levels of study and individualized scheduling allow our students to take courses that will challenge them while providing a genuine opportunity to achieve their future dreams. The flexibility and variety of the curriculum enable students to move back and forth among different levels as their preferences and development in various subjects dictate.

Holy Cross has continued to expand our curriculum. Offering only one A.P. course in 1994, Holy Cross now provides courses that will provide the highest level of challenges for students, enabling them to earn college credits. Advanced Placement courses are offered in English and physics. The calculus, American history, foreign policy, world history, as well as Spanish classes are dual credit courses accredited through Thomas More University. Students also have the opportunity to take courses through Northern Kentucky University in biology and French. Students can actually earn credits from Thomas More University and Northern Kentucky University that can transfer to other colleges. Students in A.P. courses take the national A.P. tests, with an increasing percentage of them earning college credit or exemptions. A skilled and motivated

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

ed student, taking full advantage of this curriculum, can get a tremendous head start on his or her college education, benefiting both monetarily and academically.

Additional programs are in place to aid students at Holy Cross. The award-winning Academic Enhancement Program, the first of its kind in the diocese, permits students with learning disabilities to have a full high school experience and receive the benefits of a Catholic education. Over the past four years the Academic Transitions Program has been developed to aid students who do not have a diagnosed disability but still need academic support in areas of time management, organizational and study skills as they transition into high school.

The benefits of Holy Cross’ diversified and challenging curriculum can be seen concretely in other areas as well. The average composite ACT score for last year’s senior class was 23, above the national (20.8) and state (20.2) averages. In addition, 35 students have been 30 or higher over the past five years, a threshold mark that all students dream of achieving. Moreover, the average composite ACT score of the top third of our students is over 27.5. College scholarships in general have also grown dramatically. Last year, 63 percent of the senior class accepted scholarships to over 30 different colleges and universities. These scholarship offers opens a tremendous opportunity for our students to achieve their dreams of a successful college career.

Holy Cross High School has achieved many dreams — expansion and growth of our campus, improvements to our facilities, and remarkable academic success and curriculum development. However despite all of this change, our distinctive character and core traditions have remained intact. The school’s priority is, and has always been, producing Catholic young adults and well-rounded citizens who care about and work well with others. Holy Cross offers a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, which allow students to develop and discover talents, friendships and experiences. Almost 90 percent of the students participate in at least one extracurricular; 75 percent on one of our 21 athletic teams. More important, every graduate of Holy Cross has performed a minimum of 100 hours of community service, with many students going far beyond that figure. National Honor Society members do at least 10 additional hours each year. Students do all of this service on their own time, not during school hours, helping make Holy Cross an even more integral part of Northern Kentucky and fostering a community spirit that will last a lifetime. What also lasts forever is a deep-rooted connection to the Holy Cross family, forged in a thousand different ways during a student’s four years here.

We provide our students with the best spiritual, educational and extra-curricular opportunities possible to equip them with a foundation so that they can develop their dreams into their brightest future.

Article submitted by Holy Cross District High School.



Five pillars define the mission at NCC: faith, family, academic excellence, character development and community stewardship
We believe in ... faith

Before even entering the building of Newport Central Catholic High School, visitors realize the importance of our faith. The giant white cross, positioned adjacent to Mary, can be seen from miles around. Our cross logo adorns our front brick entrance, while the Holy Mother looks out over the panoramic view of the region. At the base of our front steps sits tablets donning the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the corporal works of mercy.

Once in the classrooms, more than just tangible objects are present as a testament to our faith. Every single day our morning announcements start with a prayer. Furthermore, every single teacher in every single class begins with a prayer of their own. Christ was the greatest teacher and our own faculty and staff do their best to model their behaviors after him.

At the foundation of everything we stand for, you can find our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Our academics, character, community stewardship and family are all in the pursuit of eternal heaven.

We believe in ... family

At NCC, students develop a sense of family that extends beyond the traditional sense of the word. Teachers seek to engage students not only in instructional time but also in the hallways. A greeting while strolling through the halls by a faculty member is commonplace, as are the opportunities for support and socialization. Students will develop lifelong connections with classmates, faculty and alumni. Reunions every five years are routine in our community, as are alumni relationships beyond high school. Even more special are the “get togethers” like that of the Newport Catholic Class of 1968 that meets every Friday for breakfast at Sis’s in Newport.

We believe in ... academic excellence

We are proud to address the whole student, and through this we ensure academic rigor. There is ongoing discussion concerning academic rigor and a challenge to each student to perform to the best of his or her ability. This may mean

that students look to challenge themselves in our numerous AP courses, dual credit options or honors classes. On the other hand, some students need the support of the Academic Enhancement Program to meet their greatest standard. The students in between can find challenges in the variety of electives offered in our school curriculum.

We believe in ... character development

Our faculty and staff take the approach that our students are more than test scores. They are people and the future of our world. With this in mind, there is no greater investment of time, talent or treasure than in Catholic education. Looking at the character of our alumni it is obvious that students are not just prepared for their four years of high school or even just their next four years of college; we are preparing students for life and most importantly for heaven.

We believe in ... community stewardship

(Continued on page 20)

Crestview Hills 859.341.1881

Louisville 502.572.2500

Cincinnati 513.241.4110

Estate Planning Law. What You Need To Know.

Do You Have a Guardian for Your Children?

Every first in life deserves to be special, but it also plays an important role in planning for your future. Don’t wait until you’re ready to retire to get all of your affairs in order. And if you’re already there, make sure your assets are protected.

A common misconception is that estate planning is only for those that are older and wealthy. Many believe that “estate” lends itself to luxury cars, extravagant homes and a large pocketbook. The truth is, your age and the size or value of your estate is immaterial to the issue of whether or not your need to engage in estate planning of some sort.

Did you recently have a baby? Are your children getting ready to go away to college? Do you plan on purchasing a second home? These are milestones in life that deserve attention in your estate plan, and if you’re not attentive, your assets may end up being distributed based on the laws that govern the state in which you reside.

What Things Do I Need to Consider?

Who are your powers of attorney? Have you appointed guardians for your children? Who will raise them in the event of an unfortunate accident? What does it mean to fund your revocable trust and what is the important of it? Do you have the appropriate beneficiaries designated on your life insurance policies, pensions and IRAs? Getting all of these questions answered and in writing beforehand will help to eliminate a lot of headache, and possibly heartache, in the future.

What Happens If I’m Not Prepared?

Your family may have to endure a lengthy, public and possibly costly probate in order to administer the estate.

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THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT ■ Other DBL attorneys may provide estate planning services.

(Continued from page 19)

Our school would not exist if it were not for the generous giving of time, talent and treasure. Our foundations were built by a number of Catholic vocations that inspired alumni to support our missions. As a tribute to this, we encourage our students to give back through service projects both required and optional, and establish giving as a lifelong promise.

Through the daily focus on faith, family, academic excellence, character development and community stewardship, Newport Central Catholic High School helps students prepare for college, employment, life and eternal life.

Article submitted by Newport Central Catholic High School.



