February 15, 2019

11 February 2019

My dear Covington Catholic High School Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that my hope and expectation expressed in my letter to you of 25 January (see letter on page 6) that the results of our inquiry into the events of 18 January at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. would “exonerate our students so that they can move forward with their lives” has been realized. Our inquiry, conducted by a third party firm that has no connection with Covington Catholic High School or the Diocese of Covington, has demonstrated that our students did not instigate the incident that occurred at the Lincoln Memorial.

In truth, taking everything into account, our students were placed in a situation that was at once bizarre and even threatening. Their reaction to the situation was, given the circumstances, expected and one might even say laudatory. These students had come to Washington, D.C. to support life. They marched peacefully with hundreds of thousands of others – young and old and in between – to further the cause of life. These young high school students could never have expected what they experienced on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial while waiting for the buses to take them home. Their stance there was surely a pro-life stance. I commend them.

I thank our students and their parents for their patience while the inquiry we ordered was completed. The final investigative report is available at www.covdio.org. Once again I affirm my complete trust and confidence in our Principal of Covington Catholic, Mt. Robert Rowe. Under his guidance these past 11 years great strides have been made at CovCath in every area from curriculum to Catholic identity. He joins me in the sentiments expressed in this letter. I also affirm my confidence in our CovCath students. As for the future, we trust in God and in the spirit of CovCath, a spirit that will not die!

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

+ Roger J. Foys, U.G.
Bishop of Covington

At Catholics@TheCapitol event faithful encouraged to get involved in the political process

David Cooley
Associate Editor

This year’s Diocese of Covington Catholics@TheCapitol, Feb. 9, at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington, drew an engaged and energetic crowd of over 70 people. The event, which is held every other year locally, is hosted by Bishop Roger Foys and organized by the diocesan Catholic Charities and Pro-Life offices. During the alternate year a statewide event is held in Frankfort. Presenters at this year’s Catholics@TheCapitol included Jason Hall and Andrew Vandiver, executive director and associate director, respectively, of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) and local legislators. Bishop Foys welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance for their presence. He opened with a prayer:

“God, almighty Father, May your goodness and love be present among us this day. Bless our gathering of unity, hope and vision. We pray for unity: build us up a deep respect for one another so that we may be one. We pray for hope: stir your hope within our hearts and renew our trust and faith in you and in each other. We pray for vision: may your vision fill our lives as we seek to realize your love. May this gathering create in us a spirit of cooperation and kind- ness. Amen.”

In his introductory remarks, Alan Pickett, executive director, Catholic Charities, spoke about how important it is for Catholics to be responsible citizens and

(Continued on page 10)
St. Augustine Parish, Covington, capital campaign preparing for 150th anniversary

David Cooley

Associate Editor

Just a little over a year ago, the first weekend of February 2018, St. Augustine Parish, Covington, launched its 2020 Capital Campaign to commemorate its upcoming 150th anniversary. At the time of this publication the parish has raised, in cash and pledges, over $911,700, which is 60.77 percent of the $1.5 million goal. St. Augustine is an urban core parish with 375 registered families.

When Father Daniel Schomaker began his pastorate at St. Augustine Parish in the summer of 2017 he noticed that the church was “beautiful yet tired.” He understood right away that a lot of work would need to be done if the church was to remain a beacon of light and concrete reminder of God’s presence in the neighborhood of Peaselburg for future generations. With the 150th anniversary coming up in three years the timing seemed perfect to begin a campaign to raise the funds needed to renovate, clean and restore the church. Out of necessity several projects have already begun and a few have been completed.

For example, Veronica Lezzeni, a Florentine-trained art conservator who specializes in statue and mural restoration, has restored the large crucifix that hangs in the sanctuary. Remaining true to the original coloration and style, the crucifix’s corpus underwent an intensive restoration process that began with the removal of damaged and peeling paint; then the broken and missing plaster from the arms and feet were filled and sculpted; finally the corpus was repainted and reattached to the refurbished wooden cross.

The three bells that have occupied St. Augustine Parish’s bell tower for nearly 100 years, producing sounds that remind the people of Peaselburg of St. Augustine’s presence, recently stopped working. The Verdin Company in Cincinnati has begun the process to restore the bells to their original — and yet improved — working order. The plan is to drop the ropes and automate the bells so that they can be rung automatically or by hand. The hope is that the bells will be back in place by Easter. Until the project is complete, though, the bells will remain silent for the first time in many years.

Other needs that the parish plans to address before the approaching anniversary date are climate control (St. Augustine is the only Catholic church in Northern Kentucky which lacks air conditioning), restoration of the grand pipe organ, repairs to the Allen Electric Organ, repairs and restorations of the church’s statues, cleaning and restoration of the murals and artwork, restoration of the stations of the cross, general painting and plaster work, as well as fixing the doors, floors, pews and internal and external lights.

Father Schomaker said that something as simple as the lighting, especially the external lighting is important and needs to be addressed.

“When I come home in the evening and it’s dark outside, it’s another person or an experience we have — that can lead a person back to the Church, he said. Bishop Foyes expressed his belief in peer-to-peer ministry.

