Join the Diocese at Catholics@TheCapitol on Feb. 27

Allegra Thatcher
Assistant Editor

Bishop Roger Foy invites Catholics from the Diocese of Covington to Frankfort, Thursday, Feb. 27, to learn about proposed Senate and House bills and to share their Catholic perspective with Kentucky lawmakers.

Presented by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK), the event will address the Abortion Neutrality Amendment, sanctuary cities, the elimination of the death penalty for persons with mental illness and support of Scholarship Tax Credits, among other current issues.

The day will include a morning with CCK staff, including Jason Hall, director, talking about the issues and answering any questions, followed by an opportunity to meet in small groups with individual legislators. There will also be a chance to observe the General Assembly in session for those who wish to stay.

Mr. Hall said this is a perfect first step for those who want to get involved in advocacy or in speaking out for Catholic social teaching, but are uncertain about how to do it, or feel intimidated by the process.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to, in a fully supported way to get over that initial fear,” he said. “We help connect with the right legislators, you get to go speak to them in groups with people that are more experienced. It’s a good mix of people with experience in advocacy work at the state level and people who are doing it for the first time.”

The CCK was created in 1984 by the Roman Catholic bishops of Kentucky to represent the four dioceses in public policy on the state and federal level. It advocates for laws and policies that reflect Gospel values and Catholic social teaching.

Each diocese is given a different day this year to bring their specific concerns to lawmakers. It is hoped that this year an even greater number of the faithful will give the Church a voice in the public square.

Some key bills and issues the CCK will talk about at Catholics@TheCapitol are:

- **HB 67: Abortion Neutrality Constitutional Amendment** — This bill would amend the state constitution to clarify that there is no right to an abortion in the Kentucky Constitution. (CCK supports)

- **HB 237: Severely Mentally Ill Exclusion from the Death Penalty** — This bill would prohibit the application of the death penalty against someone with a diagnosed severe mental illness. (CCK opposes)

- **HB 350: Scholarship Tax Credits** — This would establish a separate income tax credit for tuition assistance based on contributions made to a qualified scholarship-granting organization. (CCK supports)

- **SB 1: Sanctuary Cities** — which would change all public agencies with the duty to use their “best efforts” to support federal immigration enforcement, even if that agency ministries to vulnerable populations and with personnel that has no training in immigration law. (CCK opposes)

- **SB 9: Born-Alive Infant Protection Act** — This provides that a born-alive infant shall be treated as a legal person under the laws of the Commonwealth. (CCK supports)

The event will be held 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the State Capitol Building, Room 316, Frankfort. K'y Registration begins at 8 a.m. Buses will leave from the Diocese of Covington Curia, Covington, at 7:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 4 p.m. There is no cost to attend. To reserve your spot on the bus or for more information, contact Faye Roch at the Diocese of Covington (859) 392-1500 before Friday, Feb. 21.
Deacon candidates instructed to be ‘salt and light’ as lectors

Laura Keener
Editor

Eighteen men — 13 from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and five from the Diocese of Covington — were instituted into the ministry of lector, Feb. 9, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. These men are candidates for the permanent diaconate and are studying at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, Cincinnati. Bishop Roger Foys was the celebrant and homilist. Msgr. William Neuhaus, director, diaconate formation, Diocese of Covington; and Father David Sunberg, director, diaconate formation, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, were among the concelebrants.

While the ministry of lector is available to all the lay faithful, for these men, the ministry of lector is a step in their formation towards ordination to the permanent diaconate. A lector reads the Word of God — except the Gospel — at Mass and liturgical celebrations. When a deacon or cantor is not present, the lector presents the intentions and may lead the congregation in song.

About the candidates, Bishop Foys said, “They will be salt and light to God’s people through their daily lives and, in this instance, through their ministry of lector of proclaiming God’s word and teaching others to proclaim God’s word.”

Bishop Foys invited everyone to join him in praying for the candidates as they continue their formation.

“As they are instituted in this ministry, I ask you to pray along with me… that God will give them the wisdom and the grace and the courage that they will need to always proclaim God’s Word, certainly from the pulpit but more effectively by the lives they lead.”

Pastoral needs of healthcare

Priests of the Diocese of Covington met, Feb. 4, for the Priests’ Continuing Education Day at St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center. Garren Colvin, president and CEO, and Joseph Bozzelli, vice president, Mission and Pastoral Care, St. Elizabeth Healthcare spoke to the priests about the hospital’s ministries and pastoral activities. Pictured (from left) are: Father Daniel Schomaker, vicar general; Father Ryan Maher, vicar general; Father Gerald Reinersman, chair for the Priests’ Education and Formation Day Committee; Bishop Roger Foys; Garren Colvin; Father Joseph Shelton, administrative assistant to Bishop; and Joseph Bozzelli.
Taken too soon, Father Booth cared for people

Laura Keener
Editor

Father Josiah Booth, a priest for the Diocese of Covington, died Jan. 31, at the age of 34. Father Booth was on sick leave and was with his family in Florida.

Father Booth was born July 8, 1985 in Canton, Ohio, to Raymond and Vannaeve (Criorata) Booth.

Father Booth attended college at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, receiving a bachelor’s degree in history. As a seminarist for the Diocese of Covington, he began his studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum and completed his seminary studies at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Penn., earning a master’s degree in Divinity.

On June 21, 2014, Bishop Roger Roys ordained him to the priesthood. In the diocese he has served as parochial vicar, St. Patrick Parish, Maysville (June 2014–July 2015); parochial administrator; St. Charles Parish, Flemingburg, and St. Rose of Lima Parish, Mays Lick (July 2015–June 2017); pastor, St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill (June 2017–Sept. 2018); and parochial vicar, Sts. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, (2018) and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell (2018). At St. Patrick School and High School, Maysville, he served as religion instructor and chaplain, and from 2014–2015, was a member of the Diocesan Youth Advisory Board.

“Father Booth was a suffering soul and that suffering, I think, allowed him to develop a very big heart that was filled with compassion for other people with misfortune,” said Father Harry Settle, pastor, St. Edward Parish, Maysville, where Father Booth served as religion instructor and chaplain, and from 2014–2015, was a member of the Diocesan Youth Advisory Board.

“Father Booth was a parochial pastor to the people of St. Edward Church,” said Father Settle. “People came to him with their deepest concerns and he was someone who was able to understand and be able to communicate with people and relate to them.”

Father Booth was survived by his mother, Vannaeve Booth; sister and brother-in-law, Dr. Irene Marie Booth and Major Zechariah Roloff; and a niece, Mae. His father, Raymond Booth, preceded him in death.

Father Settle said that Father Booth had a great love for the Church, her sacraments and, especially, the priesthood.

Glenmary priest Father David Glockner restored to public ministry

Staff report

An independent investigation and review has determined that allegations against Glenmary Father David Glockner of inappropriate contact with minors are not credible. Following the decision, Father Glockner has been restored to public ministry.

In August 2019, Father Glockner was removed from public ministry after allegations were received. In September 2019, a Kentucky grand jury declined to indict Father Glockner on those same allegations.