**Notre Dame Academy:
the all-girls school
advantage**

As Northern Kentucky's only Catholic college-preparatory high school exclusively for young women, Notre Dame Academy (NDA) provides a premier education empowering young women to become intelligent and compassionate leaders who make a difference in the world.

At Notre Dame Academy, it's all about girls and it has been since 1906, when the Sisters of Notre Dame first opened the doors to NDA. Although there was no research to support the value of an all-girls school a century ago, the sisters were keenly aware of the tremendous advan-

tages. Today we have both extensive research and over 100 years of experience to support the countless benefits of all-girls schools.

All-girls schools offer enormous value to their students, value that cannot be duplicated in other school settings. NDA students are empowered to transcend traditional stereotypical roles and they quickly become fearless, curious and enthusiastic in their learning. At NDA girls are the first ones to raise their hands in class, they are the leaders of the school, and they are the ones planning Masses and service projects. Every science research student, academic team captain, writer, singer, artist and athlete is a girl. They are more comfortable being themselves and take pride in who they are as students and young women. At Notre Dame Academy, our students are uniquely prepared to manage leadership positions in society.

Recent research by the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS) shows unequivocal support for the value of an all-girls educational environment. In particular, students at all-girls schools report:

- Having higher aspirations and greater motivation
- Being challenged to achieve more
- Engaging more actively in the learning process
- Participating in activities that prepare them for the world outside of school
- Feeling more comfortable being themselves and expressing their ideas
- Showing greater gains on core academic and life skills
- Being and feeling more supported in their endeavors

In another national study commissioned by the NCGS, the statistically significant edge all-girls school graduates have over their coed peers is clear. The report also notes that girls benefit from a single-gender education in the following ways:

- Greater academic engagement
- Higher SAT scores
- Greater interest in graduate school
- Higher academic self-confidence
- Greater interest in engineering careers
- Greater political engagement

The voices of young women are not silenced in the educational environment of an all-girls school. There is no reason for concern about teachers calling on boys more often than girls. At an all-girls school, young women learn self-confidence, leadership skills, and they excel in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and science.

At Notre Dame Academy, we strongly believe in the advantages of a single-gender learning environment for young women. While research supports our convictions, we have over 10,000 other reasons for our way of thinking — our graduates. NDA graduates are poised, confident and prepared for a life of service to others centered in the Catholic faith. They are empowered, loving and intellectually competent women committed to using their God-given gifts to make a difference in the world.

To learn more about The All-Girl Advantage visit www.ndapandas.org.

Article submitted by Notre Dame Academy



**St. Henry District High
School — 'Come as
many, leave as one'**

St. Henry District High School is not only prepping their current student population for life after high school, but also preparing for the continued growth in enrollment by adding new academic courses and academic support, extracurricular programs and finalizing an \$8 million construction project. In other words, it is a great time to be a part of the Crusader community!

Each year, St. Henry District High School continues to be ranked one of the top high schools academically in local and state numbers. The SHDHS faculty works together collaboratively in helping their students grow academically, personally and spiritually. To support this fact, here are some numbers from the previous four years:

- Over \$44 million in scholarship offers
- ACT composite average score of 26.3
- 19 Governor's Scholars Program graduates
- 10 National Merit Finalists and 13 National Merit Commended

(Continued on page 21)



**ST. PATRICK
SCHOOL**

St. Patrick School is a private, Roman Catholic,
PS-12 college-preparatory parochial school.

- Our mission is to provide a well-rounded educational experience that produces young men and women who model high academic standards, deep moral values, and strong personal character.
- We offer . . .
 - Small classes
 - Opportunities to shine in extracurricular activities
 - Dual credit courses
 - Development of each student
 - Spiritual growth
 - Service & leadership projects
 - Montessori preschool program
 - Dedicated faculty who believe their role at St. Patrick School is their vocation

**318 Limestone Street
Maysville, KY 41056
606-564-5949
www.stpatschool.com**



(Continued from page 20)

- 7 National AP Scholars / 69 AP Scholars with Distinction / 49 AP Scholars with Honors / 66 AP Scholars
- Out of more than 1300 AP Exams, 78.5 percent of students received a score of 3 or higher

The St. Henry athletic program’s continued success has brought many great opportunities for our student athletes! The weight room on campus was renovated over the summer adding new equipment for all students and faculty to access. Recently, St. Henry started a team in Esports that competes with other programs all across the country. The newly renovated St. Henry Athletic Complex (SHAC), located in Florence, has been a great addition for our volleyball, basketball, archery, baseball, softball and cheerleading teams. The SHAC comes equipped with three full sized basketball courts, four volleyball courts, two indoor batting cages and a concession area. Because of the SHAC, several new athletic camps will be offered during the summer of 2019.

As you walk through the hallways of St. Henry, there is a lot of excitement among the students with all the new construction on campus. All phases of the project will be completed by the fall of 2019. This project includes the following:

- 650-seat theater as well as a black box theater
- New classrooms for art, choir and band programs
- Suite and office spaces for Guidance and Enrollment departments
- Advancement Department offices
- Newly added and renovated science labs and classrooms to enhance our STEM program

The Department of Religious Formation, inside and outside the classroom, works with the St. Henry community through service, campus ministry and catechesis. It is during the all-school Masses, prayer services, retreats and community service opportunities where you can truly see our students coming together and growing from the teachings of our faith. St. Henry will end each day with a prayer saying, “Guide us as we leave today. May our actions reflect the faith we profess, giving glory and praise to you.” St. Henry District High School continues to prepare its students to lead within the community and understand the importance of what it means to be #CRUnited in Christ.

To experience the day in the life of a Crusader firsthand, families are encouraged to schedule a campus tour. Middle school families and potential transfer students can contact the Enrollment Office at www.shdhs.org or call (859) 525-5844.

Article submitted by St. Henry District High School.



St. Patrick School — ‘self-realization in Christ’

In 1860, or thereabouts, Father Peter McMahon was the pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Maysville. He began classes in the rectory. By 1902 the rectory educated eight grades, and in 1926 went to 12 grades. In 1956 the new school building was erected. In 1999, through the effort of the community and school families, a marvelous high school expansion was added.

No matter where the learning took place — run-down old homes, portable classrooms or the fine brick school now over 50 years old — St. Patrick School’s goal is, and always has been, to encourage the growth of each student spiritually, intellectually and physically.

St. Patrick School is one of only a handful of Catholic schools in the United States educating students from grades kindergarten to 12, supported by a single parish, not by a district. Our mission is to provide a positive educational experience, in which each student attains maximum self-realization in Christ, acquires a body of knowledge and develops values and ethical standards consistent with Catholic principles. These standards emphasize one’s relationship with God, to one’s self and to one’s neighbor.

The school endeavors to teach students the necessary balance between self-discipline and freedom that enables them to participate significantly in society. Our purpose is to educate students for full Christian participation in the

new millennium.

St. Patrick School is committed to forming students in the Christian tradition of reverence, peace, scholarship, service and community. Visit St. Patrick School, Maysville, to get a first-hand impression. Call for an appointment today, (606) 564-5949.

Article submitted by St. Patrick School, Maysville.