“The best way to minister to young adults is to have them be ministered to by other young adults,” Bishop Foyes said. “People expect us (me and priests) to say churchy language, but when they hear it from their peers who are having the same experiences they are having, or living the same kind of life they are living, who are fighting the same struggles they are fighting, who have the same doubts that they have, that makes a much bigger difference in their lives, and that brings them back.

You can be those agents. You will save young adults and bring them back to the Church. Then they and you will help save the Church. You can teach us, people of my generation, how to minister to you by ministering to each other.”

House Blessing

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington, Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK) and Fifth Third Bank celebrated the sale of another HONK home, helping Adam Keener realize the goal of homeownership. Last year Mr. Keener attended Catholic Charities “Realizing the American Dream” program, a Neighborworks curriculum that teaches first-time homebuyers how to buy a home by introducing homeowners to community partners, like HONK and Fifth Third Bank and others. Bishop Roger Foys completed the home buying experience, Feb 8, with a traditional house blessing. Pictured at the blessing (left) Father Ryan Maher, vicar general; Alan Pikeett, executive director, Catholic Charities; Andrea Menear, vice president, senior mortgage loan originator, Fifth Third Bank; Catherine Tape, bookkeeper, HONK; David Hastings, executive director, HONK; Mr. Keener, homeowner; Father Joseph Shelton, administrative assistant to the bishop; Bishop Foys; Joanie Wiesman, homeowner’s grandmother; and Laura Keener, homeowner’s mother.

For information about “Realizing the American Dream” program, visit covingtoncharities.org and for information on HONK, visit honkhomes.org.

Bishop Foys encourages young adults to ‘help save the church’

Laura Keener

Editor

The diocesan Office of Catechesis and Formation hosted its first Young Adult Leadership Summit, Feb. 9, at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, Covington. Brad Torline, young adult ministry coordinator, welcomed about 25 young adults interested in promoting young adult ministry in their parish communities. At the conclusion of the meeting Bishop Roger Foys spoke to the attendees, encouraging them in this vital ministry of the Church.

“It’s my experience that when young people come back to the Church there is always a defining moment — something, somebody, some circumstance that brought them back. That defining moment for the most part will come from their peers — people like you.

A defining moment, Bishop Foys said, is a time when a person’s faith becomes clear and their life is changed and they turn back to the Lord. In the Acts of the Apostles, Bishop Foys in a recor, that thousands of people at a time would join the faith “because they saw the faith light up in other people”.

When something speaks to us in our hearts — whether (Continued on page 11)
Archbishop Lori defined interior freedom as “that inward freedom that endures even in the most oppressive conditions and situations;” it is a freedom that comes from God.

He went on to describe how interior freedom is lived out and the challenges that can be faced.

“True interior freedom has a vested right to express itself in loving service to others, especially the poor and vulnerable. Possessed by such a love a person becomes supremely free, come what may. Thus is the interior freedom to marry one’s strength of body and will power, even in the face of government regulations and fines.”

For most of us this will take a less dramatic form than the sacrifices of the martyrs. Nonetheless, bearing witness to Christ and to our faith requires no small degree of interior freedom and courage. Being interiorly free makes us more convincing advocates for religious freedom in our culture. The courage of those who are inwardly free sheds light on the truth that religious freedom is not something granted by the state but is rather a fundamental endowment of our humanity — it comes from within.”

Dr. Baker began his talk by asking the question, “What does courage have to do with religious liberty?”

Using the thoughts of 19th-century political scientist Alexis de Tocqueville on the power of the majority as the foundation of his talk, Dr. Baker said, with majority power, “the dissenting individual is not so much in danger of being burnt at the stake but rather suffers daily persecutions … the person under the glare of the majority will live but will be cut off as though a stranger among us … the daily persecutions to which Tocqueville referred take the form of damage to reputation, the loss of one’s job or perhaps an administrative death by regulations and fines.”

He encouraged those present to stand in solidarity with people of faith who find themselves at odds with the majority and the government.

“There are Christians in the United States today who have experienced something very much like Tocqueville described. They stand up and insist on maintaining their own spiritual integrity in the face of what they believe to be government action overstepping its bounds and they want to see whether others will lift their voices in support or whether they will be left overwhelmed and silenced.”

For information on the TMU Institute for Religious Liberty visit https://university.thomasmore.edu/institute-for-religious-liberty/
Religious freedom in a civic culture

Father Murray identified the religion clauses of the First Amendment not merely as a matter of faith but of peace. He noted that “these provisions are the work of lawyers, not of theologians or even of political theorists. They are not true dogmas but only good law.”

Consequently Father Murray emphasized that “the American Constitution does not presume to define the Church or in any way to supervise her exercise of authority in pursuit of her own distinct ends.” Religious freedom as a civil right, then, is a juridical protection of the relationships among citizens in a pluralistic society.

Thus, in interpreting a 1963 discourse of Pope Pius XII on the issue of union and peace in pluralistic democracies, Father Murray contended: “government is not a judge of religious truth; parliaments are not to play the theologian. In accord with this principle American government does not presume to judge, much less rule upon, the objective truth or falsity of various religious confessions within society.”