Following the grand jury decision, in accordance with its policy, Glenmary commissioned an independent investigator to review the case to determine if its own policies for maintaining Ethical Ministry with Minors and Vulnerable Adults were violated. The investigator’s report was presented to Glenmary’s Review Board, which is an independent board comprised of six non-Glenmary members, including five lay people. After reviewing the report, the board, by a unanimous decision, found the allegations against Father Glockner to be not credible.

“Glenmary takes allegations of abuse or inappropriate contact very seriously, as evidenced by the steps we took during this process,” said Glenmary President Father Dan Dorsey. “We recognize that the last few months have been difficult and painful for all involved parties. I, and all my fellow Glenmaryans, continue to pray for everyone involved.”

“Glenmary is committed to ensuring the protection of minors and vulnerable adults. Any misconduct, by a Glenmaryan, should be communicated immediately to Glenmary’s president, Father Dorsey.”

In the Diocese of Covington, Father Glockner was parochial administrator at Holy Redeemer Parish, Vanceburg, from 2013–2019.

“I thank the Glenmary administration for conducting a thorough investigation of the allegations made against Father David Glockner,” a Glenmary priest who has served with distinction in the Diocese of Covington for many years, said Bishop Roger Roys. “I am grateful to Father Glockner for his ministry and for his having shown a great deal of faith during this troubling time. I pray for Father Glockner for the Glenmary missioners, and for all those who were affected in any way during this time.”

Bishop’s Schedule

February 14
High school principal meeting, 7:30 a.m.

February 15
Memorial Mass for Father Josiah N. Booth, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 10 a.m.

Vocation retreat talk, 3:45 p.m.; Mass, 4:30 p.m., All Saints Parish, Walton

February 16
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

Dedication of addition, St. Henry District High School, 3 p.m.

February 17
Curia offices closed — Presidents’ Day

February 18 – 19
Catholic Conference of Kentucky and Province meeting, Louisville

February 20
High school principal meeting, 7:30 a.m.

Catholic Conference of Kentucky and Province meeting, 7:30 a.m.

Curia staff luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

Monthly Holy Hour for Victims of Sexual Abuse and for the Sanctification of Priests, Cathedral Basilica, 3 p.m.

Confirmation, St. Mary Parish, Warsaw, 7 p.m.

February 21
Mass, St. Henry Elementary School, Elsmere, 8 a.m.

Individual meeting, 11 a.m.

Mass and installation of acolyte, St. Parish Parish, Maysville, 5:15 p.m.

February 23
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

Dedication of addition, St. Cecilia School, Independence, 3 p.m.

Sister Aileen elected Chair of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresse

Benedictine Sister Aileen Bankemper, prioress of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills, has been elected as chair of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresse (CBP) at their annual meeting held in Yankton, South Dakota. The CBP included 44 prioresse from the U.S., Canada and the Bahamas.

As chair of the CBP, Sister Aileen will provide support and communication for the members in order to further the vision and values of Benedictine life in the Church and contemporary society.

Sister Aileen has been involved with over 75 percent of the Benedictine women’s communities in the United States through her work with them, giving workshops on enhancing monastic community life, retreats, as well as facilitating elections of prioresse. Her work has also extended to Ireland, Belize and the Philippines.

Sister Aileen will be a delegate to the Comunauto Internationale Benedictarum, an international gathering of Benedictine women from 19 regions worldwide, which will be held in Assisi and Rome in September 2020.
In 1998, Pope St. John Paul II issued "Dies Domini" ("On Keeping the Holy Day Holy"), an apostolic letter on the relationship of Sunday to the "very core of the Christian mystery." The late Holy Father interpreted Sunday as the weekly celebration of "Christ's victory over sin and death, the fulfillment of the first creation and the dawn of the 'new creation.'" (DD, n.1)

Since the Christian Sunday is an Eucharistic celebration, a feast of the "new creation," its observance has moved "from the Sabbath to the 'first day of the Sabbath,' from the seventh day to the first day: the dies Domini becomes the dies Christi." (DD, n.10)

The "new creation" as a kerygmatic statement about the world. In brief, the Sabbath becomes "an echo of the creation," "a translation of God's logic which constitutes the universe." There are several correlative insights which can be drawn from the theology of creation in the opening chapter of the Book of Genesis.

1) The sabbath observance is a defense against the "risk of a manipulation of creation" that would undermine human dignity. Since the Torah or the Law of Israel suffuses the sabbath, worship entails an essential moral dimension.

Regarding that relation of creation and worship, St. John Paul II confirmed the centrality of the Paschal Mystery. "The Paschal Mystery of Christ is the full revelation of the mystery of the world's origin, the climax of the history of salvation and the eschatological fulfillment of the world." (DD, n.18)

"Creation was fashioned with a view to the Sabbath and the eschatological fulfillment has arrived at a consensus on the literary genre of the first biblical creation story," a reference to one of the several traditions that mark the composition of Genesis. (DD, n.8)

The number "seven," associated with "the rhythm of the heart and the rhythm of God's love, which manifests itself through the universe." That rhythm symbolized by the number seven and its cosmic significance expresses an even more profound religious meaning: "Creation is oriented to the sabbath, which is the sign of the covenant of between God and humankind."

There are several correlative insights which can be drawn from the theology of creation in the opening chapter of the Book of Genesis.

1) The sabbath observance is a defense against the "risk of a manipulation of creation" that would undermine human dignity. Since the Torah or the Law of Israel suffuses the sabbath, worship entails an essential moral dimension.

2) Covenant stems from God's love, from "his 'yes' to the human being that he created, so that he could both love and receive love.

A conclusion that can be inferred from the biblical narrative is incredible." (DD, n.10)

It protected men and women from making the "world into our image according to our purposes." In other words, there is no need to resort to a "concordism," which strives to find some correlation between science and the biblical account on the basis of a literal interpretation. Specifically, it is unnecessary to establish an essential dimension out of the six days of creation and cosmic ages as a biblical literalism or fundamentalist might dictate.

By way of summary, the artistic conception of a seven-day framework accentuates an essential dimension of the biblical covenant: the seventh day is the climax of the Hymn of Creation. The imaginative depiction of God as an artisan who creates in six days and rests on the seventh proclaims that all creation, history and time must be returned to God. The Sabbath command enjoining the Israelite to imitate the "rest" of God on the seventh day of the week.

In his study "Genesis" the noted biblical scholar Walther da Segromigghi identifies the institution of the Sabbath as "a kerygmatic statement about the world." In brief, the Sabbath rests enacts "a break with every effort to achieve." It protects men and women from making the "world into our image according to our purposes."

Regarding that relation of creation and worship, St. John Paul II confirmed the centrality of the Paschal Mystery. "The Paschal Mystery of Christ is the full revelation of the mystery of the world's origin, the climax of the history of salvation and the eschatological fulfillment of the world." (DD, n.18)

From the perspective of the Redemptive Incarnation, then, God "created the universe in order to be able to become a human being and pour out his love upon us and ultimately love him in return." It is unnecessary to establish a literal dimension out of the six days of creation and cosmic ages as a biblical literalism or fundamentalist might dictate. In other words, there is no need to resort to a "concordism," which strives to find some correlation between science and the biblical account on the basis of a literal interpretation. Specifically, it is unnecessary to establish an essential dimension out of the six days of creation and cosmic ages as a biblical literalism or fundamentalist might dictate.