The Benedictine values of VMA

Scholarship, hospitality and service — these are the Benedictine values that form the foundation of a Villa Madonna Academy education and prepare Villa students to become lifelong learners, engaged citizens and good stewards.

Villa Madonna Academy is a unique community. It is the only Catholic, K-12 school in Northern Kentucky. Nestled on a hill overlooking the Ohio River, Villa welcomes students from Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and countries as far away as China and South Korea through its popular international education program.

What is Villa’s appeal? There are many things that make Villa special, but it begins with a creative approach to learning. A 9 to one student teacher ratio allows for hands-on, collaborative and investigative work that encourages students to reach their full potential. Classes are impactful, and students enjoy the full benefits of a Villa education beginning in kindergarten and continuing through senior year of high school.

Villa’s youngest students learn both French and Spanish in kindergarten, selecting one of the languages as first-grade students to learn through sixth grade. The K-6 students explore STEM through coding and engineering in the FAB Lab. There is also a newly expanded Global Literacy

program where students study three countries each year through an exploration of literature, art, music and sport.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students are part of Villa Madonna Academy High School where they engage in high school level math and world language courses to prepare them for a progressive, college-preparatory program. High school students are busy in the Makerspace utilizing their engineering skills to construct cardboard boats for the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta, and art students are creating award-winning watercolors for their portfolios. Students travel to France and Spain for a language immersion program and form new friendships with U.S. Benedictine high school students as part of the Benedictine Exchange Program.


Students challenge themselves outside the classroom, too. Villa has a no-cut policy that allows all students to be part of a team, and the Villa Vikings have a history of athletic success on the field, on the court and in the pool. High school and junior high students engage in Club Day each week where they participate in a variety of clubs that appeal to countless interests, and elementary students enjoy yearlong activities with their older buddies.

A Villa education is rooted in the value of service to others, and so students engage in the local and global community. Last year, each K-12 student averaged 43 hours of service. Students serve in hospitals, churches, food pantries and a variety of other agencies as they commit to making a difference in their community.

Since 1904, Villa Madonna Academy has been educating students in the Benedictine tradition. The Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery established a tradition of academic excellence. Villa graduates are doctors, veterinarians, engineers, actors and so much more. Discover the Villa difference. Schedule a visit today by contacting admissions director, Janet Baugh, at (859) 331-6333, ext. 139.

Article submitted by Villa Madonna Academy

Providing quality Christ-centered elementary education to children in our urban areas



Every day is Open House at the ACUE Schools.
To schedule a tour, please contact the school directly.

HOLY CROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Church Street, Latonia

(859) 581-6599

Please call to schedule a tour.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

16th Street, Covington

(859) 581-0290

Sunday, January 27, 12:00-1:30 PM

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOLS

Elementary (K-5) - Division Street, Bellevue

(859) 291-6937

Jr. High (6-8) - Washington Street, Newport

(859) 292-0487

Sunday, February 10, 12:30 – 2:30PM

PRINCE OF PEACE MONTESSORI

Pike Street, Covington

(859) 431-5153

Please call to schedule an observation.

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL

Grand Avenue, Covington

(859) 431-5987

Sunday, January 27, 10:00AM – 1:30PM

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL

Jefferson Avenue, Covington

(859) 261-5564

Sunday, January 27, 12:00-1:30 PM

We are grateful for the support of our parishes:

† Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption

† St. Ann Mission, Covington

† Mother of God, Covington

† Holy Cross, Latonia

† Sts. Boniface & James, Ludlow

† St. Benedict, Covington

† St. Anthony, Covington

† Our Savior, Covington


† Holy Spirit, Newport

† Divine Mercy, Bellevue

† St. Bernard, Dayton

† St. Augustine, Covington

† St. John, Covington



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The Alliance for Catholic Urban Education

The Diocese of Covington

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Thomas More University, then and now

The Sisters of Saint Benedict founded Thomas More University in 1921 as Villa Madonna College with the purpose of training women to be teachers. As enrollment grew, especially after becoming co-educational in 1945, it became apparent that the facilities were inadequate for the expanding academic programs.

In 1968, Villa Madonna College officially became Thomas More College and opened its doors on the new Crestview Hills campus. Now Thomas More University, the Catholic university of the Diocese of Covington, still serves the community and globe with the same mission on which the Benedictine Sisters founded Villa Madonna College — to serve as a Catholic higher education institution that challenges students of all faiths to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world and their responsibility to others.

The institution took on a transition to university this past October. The new university designation celebrated the evolution and success of the institution, and it positioned TMU to leverage its expanding academic offerings, including new graduate programs in ethical leadership studies and athletic training, as well as an array of online programs. The transition to university necessitated a new organizational structure designed to promote efficiency and career readiness by creating three distinct colleges and one new institute.

Thomas More University’s breadth of academic programs has been enriched by growth of its physical facilities. This fall, TMU opened a new residence hall on its campus, a

new STEM Outreach Center at its Biology Field Station on the Ohio River, and it further expanded its campus footprint with the Center for Health Sciences (in partnership with St. Elizabeth Healthcare) and a Performing Arts Laboratory both located within walking distance of the campus core. The university has also witnessed significant growth in its endowment, donor contributions, co-curricular programs and enrollment, welcoming the largest incoming class in the school’s history this fall.

TMU has opened doors for 100 percent of its traditional undergraduate students to complete experiential learning opportunities within the NKY community. It has awarded more than \$16 million in scholarships. TMU has celebrated 100 percent of its nursing graduates passing the NCLEX exam and 100 percent of education graduates passing the Praxis exam, with 95 percent of students gaining employment or enrolled in graduate school six months post-graduation. While attaining these ambitious goals, TMU has held the ranking of top college in Kentucky for return on investment for the past four years according to PayScale.com.

Article submitted by Thomas More University



The Thomas More College Board of Trustees announced Sept. 28, 2018, that the college would officially become Thomas More University effective Oct. 1. That afternoon they revealed the new campus sign donning the words: “Thomas More University.”

How do we teach children the skill of waiting?

Sheila Dumford
Messenger Contributor

I was recently booked on a flight that was cancelled because of bad weather. There were about 300 people on the plane, and all of us had to re-book. There was a long line at the check-in desk, and, as I waited, just as frustrated and unhappy as everyone else, it was interesting to observe my fellow passengers and see how they were handling the situation. There were several people in the line who could not handle having to wait. They pushed in front of others, they paced, and they told anyone who would listen how important it was for them to get to their destination. Several people lost their temper with airline employees.

This unpleasant scene made me think of one of the basic, though overlooked, skills that our children need, and that is the ability to wait and to tolerate frustration. This ability is necessary in order for children to develop persistence, an essential ingredient of overall success. We live in a world where convenience is a watchword. If we

want a gallon of milk at 11 p.m. the grocery store is open. Credit cards mean that we don’t need to save for large purchases; we can buy right away and worry about paying later. The internet has made communication and entertainment available instantly.