Within this constitutional framework, Father Murray reasoned that the Catholic Church in America has enjoyed positive benefits for her life in society and the public order, “namely, her freedom in the fulfillment of her spiritual mission to communicate divine truth and grace to the souls of men, and her equally spiritual mission of social justice and peace.”

At the level of social teaching, the “Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church” affirms the Church’s need for freedom to engage in her spiritual mission: “The Church is organized in units that are suitable to meet the spiritual needs of the faithful, while the different political communities rise to relationships and interference to the service of everything that is part of the temporal common good.”

In brief, the governmental obligation “to respect religious freedom requires that the political community guarantee the Church the space needed to carry out her mission” (CSDC, 4:1). “Citizens in Veritas,” the 2006 encyclical of Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI, upheld Father Murray’s mission in the public space: “The Christian religion and other religions can offer their contribution to development only if God has a place in the public realm, specifically in regard to its cultural, social, economic and particularly its political dimensions” (IV, n. 56).

In “Our First, Most Cherished Liberty: A Statement on Religious Liberty” (2012), the All-Hall Committee for Religious Liberty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops addresses the theme of religious freedom in civil society. The committee states: “Religious believers are part of American civil society, which includes neighbors helping each other, community associations, fraternal social clubs, sports leagues and youth groups. All these Americans make their contributions to our common life, and they do not need the permission of the government to do so.”

The statement advocates the case for defending against threats to religious liberty: “Restrictions on religious liberty are an attack on civil society and the American genius for voluntary associations.”

In the apostolic exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium” (2013), Pope Francis addresses the question of “social dialogue in a context of religious pluralism.” The pope notes that in this section he defends “a healthy pluralism, one which genuinely respects differences and does not foster privatizing religions in an attempt to relegate them to the enclosed precincts of churches, synagogues or mosques. As a corollary, the Holy Father judges that such discrimination would not be generative of authentic tolerance, which would foster civil peace. He states: ‘The respect due to the agent or person is not to be found in artificial or arbitrary imposition in a way that silences the confessions of the believing majority or imposes the worship of different religions’” (51, 52).

Father Ronald Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episcopal liaison to the Messenger and professor of theology at Thomas More University.


The Church’s social doctrine came into being in order to claim “citizenship status” for the Christian religion.


The social thought in the United States were foundational for...
In God we trust! or do we?

The readings for the sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle “C” are: Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; and Luke 16:20-26.

Some time ago I was intrigued by a story on National Public Radio that recounted how the Girl Scouts of America were being challenged in court over the use of the word “God” in the Girl Scout oath. Rather than explain the legal issues involved, the reporter limited herself to soliciting the opinions of active Girl Scouts. It was almost amazing to hear most of the girls say that while they didn’t think the oath was necessary they could tolerate particular beliefs about God, that they thought belief in God was a legitimate requirement for membership.

Although such a requirement may be present or implied in the oath, I found myself wondering just how much such a belief was incorporated into actual Girl Scout polices and activities. I suspect that once the oath is said, one could persist in being a Girl Scout without any particular religious convictions. (I would presume the same about the Boy Scouts.)

The situation might be the same for all of us who use United States’ coins and currency. The mere fact that we make a purchase in a store that requires we use money that proclaims “In God we trust” but the fact that I use the money doesn’t mean that I really trust in God.

Today’s liturgy is a less than subtle challenge for us to examine the level of commitment and trust we have in God. The words of today’s Scriptures are quite pointed and demanding. They really invade our comfort zone. They may seem all the more intrusive because we seldom hear them proclaimed in our liturgy. (The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time often comes right after Easter and is hear them proclaimed in our liturgy. (The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time often comes right after Easter and is)

Today’s reading from Jeremiah, the Psalm, and the Gospel all present us with contrasts of “Good News” and “Bad News” or vice versa. And all of them are about the consequences of trusting in God versus trusting in someone or something else.

“Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, … whose heart turns away from the Lord. … Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord.” (Jeremiah)

“Happy those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked. … Rather the law of the Lord is their joy. … Blessed are you who are weeping; you shall laugh.” (Psalm 1)

The Gospel provides us with Luke’s version of the beatitudes which are not so pleasant as those found in the Trinity or Corpus Christi. So it is not often that we are confronted about our trust in God by these readings.

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My dear Covington Catholic Parents,

Since Saturday, 19 January 2019 the events at the Lincoln Memorial following the annual March for Life have gained international attention. Within hours we were being pressured from all sides to make a statement regarding a video clip which purportedly showed students from Covington Catholic High School being disrespectful to Native American Elder Nathan Phillips. Based on what the video clip showed we condemned the actions of students who engaged in the alleged disrespect and promised to investigate the matter. Since that time other video clips — some of much longer duration — have surfaced. Once these went viral some of the very same people who had put tremendous pressure on us to condemn the actions of the students now wanted a retraction from anyone who had previously issued a statement critical of them. All of this was based again on a video.