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A defense for Coke on the carpet


I have a conviction that every child is a lawyer. Only with the passage of time does the little boy or girl decide on another profession. But initially they have an acute and innate sense of legalism. "How many times have I told you that you are not permitted to drink your Coke in the living room?" asks the father or mother as she is again cleaning up the spilled soft drink. "But mom," the tyrile replies, "you just said I couldn't drink it in here. I wasn't drinking it, I was just walking with it." Mom may marvel at the legalistic genius she is raising; but she must eventually rest on the old standby, "You know what I mean."

All of today’s Scriptural challenges take us beyond legalism and to seek genuine wisdom in living our Christian faith. The Church today challenges us to quit asking, "What do I have to do to be a good Catholic; what’s the ‘bottom line’?" Instead we are challenged to consider what way of life I am called to live because I’m a Christian. Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount in today’s Gospel. Some have mistakenly thought that he abrogated the Old Testament laws by his use of the familiar formula: "You have heard the commandment...What I say is..."

Father Ron Rolheiser

Father Daniel Vogelpohl

We adults can play the legalism game quite well. The sign on my garage door boldly proclaimed DON'T BLOCK DRIVEWAY. The first driver who did so assumed that I still had enough room to squeeze in and out. A second driver settling on the opposite side of the door assumed that the first was the one who was in the wrong. They had joined forces to ensure my car's incarceration. Each very accurately claimed that he had left enough room and that the other was at fault.

In the remainder of today's lengthy Gospel, Jesus invites us to explore the spirit of various laws. For example, he quotes the commandment forbidding murder. Few of us have trouble keeping that one, we think. But Jesus invites us not to be such a strict legalist. "What I say to you is everyone who grows angry...who uses abusive language...rises the fires of Gehenna." In other words, Jesus asks us to go far beyond the legal requirements of the commandment. He does not say that those who call another neighbor a blind soul — a fool (the actual meaning of the original biblical word translated here as "abusive language") — is just as guilty as the murderer.

The Lord reminds us that the spirit of the law focuses more big-hearted — just as I am more petty and smaller of heart when I don’t.

But just as our teammate challenged us all those years ago, we remain challenged to "be bigger" than the pettiness within a moment. That invitation lies at the very heart of Jesus’ moral challenge in the Sermon on the Mount. There he invites us to have a "virtue that’s deeper than that of the Scribes and the Pharisees." And there’s more hidden in that statement than first meets the eye because the Scribes and Pharisees were very virtuous people. They strove hard always to be faithful to all the moral precepts of their faith, and were people who believed in and practiced strict justice. They didn’t make unfair calls as umpires! But inside of all that goodness they still lacked something that the Sermon on the Mount invites us to — a certain magnanimity — to have big enough hearts and minds that can rise above being slighted so as to be bigger than a given moment.

Let me offer this example of what that can mean. Pope St. John Paul II was the first pope in history to speak out unequivocally against capital punishment. It’s important to note that he didn’t say that capital punishment was wrong. Biblically we do have the right to practice it. John Paul continued this by noting that in his day and the accusations brought against him. He would often be made multiple times a week in Southern California Catholic churches. In fact, Bryant attended a mass with his family in Newport Beach, California, the morning of the helicopter accident.

I didn’t know Kobe Bryant so I can’t confirm that he was a better person off the court than on it. But something stayed with me from that incident, the story of a priest, that helped him get through his challenges with his grief and the accusations brought against him. He would often be made multiple times a week in Southern California Catholic churches. In fact, Bryant attended a mass with his family in Newport Beach, California, the morning of the helicopter accident.

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IN EXILE

Father Ron Rolheiser

EIGHTH DAY

Father Daniel Vogelpohl

What does it mean to be big-hearted, magnanimous?

Once during a baseball game in high school an umpire may point out in no uncertain call against our team. Our whole team was indignant and all of us began to shout angrily at the umpire, swearing at him, calling him names, loudly venting our anger. But our team didn’t even bother to follow suit. Instead of shouting at the umpire he kept trying to stop the rest of us from doing so. “Let it go — we’re bigger than this!”

But what stayed with me from that incident, the challenge to “be bigger” inside the things that slight us. I don’t always succeed, but I’m a better person when I do — much bigger hearted — just as I am more petty and smaller of heart when I don’t.

What I mean by the ‘bottom line’? Instead we are challenged to consider another couple whose relationship is not close, where they always exchange an expression of affection, as a parting ritual. Now, should either of them neglect that expression of affection upon parting? Such neglect would mean nothing, no slight, no intent, no harm, no sin, just lack of care we usual. Yes, some things can be a sin for one person and not for another.

We’re invited both by Jesus and by what’s best inside us to become big enough of heart and mind to know that it’s a sin not to a complement, to know that even though biblical expectations may do. It’s not enough to do it, and to know that we’re better women and men when we are bigger than any slight we experience within a green moment.

Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.

Kobe Bryant’s legacy was just beginning

The world lost one of its iconic sports figures and eight other souls three weeks ago when a helicopter that crashed in Calabasas, California, killed 41-year-old basketball star Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna.

Bryant and Gianna were among the passengers onboard when the helicopter went down in a remote area of the Santa Monica Mountains. At least nine others also died in the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident.

Bryant was one of the most influential athletes of his generation. He won five NBA championships and was an 18-time All-Star. He finished third all-time in NBA scoring, a spot that LeBron James moved into the night before Bryant’s death when he surpassed Bryant’s totals.

But like all of us, Kobe was a family man. His marital infidelity early in his career was well-documented and tested his marriage with his wife, Vanessa, but it also had legal ramifications when the other woman involved filed sexual assault charges. Ultimately, charges were dropped and a civil suit was settled out of court.

But also like many of us, Bryant had a faith story it involved his upbringing in Philadelphia and it involved his family. It also involved being a present father and helping people especially in his post basketball playing career. It was reported by GQ Magazine in a 2015 interview that he had his Catholic faith, and specifically talked to a priest, that helped him get through his challenges with his grief and the accusations brought against him. He would often be made multiple times a week in Southern California Catholic churches. In fact, Bryant attended a mass with his family in Newport Beach, California, the morning of the helicopter accident.

I didn’t know Kobe Bryant so I can’t confirm that he was a better person than he was, but over the course of his career he became big-hearted enough that he didn’t do it, and to know that we’re better women and men when we are bigger than any slight we experience within a green moment.

Obit Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.

IN EXILE

Father Ron Rolheiser

In Exile

Magnanimity

February 14, 2020
Lenten Pro-life Prayer

Father of all mercy,
We thank you for this season of grace and light.
We know that sin has blinded us.
Draw us ever closer to you,
in prayer and penance.

Since you, O God, are light itself,
Give all people a clearer understanding
Of what is sin, and what is virtue.
Grant in particular that we may see,
Of what is sin, and what is virtue.