How do we teach children the skill of waiting? By not instantly responding to their every wish. Young children have very little ability to tolerate frustration, and tend to whine and cry when they do not get what they want immediately. That’s not a reason to give it to them. Parents are teaching the skill when they refuse to interrupt a phone call to attend to a non-emergency, or say, “I’ll take you to the park/mall/your friend’s house after I have finished what I’m doing.” Parents can respond sympathetically when they hear “But I want to go now!” by saying, “Yes, I know that it is very hard to wait.” Parents can also talk about waiting and help the child through the waiting time through planning. On a trip to the dentist’s or doctor’s office there may be some waiting involved. To prepare the child, the parent may say, “We are going to the doctor and we may have to wait a few minutes. I know that waiting is hard for you. Would you like to bring a book or a toy to play with while you wait?” Today’s parents are finding that their smart phones provide instant entertainment and distraction for moments such as sitting in a waiting room.

Electronic gadgets are so enticing, and give such immediate feedback that children become dependent on them at these times, and for that reason parents may want to limit their use.

For older children long-term projects, such as sewing, knitting or model making help teach how to practice delayed gratification. A child has to wait for the glue to dry on her model before she can do the next step. Sewing and knitting projects take time. It’s also important for parents to set a good example, for instance when stuck in traffic or in a long line at the grocery store.

In today’s environment of instant gratification, parents themselves may be less accepting of having to wait, and have a hard time when waiting cannot be avoided. Children watch their parents closely, and they learn from them how to respond to annoying or frustrating situations, even when parents are not consciously attempting to teach.

For more information about Catholic Charities services call Client Care at (859) 581-8974 or visit www.CovingtonCharities.org.

Sheila Dumford, MSW, is a school counselor and the school-based counseling supervisor at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington.

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Catholic Schools around the Diocese of Covington

Below are just a few select pictures of Catholic school students in the Diocese of Covington engaged in Learning, Serving, Leading and Succeeding. National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) will be celebrated this year Jan. 27–Feb. 2.

Lead
(right) Father Ross Kelsch, parochial vicar, St. Timothy Parish, Union, visits the first-grade class at St. Timothy School to read them a story about Advent and answers any questions they have.



Succeed
(above) St. Therese 5th grade student Dylan shakes hands with Mr. Young after winning the school Geography Bee.



Learn
(above) Fifth-grade students at St. Patrick School, Maysville, use M&M candy to build Bohr models of various atoms. Afterwards, they eat the subatomic particles!



Lead
(above) Fifth-grade volleyball players at Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger, help younger athletes to learn about the game of volleyball during the fall volleyball camp.



Serve
(left) All the students at St. Edward School, Cynthiana, participated in a clothing drive, organized by one a fourth-grade student, Mollie, and her family, for the local community Clothing Closet.



Pray
(right) Students at St. Augustine School, Augusta, participate in an all-school prayer service.

Learn
(below) Students at Prince of Peace Montessori, Covington, learn about the “Timeline of Life” and all of God’s creation.

Primary schools to host open houses for Catholic Schools Week

The following primary schools in the Diocese of Covington are hosting an open house for prospective students during or around Catholic Schools Week. Catholic Schools Week (CSW) will be celebrated this year Jan. 27–Feb. 2. Sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association, CSW is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. In addition to hosting open houses, schools typically

observe the week with Masses, special themes for each day and fun activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation. This year’s theme is “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”

The open houses listed below are the ones that the *Messenger* was made aware of at the time of this publication. For more information, contact individual schools via their website or phone.

- Jan. 27**
St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill, 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

St. Augustine School, Covington, 12–1:30 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament School, Ft. Mitchell, 10:30 a.m.

St. Henry School, Elsmere, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Holy Family School, Covington, 12–1:30 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington, 1:30–3 p.m.

St. Joseph School, Cold Spring, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

- Jan. 27 (continued)**
St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs, 12:30–2 p.m.

St. Mary School, Alexandria, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger, 12:30–3 p.m.

St. Paul School, Florence, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Sts. Peter and Paul School, California, 12–2 p.m.

St. Therese School, Southgate, 1–3 p.m.

St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

St. Timothy School Union, 1–4 p.m.

- Jan. 30**
St. Philip School, Melbourne, 6–8 p.m.

- Feb. 3**
Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills, 1–2:30 p.m.
(RSVP at admissions@villamadonna.net.)

Feb. 6
St. Joseph Academy, Walton, 6–8 p.m.

Feb. 10
Covington Latin School (for students in grades 5-7), Sessions, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Holy Trinity Elementary, Bellevue, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Junior High, Newport, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Call to schedule a visit:
Holy Cross Elementary School, Latonia, 581-6599

Prince of Peace Montessori, Covington, 431-5153



Serve
(above) All the students at Holy Family School, Covington, participated in a canned food drive and collection this past Advent season. Pictured here, some of the first-grade students visiting the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption’s St. Vincent de Paul food pantry to learn what happens after the food has been donated and how the St. Vincent de Paul society volunteers help those in need in the community.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic high school gives students with intellectual disabilities a home

Kelly Sankowski
Catholic News Service

FORESTVILLE, Md. — When asked what his favorite thing is about attending Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, 10th-grade student Raymond Tetschner said: “It is a family.”

Raymond is the first student to be a part of the school’s new St. Andre Program, which is designed to support students with intellectual disabilities in an inclusive setting.

“I’ve been in Catholic education for 30 years, and I think a Catholic school should be a place for all children,” said Marco Clark, president and CEO of Bishop McNamara. “Often, there are barriers of socioeconomic, barriers of learning styles, barriers of geography. One of those barriers should not be intellectual disabilities. If we are truly a pro-life community, that means we need to be pro-lifespan.”

The new program, which complements the school’s already existing St. Joseph Program for students with high-incidence disabilities, has been in the works for years as the school has been researching how to develop it.

Abigail Greer, the school’s director of student support, and Anne Dillon, who now serves as the director of special education for the Archdiocese of Washington, visited the Academy



CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Catholic Standard

Raymond Tetschner, center, studies with some of his fellow students in 2018 at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md. He is the first student to be a part of the school’s new St. Andre Program, designed to support students with intellectual disabilities in an inclusive setting.

met, Raymond applied to the school and was accepted, and the family moved to be closer to Bishop McNamara.

“We were ready to say ‘yes’ and they were ready to say ‘yes’ to us,” Greer told the Catholic Standard, the archdiocesan newspaper.

To fund the new program, Bishop McNamara High School received a grant from the Catholic Coalition of Special

Education, which has awarded nearly 60 grants to 30 Catholic schools in eight Maryland counties totaling more than \$1 million since 2004. The program also received funding from Tribute 21, a component fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, dedicated to raising awareness and raising funds to support those with Down syndrome.

Since Holy Cross, an all-girls school, had the only inclusion program of this type in the Archdiocese of Washington, there had been no high-school level inclusion program in the archdiocese for boys with intellectual disabilities before this year.

Raymond and his parents work with his teachers to develop his schedule, which includes a mixture of college preparatory classes, electives and one-on-one instruction with the coordinator of the St. Andre Program. Raymond said his favorite class is theology because he likes to talk about God.

Michelle Tetschner said if her son attended a public school, he would have been segregated from the rest of his peers, while at Bishop McNamara he is in the same classroom as the other students for most subjects.