Subsequently, there have been death threats to some of the students and their families. The vitriol and hateful comments on some online stories, some of them appearing on websites that purport to be Catholic and pro-life, have been beyond belief and anything but pro-life. We even had a bomb scare at the Curia offices and had to close the Curia and Covington Latin School (across from the Curia) in light of safety issues. People who are not at all familiar with Covington Catholic High School, its students, faculty, staff, administration and/or the Diocese of Covington have felt free to criticize in the harshest terms. Having issued a second statement that said that we have engaged a third-party investigative team to do a thorough and in-depth investigation into the events that transpired on Friday, 18 January, it was our hope that this would ameliorate some of the hate being spewed on the internet and other news media. Unfortunately, this did not happen and people are still lined up on either side.

We are sorry that this situation has caused such disruption in the lives of so many. We apologize to anyone who has been offended in any way by either of our statements which were made with good will based on the information we had. We should not have allowed ourselves to be bullied and pressured into making a statement prematurely, and we take full responsibility for it. I especially apologize to Nicholas Sandmann and his family as well as to all CovCath families who have felt abandoned during this ordeal. Nicholas unfortunately has become the face of these allegations based on video clips. This is not fair. It is not just.

We now await the results of the investigation and it is my hope and expectation that the results will exonerate our students so that they can move forward with their lives. In any event, we will make the final report public once it has been received. In the meantime, we call on all those who continue to spew venom and hate to desist and instead pray for a peaceful resolution to this tragic spectacle.

Mr. Robert Rowe, the principal of Covington Catholic High School, has also been the target of this venom. He is a fine leader and role model for every student at CovCath and I support him unequivocally. Those calling for his resignation simply do not know him.

This has been a trying time for all of us. I pray that with the grace of God and the goodwill of all involved peace will once again reign in the hearts and minds of our faithful. As for CovCath, we have a spirit that will not die!

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

+ Roger J. Foys, D.D.,
Bishop of Covington
Administrators take time to help, listen and share

Bishop Roger Foys has often said that the primary purpose of every Catholic school is to transmit the faith. Therefore, the primary responsibility of every school administrator is to create disciples for Christ. Creating disciples is not something that can be learned through reading a book, it must be demonstrated by living witnesses to Christ.

Principals and staff at Catholic schools in the Diocese of Covington are those living witnesses. Each day they demonstrate Christ’s love by the dedication and encouragement they offer. Each administrator develops the Catholic identity of their school community not only through its curriculum but also through prayer and service.

The position of an administrator in our Catholic schools is a vocation as well as a profession. Through a communal approach — a partnership with teachers, staff and parents — administrators enable students to grow spiritually and develop a personal relationship with Christ, the unseen but ever-present teacher.

I express my appreciation and sincere gratitude for all that our administrators do for our schools.

Yours in Catholic education,

Michael Clines
Superintendent of Schools,
Diocese of Covington
Celebrating with grandparents

Grandparents Day at St. Anthony School, Tyler Mill, was a huge success, despite the cold snowy weather on the Friday of Catholic Schools Week. Many grandparents filled the halls to celebrate with their grandchildren.

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption will be broadcast on Sunday 3-6 p.m. on station Me TV WJET, on channels: over the air 5-2 Spectrum 188 in Kentucky and Cincinnati Bell 21 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 messengercov@covnotes.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 on www.covnotes.org/chancery/.

There will be a Holy Hour on the third Thursday of every month, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 7:45 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, 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.

The drama club at St. Joseph Parish and School, Cold Spring, presents its 42nd original musical comedy, “A Manor of Wife and Death,” Feb. 15, 21, 22, 23 and 24; March 1 and 2. Times are Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sunday: 3 p.m. Call 605-1237.

The VEX Robotics teams at St. Mary School, Alexandria, performed well at the “Battle at the Ridge” at Grant County High School Feb. 2. The seventh- and eighth-grade teams qualified for the elimination tournament and won matches against high school teams. The seventh-grade team (Michael Cooney and Harrison Besse) won the “Excellence Award,” which qualifies them for the VEX State Tournament.
Where has the time gone?
The students at St. Pius X School, Edgewood, recently celebra-
ted the 100th day of school. Pictured here Lindsay
McQuade, kindergarten teacher, and one of her students
celebrate the milestone.
Today we are going to talk about how we, as Catholics, are called to be part of the discussion and the government process,” Mr. Pickett said. “Reflecting on my own experience, I grew up in a home where we never talked about politics. I learned in my lifetime that my grandfather, who was a rural U.S. postal carrier, was hired in the 1920s during a Republican administration and he was a registered Republican. In those days if you were any U.S. government worker you were pretty much at the mercy of the political party that was in power. So when FDR was elected in the 1930s, during the depression and a Democratic administration, he was very, very concerned about his job security. So, he was very quiet about politics.

“And so, my dad learned from that, and I learned from my dad, that politics was something we just didn’t engage in, we didn’t talk about,” he said. “We didn’t want to stir anything or cause any issue or problem. But, as I’ve grown in my life and learned about how the process works, I recognize the value that we can all contribute to the process by engaging, learning what’s going on, finding out what issues are being addressed and finding out how we can have an impact on those issues.”