In the profound dignity of every human life,
Including the vulnerable unborn children.
Give us grace to defend
in prayer and penance.

In prayer and penance,
The most visible component of the 40 Days for Life campaign is
the peaceful, prayerful, public 12-hour per day vigil that takes place in
the public right-of-way on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood
offices.

The campaign organizers strive to have prayer volunteers present every
participating in a 40 Days for Life prayer vigil, we can sacrifice our time,
conversion of heart through prayer, fasting and charitable works. By
involved? Just come out and pray. Lent calls us to an inner journey of
deep grief,” said Mrs. Roch. “Why not try this simple way to get
to the sanctity of human life at the very place where lives of the unborn
are ended, to Jesus’s preparation for his public ministry and the disciples’
takes its inspiration from
Scripture. Historically, God used 40-day periods to transform individu-
als and communities — from Noah in the flood to Moses on the moun-
tain, to Jesus’s preparation for his public ministry and the disciples’
transformation after Christ’s resurrection.

"Lent is the perfect timing for this campaign," said Faye Roche, direc-
tor of the Pro-Life Office, Diocese of Covington. "What better work of
mercy for Lent than to set aside time to pray at an abortion site for an
end to abortion. Lives are saved and women are spared great sorrow and regret.
I hope and pray many Christians will include 40 Days for Life among their Lenten works of mercy.”

The most visible component of the 40 Days for Life campaign is
the peaceful, prayerful, public 12-hour per day vigil that takes place in
the public right-of-way on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood
on Auburn Ave., Cincinnati. Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio
reported 6,055 abortions and 268 ‘emergency contraception” abortion
pills in 2017. Auburn Avenue is its only remaining Cincinnati abor-
tion site.

“This campaign of prayer and fasting gives peaceful, public witness
to the sanctity of human life at the very place where lives of the unborn
are ended and oftentimes mothers and fathers begin an experience of
deep grief,” said Mrs. Roche. "Why not try this simple way to get
involved? Just come out and pray. Lent calls us to an inner journey of
conversion of heart through prayer, fasting and charitable works. By
participating in a 40 Days for Life prayer vigil, we can sacrifice our time,
pray as part of our Lenten journey and bear great fruit!”

This spring’s campaign will start on the first day of Lent, Ash
Wednesday, Feb. 26, and will continue daily until Palm Sunday, April 5.
The campaign organizers strive to have prayer volunteers present every
day from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., and count on new and returning participants
from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Diocese of Covington, which
have been loyal sources of support in the past.

"In order to make this possible, individuals from many churches
and other groups are needed to ‘adopt’ one day of the campaign as
their day to come and pray,” said Mrs. Roch.

Making 40 days of Lent ‘40 Days for Life’

"I am in this movement today because of ordinary people who took on an extraordinary task.

My former abortion clinic is closed because of their sacrifice. Babies are alive because of them.

Women are no longer being hurt by abortion in their community. You can do this. You can save a life.

I now stand alongside you in this 40 Days for Life movement.

-- Abby Johnson, former director of a Planned Parenthood Clinic

For more information about the Pro-Life Office or to be added to our e-mail newsmail, visit us online at www.covdio.org/prolife/ or call (859) 392-1500.
Father John Rausch, advocate for Appalachian people, dies at 75

Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

Glenmary Father John Rausch recognized early in his time as a missionary in Appalachia that people were facing severe environmental and economic challenges and devoted his ministry to seeking solutions and calling attention to their predicament.

For 53 years, Father Rausch of Stanton, Kentucky, who died Feb. 9 at age 75, traveled around the region, speaking, writing, organizing and praying in a lifelong effort to carry out the biblical call to justice, friends and colleagues recalled.

“He was very dedicated to justice,” Father Dan Dorsay, Glenmary’s president, told Catholic News Service Feb. 11.

“Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si’, seemed to sum up his own ministry and passion as far as care of the earth. He had just an incredible love of Appalachia and its people.”

Visitors to Father Rausch in Kentucky often were treated to hearty meals and warm hospitality. “It was the ministry of the table,” Father Dorsay said.

That love led Father Rausch to the Catholic Conference of Appalachia, for which he served as director from 2005 to 2013. The organization presented him with his Bishop Sullivan Peace and Justice Award in 2016.

Michael Iafrate, the committee’s current co-coordinator, credited Father Rausch for being “a regular guy.”

“He was on the other end of clericalism, of being with people and not imposing stuff on them, and standing with them in whatever struggle they might have, a personal struggle or a political struggle,” Iafrate said.

He also had a way of communicating what Catholic social teaching is about and reaching people who you wouldn’t think would be very receptive to it,” Iafrate added in a Feb. 11 interview with CNS.

Father Rausch, who was writing an autobiography for the University of Kentucky Press at the time of his death, had been a longtime supporter of coal miners and their families. In recent years, he spoke against efforts by mining companies to shed pension and health care liabilities for coal miners and their families. In recent years, he spoke against efforts by mining companies to shed pension and health care liabilities for coal miners and their families.

“I think all the members of your order for seeing in our persecuted and displaced brothers and sisters of that region neighbors, for whom you are a sign of God’s infinite love,” he said in an address Feb. 10 to members of this fraternal service organization.

A delegation led by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and including the organization’s board of directors was in Rome to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their active presence in Rome.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in the United States almost 146 years ago, and Pope Benedict XV asked if it could also work with and assist young people in Rome following World War I.

By opening educational and aid centers in the city, “your order proved faithful to the vision of your founder,” Venerable (Father) Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need,” Pope Francis said.

The pope recognized the Knights’ ongoing work of “evangelical charity and fraternity in a variety of fields,” particularly “your faithful witness to the sacred dignity of humanity, evident in the local and national levels.”

That commitment to protect life has also led the Knights to provide both material and spiritual aid to “Christian communities in the Middle East that are suffering the effects of violence, war and poverty.”

The pope also recognized the order’s “unsurpassing devotion to the successor of Peter.”

“In our world, marked by divisions and inequalities, the generous commitment of your order to serve all in need offers, especially to young people, an important inspirations to overcome a globalization of indifference and build together a more just and inclusive society,” he said.

Glenmary Father John Rausch is seen in this 2014 file photo at his Appalachian home near Stanton, Ky.

He died Feb. 9, 2020, at age 75.

Appalachian region without a traditional church assignment. “He viewed all of Appalachia as his parish,” Father Dorsay said.

The pastoral letter marked the first effort by the bishops as a group to call attention to the dire economic hardship, rising drug abuse, environmental destruction and a decline in the culture that defines the 205,000-square-mile region that extends from southern New York to northeastern Mississippi and is home to more than 25 million people.

Father Rausch organized pilgrimage for religious leaders, journalists, elected officials and parishioners from across the country to see first-hand the resiliency of the people in the face of the hardships.

In his writing, Father Rausch described the experiences of the people of Appalachia in a column that appeared in a daily newspaper — including the Diocese of Covington’s Messenger until 2012 — as well as in articles for various publications. He won 10 Catholic Press Association awards for his work published in Glenmary Challenge magazine.