“Being fully included not only helps Raymond. It helps other kids as well,” she said, making them less fearful of interacting with people who have disabilities.

When Raymond first began at the school, Tetschner said the students seemed a little fearful, but now that he is in their classes, “it is so heartwarming to see one of the big football players yell down the hall, ‘Hi Raymond!’”

“They are starting to take an interest in him and be friends,” she said.

Outside the classroom, Raymond participates in school life too. He is a manager of the football team, has a role in the school play and is a choir member.

“Raymond has made our school better,” said Clark. “We learn to see the dignity of all people.”

He said the future of the program is “whatever God has in store for us,” but added that he knows there is a large community of people who are looking for a Catholic school for children with disabilities.

“We will continue to grow; we will continue to keep our doors open to more students, because we know it is the right thing to do,” said Clark, adding that he was grateful to the Tetschner family for believing in Bishop McNamara High School.

He understands fears that some schools face about starting a similar program, but he thinks it is necessary to “just plunge forward, knowing the Holy Spirit is guiding you and there is grace to be gained, and figure it out as you go along.”

Kelly Sankowski is a reporter for the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Covington welcome you to discover how they are raising the standards by incorporating faith, academics and service in education. Visit them on the web or better yet attend an open house. Private tours are also available. Contact the school of your choice to arrange a tour.

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Holy Trinity Elementary, Bellevue (859) 291-6937 www.holytrinity-school.org

Holy Trinity Junior High School, Newport (859) 292-0487 www.holytrinity-school.org

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington (859) 689-4303 www.ihm-ky.org

Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger (859) 371-8100 www.mqhschool.com

Prince of Peace School, Covington (859) 431-5153 www.popcov.com

St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright (859) 261-0543 http://school.saintagnes.com

St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill (859) 431-5987 www.saintanthonytaylormill.org

St. Augustine School, Augusta (606) 756-3229 www.saintaugustineaugusta.org

St. Augustine School, Covington (859) 261-5564 www.staugustines.net

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St. Cecilia School, Independence (859) 363-4314 www.stceciliashool.net

St. Edward School, Cynthiana (859) 234-2731 www.stedwardky.org/school

St. Henry School, Elsmere (859) 342-2551 www.sthenryschool.net

St. Joseph Academy, Walton (859) 485-6444 www.sjawalton.com

St. Joseph School, Camp Springs (pre-school) (859) 635-2491 www.stjosephcampsspringsschool.com

St. Joseph School, Cold Spring (859) 441-2025 www.stjosephcoldspring.com

St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs (859) 578-2742 www.sjsccrescent.com

St. Mary School, Alexandria (859) 635-9539 www.saintmaryparish.com/school

St. Patrick School, Maysville (606) 564-5949 www.stpatschool.com

St. Paul School, Florence (859) 647-4070 www.stpaulschool.net

Sts. Peter and Paul School, California (859) 635-4382 www.stspp.com

St. Philip School, Melbourne (859) 441-3423 www.stphilipky.org

St. Pius X School, Edgewood (859) 341-4900 www.stpiusx.com

St. Therese School, Southgate (859) 441-0449 www.sainttherese.ws

St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas (859) 572-4641 www.sttschool.org

St. Timothy School, Union (859) 384-5100 https://saint-timothy-school.org

Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills (859) 331-6333 www.villamadonna.org

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Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills (859) 491-2247 www.covcath.org

Covington Latin School, Covington (859) 291-7044 www.covingtonlatin.org

Holy Cross District High School, Covington (859) 431-1335 www.hchscov.com

Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport (859) 292-0001 www.ncchs.com

Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills (859) 261-4300 www.ndapandas.org

St. Henry District High School, Erlanger (859) 525-0255 www.shdhs.org

St. Patrick School, Maysville (606) 564-5949 www.stpatschool.com

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Catholic Schools Week celebrated Jan. 27-Feb. 2

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — National Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated across the country Jan. 27-Feb. 2 this year with the theme: “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”

“Young people today need Catholic education more than ever,” said Bishop Michael C. Barber of Oakland, California, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Catholic Education. He also stressed that “being rooted in faith does not endanger the academic quality of Catholic schools, but in fact is their very motivation for excellence in all things.”

In a statement released for the observance, he said: “Following Christ’s example of loving and serving all people, Catholic schools proudly provide a well-rounded education to disadvantaged families, new arrivals to America and to all who seek a seat in our schools. Since the inception of Catholic schools in our country, we have always sought to welcome families of all backgrounds while maintaining our principles and teaching in a spirit of charity.”

Nearly 1.8 million students are currently educated in 6,352 Catholic schools in the United States.

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States, sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the USCCB’s Secretariat of Catholic Education. Schools typically observe the annual weeklong celebration with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community mem-

bers.

For the second year, the NCEA will lead an online campaign called the “Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools” Jan. 29 to Jan. 30 with FACTS



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

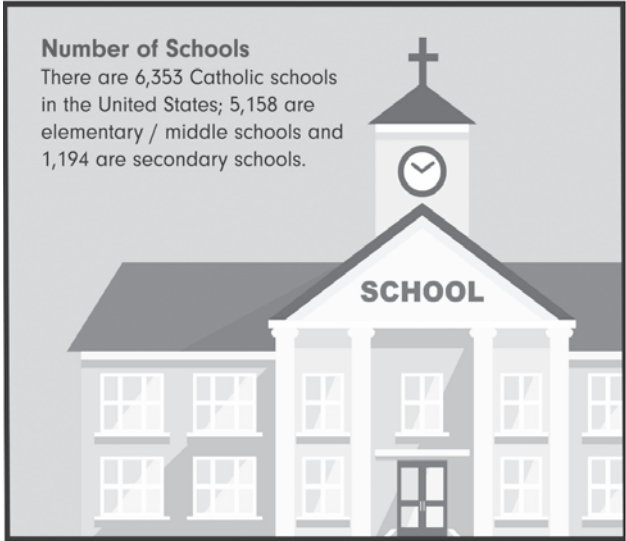
A teacher at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson, Ky., helps third-grade students with a reading lesson March 28, 2018. National Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated across the country Jan. 27-Feb. 2 this year with the theme: “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”

Management Co., which helps with tuition management at schools. The 24-hour period, which begins at noon (EST) Jan. 29, is one way to support development programs in Catholic schools throughout the country.

Last year, more than \$850,000 was donated to 539 participating Catholic schools, six dioceses and the NCEA. Information about the campaign is

available at www.ncea.org/csw/manygifts.

During the week, Catholic schools plan to share their Catholic Schools Week celebrations on social media using #CSW19. The NCEA and the USCCB education secretariat also will highlight Catholic education’s strengths, successes and stories on their Twitter profiles: @NCEATalk and @USCCBCatholicEd.



NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Diocesan Policy states that “No person shall be refused admission to any church, school or institution or membership in any Catholic society or organization solely on the grounds of race or nationality.” In keeping with this policy, the schools under the auspices of the Department of Catholic Education, Diocese of Covington, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national or ethnic origin. Students of any race who meet the individual school’s eligibility requirements are admitted to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to students at that school and that school does not discriminate on the basis of race in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs and other school-administered programs. The names and addresses of these schools are listed below.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Bishop Brossart - 4 Grove Street, Alexandria, Kentucky 41001-1295
- Covington Catholic - 1600 Dixie Highway, Covington, Kentucky 41011-2797
- Covington Latin - 21 East Eleventh Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011-3196
- Holy Cross - 3617 Church Street, Covington, Kentucky 41015-1498
- Newport Central Catholic - 13 Carothers Road, Newport, Kentucky 41071-2497
- Notre Dame Academy - 1699 Hilton Drive, Covington, Kentucky 41011-2705
- St. Henry - 3755 Scheben Drive, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018-1073
- St. Patrick - 318 Limestone Street, Maysville, Kentucky 41056-1248
- Villa Madonna Academy - 2500 Amsterdam Road, Villa Hills, Kentucky 41017-3798

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Blessed Sacrament - 2407 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky 41017-2994
- Holy Cross - 3615 Church Street, Covington, Kentucky 41015-1430
- Holy Family - 338 East Sixteenth Street, Covington, Kentucky 41014-1304
- Holy Trinity Elementary - 235 Division Street, Bellevue, Kentucky 41073-1101
- Holy Trinity Junior High - 840 Washington Street, Newport, Kentucky 41071-2485
- Immaculate Heart of Mary - 5876 Veterans Way, Burlington, Kentucky 41005-8824
- Mary Queen of Heaven - 1130 Donaldson Road, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018-1088
- Prince of Peace - 625 Pike Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011-2798
- St. Agnes - 1322 Sleepy Hollow Road, Ft. Wright, Kentucky 41011-2795
- St. Anthony - 485 Grand Avenue, Covington, Kentucky 41015-0219
- St. Augustine - 203 East Fourth Street, Augusta, Kentucky 41002-1117
- St. Augustine - 1840 Jefferson Avenue, Covington, Kentucky 41014-1165
- St. Catherine of Siena - 23 Rossford Avenue, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky 41075-1298
- St. Cecilia - 5313 Madison Pike, Independence, Kentucky 41051-0186
- St. Edward - 107 North Walnut Street, Cynthiana, Kentucky 41031-1225
- St. Henry - 3825 Dixie Highway, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018-1863
- St. Joseph - 6829 Four Mile Road, Camp Springs, Kentucky 41059-9746
- St. Joseph - 4011 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076-1817
- St. Joseph - 2474 Lorraine Avenue, Crescent Springs, Kentucky 41017-1439
- St. Joseph Academy - 48 Needmore Street, Walton, Kentucky 41094-1028
- St. Mary - 9 South Jefferson Street, Alexandria, Kentucky 41001-1398
- St. Patrick - 318 Limestone Street, Maysville, Kentucky 41056-1248
- St. Paul - 7303 Dixie Highway, Florence, Kentucky 41042-2126
- Sts. Peter & Paul - 2160 California Crossroads, California, Kentucky 41007-9713
- St. Philip - 1400 Mary Ingles Hwy., Melbourne, Kentucky 41059-9701
- St. Pius X - 348 Dudley Road, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky 41017-2699
- St. Therese - 2516 Alexandria Pike, Southgate, Kentucky 41071-3298
- St. Thomas - 428 So. Ft. Thomas Avenue, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky 41075-2295
- St. Timothy - 10272 Hwy 42, Union, Kentucky 41091
- Villa Madonna Academy - 2500 Amsterdam Road, Villa Hills, Kentucky 41017-3798



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March for Life

(Continued from page 1)

those born between 1980 and 2000, that generation is called the ‘Me, Me, Me, Generation’ — three times as bad — more about me, more about my wants, more about what makes me happy.”

Referring to the Gospel reading, where the Apostles are arguing over who is the greatest, Bishop Foys said, “Neither the Millennials, nor the Baby Boomers, have the market on being selfish, being competitive in the worst sense of the word.

“Abortion, like any sin, is born of a desire to serve ‘my’

needs — I choose that death over life. For 46 years our country has said it is perfectly okay to kill innocent life,” he said.

“We gather today as we do every year not so much to protest ... but to stand up for life. God is the only giver of life. God, and only God, has the right to take a life ... our one nation under God seems to have forgotten that.”

Bishop Foys ended his homily offering hope for the future.

“Even though whole generations have been characterized as selfish and greedy and non-caring there are bright spots. We must work for a change in the law, certainly, but even more importantly a change in the heart. Even if abortion is legal it doesn’t make it right. What we have to do is be witnesses to that and to teach others in a caring and lov-

ing manner; to restore the values and principles of this country; to come back to an understanding that we are one nation, under God, caring for, loving and supporting each other.

“What we do here today in church before we go out in the streets of Washington, D.C. is important, it is significant. The fact that so many of you have come out to participate in this, to make your voice heard, is a blessing in itself. Today the focus is not on us, it is not on me, and it’s not on you, today the focus is on life; the life that God gives to each of us, a life that only he gives and only he takes. So we pray for a change of heart, a change of mind, a change of attitude. We pray always that God who begins any good work in us will bring it to completion.”

Resource not risk: Pope reflects on using social media for good

Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Social media are anti-social, anti-human and anti-Christian when they are used to increase differences, fuel suspicion, spread lies and vent prejudice, Pope Francis said in his message for World Communications Day.

The Catholic Church and all people of goodwill see great potential in social media when the “net” and “networks” bring people together; help them share useful information and educate one another; he said.

But, the pope wrote, people’s “social web identity is too often based on opposition to the other; the person outside the group: We define ourselves starting with what divides us rather than with what unites us, giving rise to suspicion and to the venting of every kind of prejudice — ethnic, sexual, religious and other.”

Pope Francis’ message for World Communications Day, which most dioceses will celebrate June 2, cites a passage from Ephesians, “We are members one of another,” and focuses on moving “from social network communities to the human community.”

Although the pope was in Panama for World Youth Day, the Vatican kept its tradition of releasing the pope’s message Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists.

Using social networks to form and promote “community,” the pope said, implies encouraging interaction, support and solidarity.

Pope Francis’ latest foray into social media aims to promote that. During his Angelus address Jan. 20, he launched a new mobile app and online platform where he shares his prayer intentions, and people around the world share theirs. Then everyone can “click to pray” with one another.

Jesuit Father Federic Fornos, international director of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, said that in the first three days, 167,000 people downloaded the Click to Pray app, and the “click to pray” button on individual prayer intentions was clicked more than 1 million times Jan. 20-22.

The online and on-phones prayer community joins the much larger papal social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram.

Begun under Pope Benedict XVI, the @Pontifex Twitter account operates in English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French, Polish, Latin, German and Arabic. As of Jan. 23, the accounts had a combined total of almost 48 million followers.

The Instagram account, Franciscus, opened in March 2016 and has more than 5.8 million followers.

On both platforms, the pope has a higher than average “engagement rate,” which goes beyond how many people see the posts to how many take the time to comment, “like,” “retweet” or share.

According to Twipu, a site that tracks Twitter statistics, each of Pope Francis’ tweets generates an average of 935 replies, 7,998 retweets and 36,750 likes.