Bishop Foys recalled that his family was a little different from Mr. Pickett’s. “My grandparents were immigrants from Yugoslavia, and my earliest remembrance of my grandfather is during the 1952 convention before the elections, screaming at the television,” said Bishop Foys. “I hadn’t heard enough Slovenian yet to understand what he was saying, but I knew it wasn’t good. My grandmother, God rest her soul, would never buy a Hoover vacuum because she associated it with president Hoover. Obviously she didn’t like that. My dad, that politics was something we just didn’t engage in, we didn’t talk about,” he said. “We didn’t want to stir anything or cause any issue or problem. But, as I’ve grown in my life and learned about how the process works, I recognize the value that we can all contribute to the process by engaging, learning what’s going on, finding out what issues are being addressed and finding out how we can have an impact on those issues.”

Representatives and senators need to hear from you, whether it is to support them or challenge them on a particular issue,” they said. Mr. Hall and Mr. Vandiver provided resources and advice on how to go about contacting or meeting state senators or representatives.

For information visit the Catholic Conference of Kentucky’s website www.ccky.org, and follow the CCK on Facebook and Twitter.
Light of the World, which is Jesus Christ, but instead it is veiled in darkness. The symbolism is the opposite of what it should be.”

Father Schomaker said that while the current parishioners at St. Augustine are excited and want these fixes, renovations and restorations to happen, they are not doing all of this for themselves.

“The people of St. Augustine Parish who are parishioners now, unless they move, will continue to be parishioners. After all, this is where their faith life is lived out. The updating of the pews and lighting and fixing the murals and repainting the church and fixing the statues and the bells, those things aren’t going to have an impact on the faith of the parishioners, but what it will do is have an impact on the neighborhood. One of the main reasons we want to do this is purely for evangelization,” he said.

“In the neighborhood we are using that which is beautiful to enliven the hearts of the people of the neighborhood. As we invite people in to engage what it means to be Catholic, we invite them into that which is beautiful. I have watched people walk into the church and their eyes go up and their spirit is lifted up to heaven — although they don’t realize that is what’s happening,” Father Schomaker said.

“That’s the goal of what we are doing; that’s why we want to update, renovate and restore the church. It is about the beauty that exists and enlivens the heart, the mind and the soul of the human person, so that they can come to know Jesus.”

Father Schomaker said that many of parishioners of St. Augustine reacted to the $1.5 million number with a bit of skepticism at first, wondering how such a small parish with limited means could raise such a large amount.

“A lot of times they see themselves as poor,” Father Schomaker said. “I told them that we are not poor. Yes, we have some financial difficulties but we are not poor because we have faith. We are rich in faith.”

Father Schomaker said the skepticism began fading away as they began to witness a lot of generosity — not just the generosity of each other but also from “friends of the parish.”

“For just one example, Father Baiju Kidaagen, V.C., and the people of St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, have been very generous. … One weekend they conducted a second collection for the people of St. Augustine for their capital campaign. … To date the people of St. Pius X Parish have pledged and donated over $50 thousand to the people of St. Augustine,” said Father Schomaker. “There are so many people in this area with connections to St. Augustine Parish and many of them want to give back to the place they know and love.”

While June 20, 2020, is the 150th anniversary date of the establishment of St. Augustine Parish, Covington, Father Schomaker is hoping to celebrate the 150 years and the completion of the renovation project on the feast of St. Augustine, Aug. 28, 2020.

For more information visit https://www.staugustines.net.

Frassati Speaker Series

Brad Torline, young adult ministry coordinator, Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation, welcomed about 100 young adults and others to the Frassati Speaker Series, Feb. 5, which featured nationally renowned Catholic speaker and author, Dr. Allen Hunt, at Mother of God Church, Covington. Dr. Hunt shared part of his story on why he, a “mega church” pastor converted to Catholicism. Attendees were given a complimentary copy of Dr. Hunt’s book, “Confessions of a Mega Church Pastor: How I Discovered the Hidden Treasures of the Catholic Church.” Following Dr. Hunt’s presentation the church was darkened for Eucharistic adoration and attendees were given the opportunity to avail themselves through the sacrament of confession.
PARISH OFFICE SECRETARY
St. Augustine, Covington, KY (www.staugustines.net) is seeking to identify qualified, actively practicing Roman Catholic candidates for the full-time position of Parish Office Secretary. The responsibilities of this position will include management of the parish calendar and the database of 375 families, sacramental record keeping, tracking of Mass offerings, bulletins, editor, parish bookkeeping (deposits, payables, tracking specified gifts, bank reconciliations), word processing, and telephones. Requirements include strong organizational skills and attention to detail, a practiced familiarity with computer skills, the ability to work with the poor and homeless, including those who have addiction and mental health issues. Prior experience desirable. Send resume and cover letter to skoplyay@covdio.org or (859) 392-1589.

NOVENA

SACRED HEART PRAYER. Dear Heart of Jesus — In the past I have asked for favors. This time I ask you for this very special one (mention favor). Take it, dear Jesus, and place it within your own heart where your Father sees it, then in your merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen. M.C.T.

Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 390-1900

NOVENA

NOVENA TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN. Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me where you are here and my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, Pray for us who have recourse to Thee, (three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands. (three times). M.B.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

HEADMASTER
Covington Latin School (www.covingtonlatin.org) invites interested individuals to declare their candidacy for the position of Headmaster for the 2019-20 academic year. Since its founding in 1923,CLS has developed an unparalleled reputation for fostering an atmosphere of faith-filled academic leadership. Throughout its rich history, Covington Latin’s accelerated classical education has attracted the bi-state region’s best and brightest students, with a curriculum that allows incoming students to move at a pace, level, and complexity appropriate to their individual needs while surrounding them with engaged peers who share their intellectual curiosity. Candidates for school administration in the Diocese of Covington must be actively practicing Roman Catholics in good standing. Necessary qualifications include eligibility for Kentucky certification and relevant previous experience. To begin the application process, send a cover letter along with a detailed, comprehensive resume or CV, including compensation history and a list of at least five references with contact e-mail addresses, by e-mail or fax to Stephen Koplyay, SPHR, at skoplyay@covdio.org or (859) 392-1589.

VACATION PROPERTY RENTAL
Destin, FL — Condos with gulf view. 2 pools, hot tub, tennis, exercise room, close to golf courses. Includes beach umbrella. Call for rates. Mention Messenger for discount. (850) 816-7838 or www.destincheap.com

ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY
NOW HIRING
LPN/KMA FULL-TIME — 3RD SHIFT
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Please call for more information.
St. Charles Community 600 Farrell Drive Covington, Kentucky 41011 (859) 331-3224 www.stcharlescommunity.org

NURSING ASSISTANT FULL TIME St. Anne Convert to Family Home
Full time (32-40 hr/week) position for 2nd and occasional 3rd shift is immediately available at Holy Family Home’s Health Care Center. Qualified candidate would have: A CNA or SRNA certification preferred. Flexible scheduling, weekend & holiday rotation. Min. 2-3 years experience w/ pediatric population. Compassionate, caring, honest, & ethical character. A strong sense of responsibility & dependability. Must have own transportation.

Great benefit package including Health Care & generous Pension Plan.
We are looking for that special individual who values the unique spiritual environment within the CDP retirement community. This person would work with a wonderfully committed nursing team focused on providing optimal wellness in an environment of safety and enjoyment.

Email Resume: CShack/CDFPKentucky.org Call: (859) 781-0712 x 24 May apply in person: 5300 St. Anne Drive, Melbourne, KY 41059

PARISH KITCHEN ASSOCIATE
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington is seeking candidates for an Associate of Parish Kitchen. Parish Kitchen is a Catholic ministry, feeding a nutritious meal seven days a week to everyone who comes through our door, including the poor and homeless in our area. The Associate serves a key support role for an effective and well run operation for all our guests and volunteers. It is critical that the Associate possess good people skills and is comfortable being part of a Catholic faith-based ministry. Assist with meal preparation, receiving and recording donations and government commodities, cleanliness of facility and communication with weekend volunteers and staff. This position is full-time, generally 5 days M-F from 7:00 am-2:00 pm but some evening or weekend coverage will be necessary. Minimum requirements: Bachelor’s degree in human services related field and 2 years’ experience. Ability to work with the poor and homeless, including those who have addiction and mental health issues. Prior experience desirable. Send resume and cover letter to skoplyay@covdio.org. For more information please see the entire job opportunity at www.covingtoncharities.org.

HOUe CLEANING
Isn’t it time you come clean? We don’t cut corners, we clean them. Insured and bonded. Discount for senior citizens and first-time clients. Call (859) 331-2640.

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In business since 1988. Members of St. Timothy Parish. Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements. (859) 390-1900
Coaching Programs. The position is 40 hours per week or 100% FTE with some evening hours. Counselors are responsible for some direct supervision of program staff, including, but not limited to staff coaching, training, accountability and evaluation; programmatic quality and quantity assurance measures, also responsible for some direct service. Necessary qualifications include Master’s degree with a minimum of five years’ clinical counseling experience; Licensed Clinical Social Worker – Supervisor by the State of Kentucky Social Work Board (LCSW-S) Certification preferred; or supervisor certification eligible; Management/Supervisory experience required, minimum three to five years related experience preferred; and Experience with diverse populations including children, adults, couples, and families, those with mental illness and substance use disorders, life transitions, all income levels, various cultural backgrounds. In addition, interest in Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Services strongly preferred. Interested individuals should submit a detailed resume, including at least 3 references, along with cover letter and salary history by e-mail to Stephen Kopylay, SISR skopylay@covicdio.org. For more information please see our website at covingtoncharities.org website. EOE

A model to follow
(Continued from page 9)

any pressure the success of her skiing would provide.

One may also think that Kearney came from an affluent family that flew her all over the country competing in nation-
al alpine events in the hopes that her skiing success would result in their own family success. Others may think the fam-
ily took out a second mortgage so she could achieve interna-
tional success traveling the world. Wrong.

Kearney’s parents informed her that if she wanted to fly across the country to compete she would have to find her own sponsors. She found a sponsor, a relative of a Norwich resi-
dent, one who said he would support her if her report card grades continued to maintain excellence. Her mother, Jill, still remains director of the Norwich recreation program.

As a favorite to win gold in her first Olympics in 2006, she fell out of the top 20 and failed to make the finals. The town still threw her a parade. And in turn, Kearney pays it for-
ward. She has donated earnings to the Norwich Public Library and supports the less affluent in the town.