In 2007, Pax Christi USA awarded Father Rausch with the Teacher of Peace Award.

Johnny Zokovitch, executive director of Pax Christi USA, recalled the priest for his witness in life that “spoke to the peace of Christ, care of creation and the Church’s preferential option for those who are impoverished.”

Father Rausch is survived by two sisters, Marian J. McGinty and Melanie V. Cannon.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated Feb. 19 at St. Matthias Church in Cincinnati. Father Rausch will be buried at Gate of Heaven in Montgomery, Ohio.

Generous help of Knights counters culture of indifference

Carol Glazt
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis praised the Knights of Columbus for their charitable efforts and thanked them especially for helping Christians in the Middle East.

“I thank all the members of your order for your persevering and displaced brothers and sisters of that region neighbors, for whom you are a sign of God’s infinite love,” he said in an address Feb. 10 to members of this fraternal service organization.

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Newsworthy

Happy Birthday to Father Michael Conner, pastor; Mother of God Parish, Covington, Feb. 18; Deacon Thomas Kathman, St. Paul Parish, Florence, Feb. 20; and Father Gregory Bach, pastor; St. Henry Parish, Elmire, Feb. 23.

Sean Nichols, a sixth grader at Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills, has been selected as Kentucky’s top Middle Level youth volunteer in the 2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Sean will receive a $1,000 scholarship, an engraved silver medalion and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a national recognition event in May.

Three Villa Madonna Academy High School students have earned the rank of Eagle Scout through Scouts BSA. Scouts who earn the honor must earn 21 merit badges, assume a leadership role in their troop, and plan and complete a service project.

Aidan Collins, ’21, organized a crew to repair a dog run area at the Boone County Animal Shelter. He earned 59 merit badges and several Eagle Palms for achieving 29 merit badges beyond the 21 required for Eagle Scout.

Patrick Goodwin, ’20, earned 42 merit badges and built a free store library and two benches at Fox Run Park in Boone County. Gary Turgeon, ’20, also became an Eagle Scout this fall. He built the outdoor classroom on Villa’s campus.

The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption will be broadcast on Sunday 5-6 p.m. on station WMVS-LP on channels: over the air 5-2, Spectrum 108 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@credio.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 your parish? 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.credo.org/chancery.


“Called to Love” vocation discernment retreat, sixth grade through college aged young women, Feb. 15, 7-45 a.m.-6 p.m., All Saints Church Hall, Walton. Contact sjwvocations@gmail.com. 9th annual Catholic Men’s Conference of Western Kentucky, Feb. 15, RiverPark Center, Owensboro. What it means to be a Catholic man in a secular world. Tickets available online.

Pancake breakfast, Feb. 16, Notre Dame Academy cafeteria, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Benefits the Sisters of Notre Dame Uganda Mission; $6 adults/$4 children. www.sndky.org.

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. 20.

Eucharistic Adoration, Thu., Jan. 14; Wed., Jan. 27, 3:30-5 p.m., and Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-noon, at St. Mary the Virgin, Covington. Eucharistic adoration on the first Thursday of every month.

Ascension Catholic Men’s Conference, Feb. 22, St. Leo, Indiana. Featuring speakers Dr. Scott Hahn, Father Don Calloway and Doug Barry, with adoration, confession and Holy Mass. Registration online.

NKU Catholic Newman Center Women’s Group, 3-4 p.m., workshop and discussion, Feb. 21, March 28, Apr. 26. E-mail russellki4@nku.edu to RSVP.

Spaghetti dinner and fine arts festival, Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m., Covington Catholic High School. Sponsored by the Parents Club, featuring a performance by the award winning CCH Chamber Choir and the Covington Catholic and Notre Dame Academy Band. CCH student artwork will be exhibited as well.

Villa Madonna Montessori open house, Feb. 23, 1-3 p.m. Learn more about the Montessori learning environment for ages 3-6. Call 341-0145 or e-mail VillaMadonnaMontessori@gmail.com.

Fat Tuesday celebration with the Cathedral Ladies’ Society, Feb. 25, 5-8 p.m., at Covington Latin School. Call 291-5442.

Fish Fry, St. Augustine Parish, Covington, 4-7 p.m., every Friday in Lent in the gym. Call 431-4943.

Ash Wednesday — day of recollection, Feb. 26, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame at the Sisters of Notre Dame Provincial House. Cost $30 includes lunch. Speaker is Notre Dame Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich from Chardon, Ohio. Call Sister Margie Schnelle 352-8229 or e-mail mcschnelle@sndky.org.

St. Therese Parish, Southgate Fish Fry, Feb. 21, 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Joy of giving

Student Council members from Mary Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger, spent time volunteering at Welcome House, working on crafts and enjoying hot chocolate with the children currently residing there.

Academic winners

Congratulations to the middle school academic team at St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs. The quick recall team came in first place in regionals.

Parish. Centennial marriage celebration featuring Mass, marriage blessing, heavy hors d’ouvres, drinks and dance. Tickets $20, register online.

Fifth grade students at Mary Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger, presented projects of famous Americans in the social studies fair.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS
**Women’s Retreat**, Feb. 28 – March 1, St. Anne Retreat Center. A Lenten Retreat on the meaning of the cross in our lives. Cost is $135, including lodging and meals.

**Fish Fry**, St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, in Murphy Hall. Feb 28, March 6, 13 and 20.


“Lenten lectio,” group lectio divina, Tuesdays beginning March 3, 7:30 p.m., St. Walburg Monastery. Email marytwes@gmail.com or call (859)-331-6234 for more information.

**More Than One Way To Pray.** Sisters of Notre Dame Women’s Weekend Retreats, March 6-8 and April 3-5. Limited reservations. Call 232-6229.

**Eucharist: Rediscovering the Hope at the Heart of Worship,** presented by Divine Providence Sister Lucy Zientek, March 7, 9-11 a.m., St. Agnes Province Center, Melbourne. Continental breakfast served. Register by e-mail anna89miller@gmail.com or call 250-8313.

“Talking on Ourselves: Stories about Wells, Pools and Tombs” (The Gospels of the Last Three Sundays of Lent),” March 14, 9:30 a.m., sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg. $20 fee includes snacks and materials. Participants must pre-register at stdhubb@yahoo.com or 313-6771. No walk-ins.

**Expeditions in Ocean Exploration,** March 19, Newport Aquarium. Featuring Amanda Netburn, Ph.D., sponsored by Thomas More University as part of its Marine Biology and Conservation Lecture Series. For more information, contact schnppers@thomasmore.edu.


Silent Directed Retreat for Men and Women, March 27-29, Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, $135 fee. For more information contact dorothysosb@gmail.com or (859) 446-7721.

**Big Blue Bash**, March 27, 6:30 p.m. – midnight, Cincinnati Club. Benefits St. Agnes School, Ft. Wright.

22nd annual Mulch Sale, starting April 24. Holy Cross High School is selling 3 kinds of mulch in 2 cubic foot bags. Students will deliver mulch to homes or businesses in Kenton, Boone or Campbell Counties. All proceeds benefit Holy Cross High School. Go to www.hcmulch.com or call (859) 492-8515.