In an early December article, the Twiplomacy website

listed Pope Francis as No. 4 on the list of the “most followed world leaders on Instagram.” He came behind Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and U.S. President Donald Trump.

More importantly from the point of view of his Communications Day focus on community, Pope Francis is also in fourth place on world leaders’ Instagram interactions. Each photo or video posted by the Vatican, the site said, garners an average of 198,432 interactions.



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis is pictured next to Jesuit Father Frederic Fornos, head of the international Apostleship of Prayer, during the Angelus led from the window of his apartment overlooking St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Jan. 20. The pope used a tablet held by Father Fornos to launch “Click to Pray,” a new mobile app and online platform.

On Twitter, Twiplomacy said, @Pontifex is the second most-followed world leader after Trump and comes in third — behind Modi and Trump — on the list of “most influential,” which is an interaction rate based on the sum of comments, retweets and likes divided by the number of tweets and the average number of followers.

“Twiplomacy Study 2018,” an annual review of diplomacy through social media conducted by the BCW international media consulting firm, said, “The U.S. president has also changed the tone of discourse on Twitter; frequently insulting his opponents and lampooning foreign leaders.”

Obviously, Pope Francis’ social media accounts do not do that.

In his World Communications Day message, Pope Francis said that forming strong communities, even online, requires people who are “animated by feelings of trust” and are pursuing a common objective. “The community as a network of solidarity requires mutual listening and dialogue based on the responsible use of language.”

And he cautioned that while social media can promote “encounter,” they also can “increase self-isolation,” a risk to which young people are particularly vulnerable.

Opposing cyberbullying, isolation and division, he said, Christians are called to use online resources “to invest in relationships and to affirm the interpersonal nature of our humanity, including in and through the network.”

What is more, Pope Francis said, when online “we Christians are called to manifest that communion which marks our identity as believers. Faith itself, in fact, is a relationship, an encounter; and under the impetus of God’s love, we can communicate, welcome and understand the gift of the other and respond to it.”

Virtual communities are worthy of the name commu-

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Bulletin

■ January bulletin: posted, Sunday, Jan. 6; due Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Virtus Trainings

- Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Ft. Mitchell (Training Room) Monday, Feb. 4, 6:30–10 p.m.
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington, Latonia (Mary Moser Room) Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1:30–5 p.m.

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- St Pius X Parish, Edgewood (Meeting rooms 1-2-3) Monday, Feb. 18, 6:30–9:30 p.m..

Note: If your **Training Tab** is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish/school/institution. For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

“**Holmes & Watson**” (Columbia) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s legendary detective and his doctor sidekick are given a comedic makeover in this mindless, raucous, and exceedingly vulgar film, written and directed by Etan Cohen. Sherlock Holmes is feted on his birthday by Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace. A dead body tumbles out of the enormous cake, bearing an ominous note from Holmes’ archenemy, Professor James Moriarty, threatening the monarch’s life. With his trusty sidekick, Dr. John Watson, at his side, Holmes begins the search for clues. Recurring crude sexual language and bathroom humor, including references to masturbation, drug references, comic violence, and occasional rough and crude language. CNS: L; MPAA: PG-13.

“**Escape Room**” (Columbia) Routine thriller in which, lured by a \$10,000 reward, a seemingly random group of people (most prominently a troubled slacker and a shy college student) participate in what purports to be an immersive game but turns out to be a deadly struggle for survival. Though the victims of the deception generally bond and Bragi Schut and Maria Melnik’s script attempts, halfheartedly, to weigh the consequences of selfishness against the fruits of altruism, director Adam Robitel’s film is ultimately little more than a less disturbing take on the “Saw” franchise. Since the mayhem is mostly nongraphic and everyone on screen is too preoccupied to think about romance, much less lust, it’s mainly the exclamations to which their panic gives rise that put this out of reach for kids and may that be distasteful for many grown-ups. Brief but sometimes harsh violence with little gore, occasional sexual jokes and references, frequent profanities, a milder oath, at least one rough term, pervasive crude and crass language.

CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

“**The Favourite**” (Fox Searchlight) This costume comedy-drama, directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, purports to tell the true story of a royal love triangle involving 18th-century British monarch Queen Anne and two of the women in her life: Lady Sarah Churchill, duchess of Marlborough, and Sarah’s ambitious cousin, Abigail Hill. Playing fast and loose with the facts, and assuming the close friendships recorded by history were actually passionate lesbian romances, the film ramps up the sex, vulgarity and scheming in a perverse spin on the 1950 classic “All About Eve” as Sarah, a veritable puppeteer telling the sovereign what to say and do, is challenged by Abigail, a devious woman who has fallen on hard times and whose veneer of innocence masks her determination to restore her station in society, whatever the cost. Strong sexual content, including homosexual activity, full nudity and masturbation, adult themes, occasional profane and rough language. CNS: O; MPAA: R.

“**On the Basis of Sex**” (Focus) This legal drama proves that even though a tax case may be destined to serve as a landmark for equal treatment under the law — as well as a breakthrough for future Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg — in the absence of compelling dialogue or performances, it’s nearly impossible to keep stodginess at bay. Director Mimi Leder and screenwriter Daniel Stiepleman (Ginsburg’s nephew) have ameliorated the deficiencies somewhat through discussions of legal morality — and Ginsburg’s record as a wife and mother, nursing her husband through a cancer scare, attending his law school classes as well as her own and later raising a son and a daughter, is undeniably impressive. But the film is an unapologetically heroic narrative that lacks only a college fight song to pump up emotion at its conclusion. Possibly acceptable for mature adolescents, though they’re

For full reviews of each of these films — go to catholic-news.com and click on “Extras,” then choose “Movies.”

Catholic News Service (CNS) classifications are:



- A-I — general patronage;
- A-II — adults and adolescents;
- A-III — adults;
- L — limited adult audience (films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling);
- O — morally offensive.

likely to regard this profile more as a homework assignment than a piece of entertainment. A scene of marital sensuality, at least one use of profanity, a couple of milder oaths, a single rough and several crude terms. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

“**The Upside**” (STX) Odd-couple mix of comedy and drama in which Kevin Hart is a recent parolee for various crimes who desperately needs employment to avoid returning to prison and Bryan Cranston is an uber-wealthy quadriplegic who requires a caregiver. Director Neil Burger and screenwriter Jon Hartmere have remade a popular 2011 French film “Les Intouchables,” itself taken from Philippe Pozzo di Borgo’s 2001 book, “Le Second Souffle” (The Second Wind), based on a real-life relationship. But there’s more than a whiff of the “white savior” formula to the stereotyped proceedings, which also trade in such dubious humor as that surrounding the changing of a catheter. Benignly viewed marijuana use, sexual humor and references, fleeting rough and crude language. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

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NEWS BRIEFS

National/World

N.Y. bishops decry new law signed on Roe anniversary to expand abortion

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York state “has become a more dangerous one for women and their unborn babies” with the passage of a bill to expand abortion called the Reproductive Health Act and Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s signing it into law, said the New York State Catholic Conference. “Today, New York state has added a sad chapter to this already solemn date of Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade,” the conference said in a statement. “Many of the state senators and Assembly members who voted for this abortion expansion are mothers themselves, who felt their child toss, turn and kick in their womb, and delighted in the progress of their pregnancy,” the conference continued. “Many others, as well as our governor, are

fathers, who held their partner’s hand as they viewed the ultrasound videos, watched their child squirm and rejoiced at the first sound of a heartbeat,” it said. “Many of these same officials were themselves born into less-than-perfect conditions — poverty, health problems, disabilities, broken families. “All overcame these issues to rise to leadership in our state, because their parents chose life for them,” it added. The new law, which was fully backed by Cuomo, a Catholic.