As an educator and parent, a phrase I often hear, and have said a time or two myself, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Parents are the primary educators of their children, but it does take many people in their lives to enrich them and guide them in becoming fit and emotionally stable adults.

Coaches, Teachers, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles. Parents of Friends. Neighbors. All of these influential people can model and mold the young people around them. Norwich seems to have figured this out.

Karen Cross’s account of Norwich’s Olympic success provides us with some great, though basic, lessons on how our “village” can support youth athletes:

— Encourage your own children’s passions. Avoid making our own passions theirs.
— Support them win or lose. Don’t allow the result of competition define who our young people are.
— Refrain from micromanaging your own children’s lives. As Crease says, “act as their guides to charity, well-roundedness, curiosity, perspective and a healthy life.”
— Support and encourage the opponents of your own chil-
dren. As I say in Play Like A Champion parent workshops, those opponents could one day be your child’s classmate, teammate, best friend or work colleague.

Our Church is the body of Christ. All of the parts of our Church, when working together, make for a strong, healthy body; mind and spirit. Our sports programs are one of those body parts. When it is working to bring the greater good to the Church, our local Church community and individuals within them thrive in order to become the good people God created them to be.

Norwich, Vermont, is not our model to create Olympic ath-
etes. It is our model to raise our young people who God creat-
ed them to be.

Rich Hoyt is principal, St. Agnes School, Pt. Wright and lead trainer of the Play Like A Champion Today program for the Diocese of Covington, Ky.

Protecting God’s Children for Adults
For all employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Covington who in any way provide a safe environment for children.

Step 1: Meet with parish/school institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.com and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will also sign up for a VIRTUS class during the registration.

Step 3: Attend the VIRTUS session you chose. No children, please.

Step 4: Your account becomes active when your background check, VIRTUS session and Acceptance Form are posted on your account.

You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive e-mail notices at options@virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

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(859) 392-1570 for your copy. Cost $18

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Or helping a loved one move into a senior living community? We’re here to help.

To schedule a free in-home consultation, visit resettledlife.com or call (859) 663-1713.
“Cold Pursuit” (Summit) A grieving father embarks on a murderous rampage to avenge the death of his son in this bloodthirsty crime thriller, directed by Hans Petter Moland. As the father wades into the seedy underbelly of this bloodthirsty crime thriller, directed by Hans Petter Moland, it is impossible to ignore the Gospel message of the father’s loss, it is impossible to ignore the Gospel message of the moral waters, the mayhem is mostly bloodless and frequent profane and crude language. CNS: O; MPAA: R.

“The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part” (Warner Bros.) Everything is (still) awesome in this spirited and amusing animated sequel to 2014’s “The Lego Movie,” directed by Mike Mitchell. A mild-mannered construction worker is called again to save the day when the queen of a far-off galaxy kidnaps his lady love, Batman and other friends. An unexpected ally is found in a ragged space cowboy as the rescue mission begins. This family-friendly film offers positive messages about (no puns intended) making connections, bridging the gaps among friends and family members, and constructing a world where people respect each other; no matter their differences. Cartoon mayhem, some peril and mild rude humor. CNS: A-I; MPAA: PG.

“Miss Bala” (Columbia) While visiting her best friend in Mexico, a Los Angeles makeup artist is abducted by the leader of a drug cartel and finds herself caught between the gangster and a DEA agent with both intent on black-mailing her into cooperating with them. Director Catherine Hardwicke’s remake of a well-received 2011 Spanish-language film is meant to be the tale of an ordinary woman discovering her inner toughness. But improbabilities abound and there’s little of note going on beyond a complex and charismatic performance from Corruda. Though rampant corruption contributes to a muddling of the moral waters, the mayhem is mostly bloodless and the sexuality restrained, making this acceptable for a wide swath of grownups. Considerable stylized violence, including gunplay and explosions, with only slight gore, a narcotics theme, some sensuality, brief partial nudity, at least one mild oath, a couple of rough terms, several crude expressions. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.
based on firmly held religious beliefs. “We will always protect our country’s proud tradition of faith-based adoption,” Trump said. “My administration is working to ensure that faith-based adoption agencies are able to help vulnerable children find their forever families while following their deeply held beliefs.”

Trump alluded to an American Civil Liberties Union federal lawsuit that challenges a state law that protects child-placement agencies from consideration for adoption or foster care. The lawsuit argues that placing agencies that deny adoption services because of same-sex couples conflict with the agency’s religious beliefs. The lawsuit contends that placing agencies that deny adoption services because of same-sex couples unconstitutionally discriminate by disqualifying same-sex couples from consideration for adoption or foster care.

A Vatican City — As part of ongoing financial reform efforts, Pope Francis updated the role and authority of the auditor general’s office, calling it the Vatican’s “anti-corruption authority.” The Vatican announced Feb. 9 that the new auditor’s office as part of reform will continue to perform specific audits when requested or deemed necessary, as well as receive and investigate reports on anomalous or irregular activities concerning budgets, allocations of resources, financial records, procurement services, transactions of assets or acts of corruption, embezzlement and fraud, according to the statutes. It will continue to protect the identity of those who report anomalous activities, but it specified that it would not consider anonymous complaints.