**Bingo every Friday**, St. Mary’s undercroft, Alexandria. Jitney games, 7 p.m.; regular games, 8 p.m.

**Care Net Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky annual banquet**, May 7, Receptions Event Center, Erlanger. Guest speaker is Crissy Standley, pro-life advocate and mother of “Twin Miracle Babies.” Visit www.choiceisforky.org or contact Julie at developmentassistant@carenet ky.org for more information.

Volunteer medical interpreters are needed to help Spanish speakers with specialist appointments. Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing, 351-0821. Must be VIR-TUS compliant and able to meet patients at various locations.

Help Parish Kitchen, a ministry of Catholic Charities – Diocese of Covington, provide warmth for the homeless this winter. Donate new sleeping bags or new twin blankets at either: Parish Kitchen, 141 W Pike St, Covington, Monday-Friday, 8-11 a.m. or Catholic Charities, 3629 Church St., Latonia, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Contact 981-7745 or smmeyer@catholiccharities.org.

**St. Charles Resource Center for the Aging** is a service to inform, educate and empower seniors and their families who are in need of support services. The consultation service is free and aimed to educate seniors and their families about the resources offered in the community and other aging issues. Contact Margie Volpentest at 351-3224, ext. 1440.

A faith-based support group, New Beginnings, provides separated and divorced individuals the opportunity for healing and growth. Participants will find new understanding of themselves and their relationships and gain courage to discover new life. Session location TBD. Registrations required, call 351-1000, ext. 1092. The next eight-week session is: Thursdays, March 12 – April 30.

**Project Rachel**, God’s greatest desire is to forgive. Come back to God who is love and mercy. Project Rachel hotline, (859) 592-1347 or e-mail projectrachel@coxov.org. All calls and emails are confidential.

**PrimeWise** at St. Elizabeth Healthcare offers adults, age 50 and over, a free network of valuable services especially suited to their needs and interests. It’s not a club and there are no membership dues or meetings, just lots of benefits, information, programs and special discounts. PrimeWise can provide information on topics like advance directives and living wills. Medicare and many health related concerns. Call 381-9999 or e-mail primewise@stelizabeth.com.

For couples in troubled marriages, Retrouvaille is a program of healing and renewal consisting of one weekend and six follow-up sessions over the course of three months. Contact: www.tncny@retrouvaille.org or (513) 456-5413.

Free support group, Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (P.A.L.) meets every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., at Catholic Charities, Latonia. Group provides continuing education and support, at no charge, for parents with a son, daughter or spouse suffering from addiction to alcohol or drugs. No cost. Information, 981-8974 or www.covingtoncharities.org.

St. Vincent de Paul, Erlanger, needs volunteers for the call center and food pantry for just a few hours each week. Food pantry volunteers help set up bags of food that are provided to those in need. Call center volunteers assist with answering calls for assistance and data entry; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For information call (859) 446-7721.
Bishop Brossart High School students craft waxed culinary creations for 14th annual ‘Art of Food’ at The Carnegie

Laura Keener
Editor

Bishop Brossart High School (BBHS) is among the names of “special project” artists for the 14th annual “Art of Food” exhibit at The Carnegie, Covington.

The “Art of Food” is The Carnegie’s annual fundraiser which combines visual, performing and culinary arts. It will be held Friday, Feb. 21, 6-10 p.m., and this year, the food and festivities will feature dozens of wax desserts created by the artists in David Schuh’s art class at BBHS.

“It’s a fun, 3-dimensional work to do,” Mr. Schuh said about wax sculpting. “Sometimes with art projects students have problems coming up with ideas, but this one seems to be pretty easy to come up with different kinds of desserts.”

Claire Cutsinger, sophomore, chose a subject she is most familiar with, her favorite dessert — cherry pie. “It was a challenge,” she said about working with wax. “You just have to go for it.” Mr. Schuh would agree, noting that warm wax is fairly easy to manipulate and mistakes can be melted down and reworked.

“Once you get the hang of it, it’s not too hard but it’s challenging to get started,” he said.

Bianca Schmidt, sophomore, wanted to do something that no one else was doing, so she chose to create a three-layer cake in the palette of mint chocolate chip.

“I wanted to be unique about it,” said Ms. Schmidt. And the layers “helped me learn to carve and be careful with a knife.”

Ms. Schmidt has sculpting in her DNA. She is the granddaughter of the late local artist and art instructor, Bernie Schmidt, Jr. Mr. Schmidt taught at Thomas More College (now Thomas More University). His sculpture of Thomas More resides on campus on the university’s campus and much of his other work can found around greater Cincinnati.

Grace Schroeder, sophomore, chose to make a pair of strawberry shakes, that she said, at first, was easy. “I just had to melt the wax and pour it in.” But she realized that to make the shakes look yummy required adding texture and finding just the right technique to do it.

“That took a few weeks to figure out,” said Ms. Schroeder. Mr. Schuh came up with the idea of poking a knife into the melted wax and smearing it; it kind of looks like chunks of strawberries,” she said.

The young artists enjoyed working with wax but offered some advice.

“Be careful, it’s hot,” said Ms. Schmidt.

And don’t start a wax project right after you have your fingernails done for the Snowball dance. “It will ruin the acrylic,” said Ms. Schroeder.

Their waxed culinary creations are just a few of the dozens created by students at BBHS that will be on display at The Carnegie. Mr. Schuh learned about the opportunity through Mike Enzweiler, artist and volunteer director of the BBHS Art Gallery. He’s been a member of The Carnegie for many years and is a former art teacher at BBHS. He also teaches art at St. Joseph Pre-K, Camp Springs.

“Anything I can do to promote the school and in particular the art students, I will do,” Mr. Enzweiler said.

In April, the BBHS Art Gallery will host its annual BBHS Senior Art Show. When available, information on the date and times will be listed in the Messenger on the People and Events page.

Do you desire to make a difference and have a direct impact on saving lives right here in our community? Volunteer!

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Florence • Cold Spring • Williamsburg
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lyndi@carenetsky.org or 859-431-9786 ext. 3

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859.442.7776 www.mchaleascatering.com
Austin Bauer and Gabby Gregory were married at St. Augustine Parish, Covington, on June 8, 2019. Their marriage was one of the first events held in the church after the restoration of the bells and the installation of a state-of-the-art air conditioning system as part of the St. Augustine Capital Campaign for the parish’s 150th anniversary.

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.”

Song of Solomon 8:6
Getting ready for your marriage in the Diocese of Covington

Catholic Engaged Encounter
The weekend retreat offered by the Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) ministry offers couples a unique opportunity to look at their commitment to each other in a deeper way as they prepare for marriage. Free from the pressure and distractions of the outside world, couples are given 30 plus hours to honestly and intentionally dialogue about their prospective lives together. Two married couples make up the presenting team and share brief stories about their marriages and the impact of the sacrament of marriage on their lives, with the goal of encouraging participants to explore their own attitudes and expectations. The team also offers couples ideas on how to continue to love each other, even amid the pressures of the world. The engaged couples should anticipate discussing each other’s strengths and weaknesses, desires and ambitions, as well as their attitudes about money, sex, children, family and the role of the Church and society in their future marriages. Their motto is: “A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime.”