Pro-life movement is growing, inspiring ‘a rising generation,’

WASHINGTON — The pro-life movement has touched hearts, changed lives and saved lives in the 46 years since the Supreme Court handed down its Roe decision legalizing abortion on demand, Vice President Mike Pence told the 37th annual Rose Dinner in Washington Jan. 18. “Our movement is as vibrant as the values that we advocate,” he said, delivering a keynote speech at the dinner, which is sponsored by the March

for Life organization. “We’re growing and we’re inspiring a rising generation with our message of generosity and compassion, and life is winning in America because of all of you.” He repeated the message he delivered to the March for Life rally earlier in the day: “We’re the Pences and we’re pro-life.” He and his wife, second lady Karen Pence, were a surprise addition to the roster of speakers at the annual rally on the National Mall earlier that day. Mrs. Pence also was at the Rose Dinner. The night before, the Pences also were surprise guests at a charity gala for Save the Storks, a pro-life organization based in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Founded in 2012, Save the Storks partners with pregnancy resource centers around the country and provides vans fully equipped with ultrasound machines that take resources to women, especially those in underserved neighborhoods.

Archbishop reflects on effects of racism, calls for ‘repentance, action’

BALTIMORE — Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori has issued his second pastoral reflection in 12 months on the effects of racism on society. Titled “The Journey to Racial Justice: Repentance, Healing and Action” the pastoral was released at St. Bernardine Parish in West Baltimore Jan. 21, the day the nation commemorates the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The civil rights leader was born Jan. 15, 1929, and assassinated April 4, 1968. “Even as we Americans celebrate the inspiring example of Dr. King today, we feel the shame of witnessing public demonstrations of racism, anti-Semitism and intolerance toward newcomers to our country such as we have not seen in decades,” Archbishop Lori said at St. Bernardine. “Likewise, there seems to be no lessening of the institutional racism we see all around us — whether in the criminal justice system, employment, health care, education or political enfranchisement,” he said. The announcement of the pastoral was to have been followed by a peace walk through the neighborhood, commemorating eight recent homicide victims in the area. However, due to the city’s “code blue” warning because of the subzero wind chill, the prayer service was held indoors, during which Deacon W. Paul Barksdale read the homicide victims’ names. The program concluded with the Holy Spirit Prayer and the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

No place for ‘religious test’ in government, says Senate in unanimous vote

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate late Jan. 16 unanimously adopted a resolution “to reaffirm religious liberty and condemn religious tests for federal officials.” “This isn’t a Republican belief, this isn’t a Democratic belief, this is an American belief,” said Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Nebraska, who sponsored the resolution. “This is a super-basic point: no religious tests,” he said in his remarks from the floor before the vote. “If someone has a problem with this resolution, what other parts of the Constitution are you against? Freedom of the press? Women’s right to vote? Freedom of speech? This isn’t hard,” he added. “No religious tests for serving on the federal bench. We should in this body rebuke these anti-Catholic attacks.” The resolution was in response to the anti-Catholic line of questioning faced by one of President Donald Trump’s judicial

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nominees before the Senate Judiciary Committee: Brian Buescher, a Catholic nominated for a judgeship for the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska. During the Nov. 28 confirmation hearing, committee member Sen. Kamala Harris, D-California, expressed concern about Buescher being a member of the Knights of Columbus because of the organization's opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage

Report says accurate number of children separated at border is unknown

WASHINGTON — A report published Jan. 17 says the number of immigrant children separated from their parents at the border last year is unknown and the number given out by government officials at the end of 2018, saying that 2,737 children were separated, is not accurate. The number may be much higher. The separations officially reported were those that took place between July and November 2018, when then-U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced what he called a zero tolerance policy, which meant that undocumented migrant parents caught crossing the border with their children would risk being separated from them. After some lawsuits were filed and much public outcry, the policy was reversed. But the report from the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services, says children had been separated from parents or guardians long before then. Several Catholic bishops last year spoke out against the separations. “Refugee children belong to their parents, not to the government or other institution. To steal children from their parents is a grave sin, immoral (and) evil,” said San Antonio’s Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller on June 14 via Twitter.

Bishops express unity with Israeli Christians, warn of Palestinian crisis

JERUSALEM — Bishops from North America, Europe and South Africa who joined this year’s Holy Land Coordination reiterated their solidarity with all of Israel’s Christians and called for their equal inclusion in Israeli society. “Throughout our visit, we have experienced how there are Israeli citizens from many different backgrounds who coexist and work together for the common good of their society. We recognize that Israel was founded on the stated principles of equality between all its citizens. This urgently needs to become the lived reality,” they said in the final statement, issued Jan. 18. “We stand with Israel’s Christians and all those challenging discrimination, in support of their call to protect the country’s pluralism.” The nation-state law, which was passed as one of Israel’s Basic Laws by the Israeli Knesset last July, holds Israel as “the national home of the Jewish people” and states that “the right to exercise national self-determination in the state of Israel is unique to the Jewish people.” In addition, it down-

grades Arabic from Israel’s second official language to one with a “special” status. Though the law will have little short-term effect, opponents are concerned about its long-term impact, which will depend on the character of future Israeli governments and how they choose to implement the law within government policy. Though Israel has already historically defined itself as the Jewish homeland, opponents say by enshrining it into a Basic Law, they have been effectively relegated to second-class citizens. Taking place this year in the northern Israeli city of Haifa Jan. 12-17, the coordination focused on the challenges and opportunities for Christians in Israel. The bishops visited Christian hospitals, schools and villages in Israel. They also met with Christian religious leaders, Christian mayors from Israeli towns, members of the Israeli Knesset, academics and people displaced from the Melkite Catholic village of Ikrit.

Bishops urge bipartisan plan to stop shutdown, protect ‘vulnerable’ groups

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and Congress “must come together” to reach a bipartisan solution that reopens the government and “recognizes the economic struggle” now facing federal workers and their families and all those helped by federal nutrition and housing programs, said two U.S. bishops. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, issued a joint statement late Jan. 20 in reaction to a plan announced a day earlier by Trump. They said they were encouraged by the president’s plan to provide protections for beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program, known as DACA, and those covered by Temporary Protected Status, but said such protections must be permanent, not temporary, as Trump has proposed.



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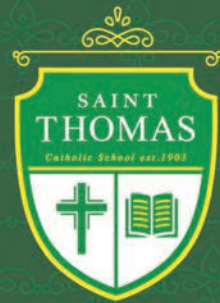


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