Weeklong observance in U.S. celebrates ‘beauty and gift of marriage’

WASHINGTON — National Marriage Week USA and World Marriage Days are opportunities for “building a culture of life and love that begins with promoting and defending marriage and the family,” said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia. The archbishop, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Life, Marriage, Family Life and Youth of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, made the comments in a letter to his brother bishops about the weeklong observance Feb. 1-14 and the international day, observed Feb. 10 this year. The USCCB offers resources in English and Spanish about marriage, the promotion and defense of marriage as a lifelong union of one man and one woman through its websites ForYourMarriage.org, ForPullMatrimonio.org and MarriageUniqueForAReason.org.

Supreme Court blocks Louisiana law restricting abortion providers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court blocked a Louisiana law requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals Feb. 7. In the court’s 5-4 vote, Chief Justice John Roberts sided with four justices in favor of blocking this regulation for now. Since the decision was a 5-3 vote, it did not contain an explanation. The court is likely to hear a challenge to the law’s constitutionality during its next term. Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh sided with the state law, but Kavanaugh also wrote a dissent from the order, noting he would have preferred more information on the specific impact of the state’s restrictions. In his four-page dissent, he wrote that the main issue is whether the admitting privileges requirement puts an “undue burden” on a woman’s ability to have an abortion. Kavanaugh said the state’s doctors and hospitals should first aim to resolve the admitting privileges question and if they can’t, the case should return to court. If they do resolve this issue and the doctors continue to perform abortions, he said the law would not impose an undue burden. In reaction, Archbishop Joseph P. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee, said: “The abortion industry’s objection to such a reasonable law, and this court’s decision to temporarily prevent it from going into effect, is further evidence of how abortion extremism actively works against the welfare of women.”

London committee OKs exclusion zone around abortion clinic

LONDON — A council in London could become the second local authority in the UK to approve an exclusion zone around an abortion clinic. A regulatory committee of Richmond Council voted Feb. 6 to make it a crime to attempt any form of interaction with staff or visitors to a center run by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in Twickenham, a suburban area of southwest London. If the Public Spaces Protection Order is sanctioned by a full meeting of the council, it will be the second to be used to create a “buffer zone” around an abortion clinic. The decision by Richmond Council follows a 2018 decision by Ealing Council, London, to create a 218-yard zone around a Marie Stopes clinic. That policy is due to face a legal challenge in the Court of Appeal. Both councils have alleged that individuals participating in pro-life vigils have harassed and intimidated women going for abortions. Elizabeth Howard of the Be Here for Me campaign, in support of the vigil, said: “It is shocking to see how Richmond has acted on allegation rather than evidence in bringing in this censorship zone. “They have deliberately chosen to outline charitable activity that has a profoundly positive impact for many vulnerable women,” she said in a statement emailed to Catholic News Service.
Pope: Respect, dialogue key for peace between Christians, Muslims

Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said his recent visit to the United Arab Emirates, while brief, was a new page in relations between Christians and Muslims at a time when conflict and violence threaten the goal of lasting peace.

Recalling his Feb. 3-5 visit to Abu Dhabi, the pope said during his weekly general audience Feb. 6 that the joint document signed by him and Egyptian Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar and chair of the Muslim Council of Elders, was a step forward in promoting dialogue and brotherhood.

"In an age like ours, in which there is a strong temptation to see a clash between Christian and Islamic civilizations taking place, and also to consider religions as sources of conflict, we wanted to give another clear and decisive sign that, on the contrary, it is possible to meet, respect and dialogue with each other, and that, despite the diversity of cultures and traditions, the Christian and Islamic worlds appreciate and protect common values: life, the family, religious belief, honor for the elderly, the education of young people and much more," the pope said.

Arriving at the Paul VI audience hall, the pope was in good spirits despite recently returning from the quick two-day visit. A group of pilgrims from Paraguay was the first to greet him, offering him "chipa," a cheese-flavored breakfast snack from their country.

The pope snacked on the treat while greeting them. He later washed it down with some mate tea offered to him by an Argentine pilgrim attending the audience.

In his talk, the pope reflected on the historic nature of his visit, which was the first time a pope visited the Arabian Peninsula. He also noted that 800 years after St. Francis of Assisi's visit to Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil, providence wanted "a pope named Francis" to fulfill this visit.

"I often thought of St. Francis during this visit," the pope said. "He helped me to keep in my heart the Gospel, the love of Jesus Christ, while I lived the various moments of the visit."

Among the prayers he kept in his heart, he added, were the "victims of injustices, wars, and misery" as well as "the prayer that the dialogue between Christianity and Islam be a decisive factor for peace in the world today."

After expressing his gratitude to Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the country's authorities for their welcome, the pope thanked the Catholic community "who animate the Christian presence in that land."

Departing from his prepared remarks, the pope recalled meeting the first priest to arrive in Abu Dhabi and who "founded so many communities there."

At 90 years old, he said, the priest "is in a wheelchair, blind, but his smile never falls from his lips, a smile of having served the Lord, of having done good."

"This visit, Pope Francis said, "belongs to God’s surprises. Let us praise him and his providence, and let us pray that the seeds sown may bear fruit according to his holy will."