You’re Engaged!
Congratulations! Because the Catholic Church and your diocesan community wants couples to form strong, lasting marriages, all engaged couples wishing to marry in the Diocese of Covington are required to:
- Contact the parish priest at least nine to twelve months before your wedding to set an initial appointment and to start your marriage preparations.

Attend one of the three listed marriage preparation programs three to six months prior to your wedding. Since marriage preparation programs often fill quickly, it is wise to register two to three months before the program date. See course and registration information below.

Attend a certified Natural Family Planning course. It is preferable to attend this course after attending your marriage preparation program, if possible. NFP courses require a three month commitment and fill quickly, so register early.

Marriage Preparation Programs

Evenings for the Engaged - A small group of engaged couples meet in the home of a marriage ministry couple one evening per week for five weeks. This combines sharing by the lead couple with small group discussions. You must be able to make all five sessions.

Lifelong Marriage as a Sacrament - This program is held on two consecutive Saturdays with large group presentations, a small group and large group discussions. The focus is on a couple’s relationship and the beauty and importance of the sacrament of marriage.

Natural Family Planning
Natural Family Planning courses consist of three classes spaced one month apart. New courses are added frequently. For an up-to-date schedule or to register for a class, visit the Couple to Couple League’s website, www.ccli.org, or call (533) 471-2000.

Cost: $340 per couple

NOTE: CCL’s online course is not approved under any circumstances for couples being married in the Diocese of Covington.

The Couple to Couple League offers three programs; not all of these programs are approved to fulfill the Marriage prep requirement in the Diocese of Covington.

Before you register for an NFP course, please read the diocesan regulations at www.covdio.org/catechesis-and-evangelization/.

The Couple to Couple League offers instruction in Natural Family Planning courses consist of three classes spaced one month apart. New courses are added frequently. For an up-to-date schedule or to register for a course visit the Couple to Couple League’s website, www.ccli.org, or call (533) 471-2000, ext. 1013, or (809) 380-2814, or e-mail sschmidt@ccli.org.

Cost: $140 per couple

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Natural Family Planning is a methodology for the recognition of fertility. The Couple to Couple League offers instruction in Natural Family Planning courses consist of three classes spaced one month apart. New courses are added frequently. For an up-to-date schedule or to register for a course visit the Couple to Couple League’s website, www.ccli.org, or call (533) 471-2000, ext. 1013, or (809) 380-2814, or e-mail sschmidt@ccli.org.

Cost: $85 per couple

Contact: For more information and dates of the program, e-mail eveningsprograms@gmail.com.

Living Marriage as a Sacrament - This program is held on two consecutive Saturdays with large group presentations, a small group and large group discussions. The focus is on a couple’s relationship and the beauty and importance of the sacrament of marriage.

Time: Usually 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Dates and locations for LMAS:
- April 18 (day 1) and April 25 (day 2), St. Timothy School, Union
- June 6 (day 1) and June 13 (day 2), St. Timothy School, Union

Contact: For more information and dates of the program, e-mail eveningsprograms@gmail.com.

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The Couple to Couple League offers three programs; not all of these programs are approved to fulfill the Marriage prep requirement in the Diocese of Covington. Before you register for an NFP course, please read the diocesan regulations at www.covdio.org/catechesis-and-evangelization/.

The Couple to Couple League offers instruction in Natural Family Planning courses consist of three classes spaced one month apart. New courses are added frequently. For an up-to-date schedule or to register for a course visit the Couple to Couple League’s website, www.ccli.org, or call (533) 471-2000, ext. 1013, or (809) 380-2814, or e-mail sschmidt@ccli.org.

Cost: $85 per couple

Contact: For more information and dates of the program, e-mail eveningsprograms@gmail.com.

Living Marriage as a Sacrament - This program is held on two consecutive Saturdays with large group presentations, a small group and large group discussions. The focus is on a couple’s relationship and the beauty and importance of the sacrament of marriage.

Time: Usually 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Dates and locations for LMAS:
- April 18 (day 1) and April 25 (day 2), St. Timothy School, Union
- June 6 (day 1) and June 13 (day 2), St. Timothy School, Union

Contact: For more information and dates of the program, e-mail eveningsprograms@gmail.com.
Music for your wedding liturgy: an opportunity for beauty in ritual

Deacon Peter Freeman
Contributor

“Why can’t we use this song for our wedding?” is one of the most common questions that arises when a couple is planning their wedding in the Catholic Church. It can sometimes be disappointing to the engaged couple when they find out that their favorite song cannot be used. The key point is to remember that a wedding is first and foremost a church ritual that needs to follow the principles and rules of the official public rites of the Catholic Church, also called “liturgies.”

The model for what a Catholic wedding should look like is what usually happens at a Sunday Mass. There are basic guidelines that music directors, wedding coordinators, priests and deacons use regarding music for Catholic weddings. These guidelines are based on standard principles that govern how music is chosen in the Catholic Church throughout the world. The local diocese, such as ours in Covington, may have other more specific guidelines. If you keep these three basic guidelines in mind, your liturgy preparation should go much smoother.

— Catholic wedding music is music that everyone sings together. Singing together is meant to express the unity of all the people gathered. Group singing says that each of us is necessary. Your family and friends are there to support you. Help them by choosing music they can sing together.

— Catholic wedding music is liturgical. Liturgical music is written for Catholic liturgy. It has lyrics that fit the theme of the liturgy, but more importantly, liturgical music fulfills the specified function of each part of the liturgy. The music used must “serve the liturgy” so that the music fits the purpose, length and assigned texts, for the liturgy. The music used must “serve the liturgy” so that the music fits the purpose, length and assigned texts, for the liturgy. The music used must “serve the liturgy” so that the music fits the purpose, length and assigned texts, for the liturgy.

— The parish organist, cantor and even choir are the best choice to ensure that things go smoothly. The parish musician (or his or her delegate) should serve as organist and/or principal musician at weddings, and must oversee selection and planning of the music for the wedding liturgy.

In the Diocese of Covington, sung music is chosen from the vast repertory of sacred and liturgical music. The text of the music must be religious and liturgical. Popular songs that happen to mention God in an incidental manner do not qualify as sacred music. Secular or popular songs are not without appropriateness before, during or after the ceremony. Those songs would be better served at a different time. This applies also if the songs would be played as instrumental music.

— Make it last: a love that lasts for a lifetime

Diana Weckenbrock

It is safe to say that every human person has a strong desire to be loved and, in return, to love. People spend their lives dedicated to learning to love themselves, another person and striving to understand its true meaning. It all makes sense when we consider that we are all made by love itself, for love and to love. It is written on our hearts and most importantly is evident in the creation of our bodies as male and female. God designed us to be a gift to one another. One of the greatest examples of this is the union between man and woman within the sacrament of marriage. The heartbreaking truth is that many young adults are opting out of marriage because of fear of divorce, and disbelief in a lasting, beautiful love.

When looking around at the genuine and fruitful marriages in our communities and families, there are general three common traits you can detect; namely, God’s love overflowing for the couple, true and courageous intimacy, and finally forgiveness. This is reiterated in a video that Christopher West, bestselling author of Introduction to Theology of the Body and world renowned speaker posted on YouTube called What Makes a Marriage Successful: 3 Secrets of a Successful Marriage. West, in his books and videos, often refers to receiving God’s love like receiving the best wine as depicted in the biblical story of the wedding feast of Cana. In this story the guests were at the mercy of Christ. Not only did the guests desire the wine but also he created an abundance of the finest wine. This story represents our own marriages and pointing our hearts and desires to Christ. He is waiting to pour into us the graces and love we need. Naturally, we question ourselves, how do we obtain God’s love within marriage? The most important part is to start with a sacramental Catholic marriage. Leslie Kohlman, Executive Director of Rush Woods, says, “If you are married in the Church, in the sacrament of marriage, you are marrying in God’s grace which help you live a successful marriage… The couple needs God’s grace to make this work!” Furthermore, each person within the marriage encounters Christ individually, through prayer and the sacraments. Pray for each other and with one another, as well as encourage the frequent reception of the sacraments. Ultimately, we are a visible representation of the love that God wants to have with every human. Reading the Song of Songs together is a beautiful way to grow in understanding of marriage and God’s heart. The unity of husband and wife, the communication of romance and outpouring of love for another, should imitate the heavenly marriage between God and ourselves.

In loving God with each other in marriage, it allows us to offer ourselves freely as a gift to one another. We can cultivate an intimate relationship beyond the sexual nature. Intimacy is not just the sexual bond. It is allowing the other to see you completely as God created you. It is discovering the other, mind and soul, and sharing your heart. In West’s video, he talks about intimacy. In summary, when we allow our spouse to gaze into our hearts there are discoveries that we may not even know exist. This takes courage and true vulnerability. It does not have to be scary. Learn to date one another within your marriage, to pursue each other’s hearts.

In addition, understand that our spouse could never fully satisfy our hearts. C.S. Lewis says it best, “If I find in myself desires that nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.” In our opposite and fallen world, we need to find care and comfort for our hearts tenderness—they and they will because we are fallen humans beings—we have to learn to forgive. When asked, “what is something that makes your marriage last?” many couples responded with forgiveness. Not only do you have to be willing to forgive your spouse, but also be willing to understand we are fallen and need forgiveness as well. There is so much to explore on the idea of forgiveness, but to sum it up, Alexander Pope, an English Poet, wrote: “To err is human, to forgive is divine.” Reflecting on this helps us to realize our weakness and dependence on Christ and gives us compassion for the other. Stay close to the sacrament of confession, and it will allow you the grace to forgive if you simply ask.

The topic of a lasting and fruitful love is one that is endless. It all boils down to centering your life and marriage on Christ, learning true and courageous intimacy, and understanding we are all fallen and thus need forgiveness in our hearts. If we learn and understand this, through the teachings of the Church, diving deeper into Theology of the Body and keeping close to the sacraments, we allow God to enter our hearts and marriage, which in turn helps us on the right path to a successful and lasting love.

Diana Weckenbrock is the Communications Coordinator at Rush Woods, Cincinnati.
Make it last: On the other side of fertility

Ann Gundlach
Contributor

I’ve waited a long time to write this. Thirty-two years and eight months, actually, or 392 months (sorry, I didn’t keep track of the actual number of cycles). I am officially in menopause.

To the world, I almost feel like I should be a museum exhibit or perhaps the subject of a viral post. Rare woman manages entire fertile years without the need of doctors!

I’m definitely an anomaly in most circles. It seems that, sadly, many in today’s society have never come across an adult woman who can function without an array of pills, patches, IUDs, etc.

But among those who learn natural family planning (NFP), I’m not that much of an oddity. There are thousands of couples who have left the artificial and unnatural stuff behind — with no regrets. The naysayers will likely jump on that last phrase, “with no regrets.” Too often any positive message about NFP is followed by rumblings that the real truth about NFP is being downplayed. My own seasoned advice is to be somewhat discriminating on which voices you believe.

For the record, everyone’s NFP experience is valid and true for them. Some folks do struggle with practic- ing it. But not everyone does. For every time I hear of new NFP converts, there is another who struggles and takes more than a few cycles.

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The Gundlachs are grateful to Natural Family Planning for helping them get 32 years and eight months of experience that proves it. Our Church’s teaching has never been more true. Greg and I have always been very committed to healthy habits. Greg valued these things for me as well, because a healthy Ann meant a healthy cycle, which is why we never had more than two or three babies at any one time. Our intimate moments are wrapped up in so many memories of our attempts to lovingly share life that I feel like we are finally beginning to realize what it really means to make love.

As a menopausal woman who has never taken, touched or even seen a contraceptive with my own eyes, I may be an aberration to many today, but our experience is that an NFP-based marriage has been a tremendous blessing. Our Church’s teaching, while not always easy, has proven to be the better path for us. We’ve got 32 years and eight months of experience that proves it.

Greg and Ann Gundlach at their wedding 32 years ago and now. The Gundlachs are grateful to Natural Family Planning for helping them see the sacramentality of their marriage.
Placing NFP frustrations within the big picture

Father John Flooder
Contributor

I am often inspired and served by the very people I am ministering to as a priest. Perhaps the most inspiring person I’ve had the pleasure of knowing was a stocky retired man in his 70’s named Gordon. I met him at one of the nursing homes I celebrated Mass at regularly. He was always sitting in back during Mass and then sitting with his wife in her room when I came to bring Communion to those who could not physically come to Mass.

I was struck by the great tenderness he always showed her as dementia and physical depletions slowly made it harder to see the woman he loved. He would gently brush her hair away from her face. He would hold her hand with such care and sweetness. And he was always there. I once asked a nurse how often Gordon came to visit, and she said that for the last two years he was there with his wife from 9 a.m. until after she ate supper.

Most inspiring to me about Gordon was that he was living the essence of what the sacrament of marriage is about without most of the things people today imagine to be important. There were no warm fuzzies. He wasn’t able to have deep conversations, especially in the final months. He wasn’t able to have sex. It was at times excruciatingly difficult and frustrating.

Yet after his wife passed, he shared with me that he treasured those last few years in the nursing home with her. For him it all fit in the big picture of what he promised on his wedding day — to love his wife until the end. And that gave him joy and peace.

He had to persevere with the grace of God. But his love for her even greater yeses of love. He had to stay rooted in prayer and the sacraments. He had to persevere with the grace of God. But his love was blessed and filled him with deep joy and peace even in the midst of suffering.

For those who are struggling, situate your frustrations in the big picture of marriage. Then, like Gordon, you can grow into one another with the very love of Christ, which loves by action and not only emotion, loves to the end, and even in the most difficult moments gives rise to life and fruit. Sex can be a part of this, but only when placed at the service of love and real intimacy.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) can at times be a great challenge. With irregular cycles and postpartum uncertainty there can be times with fewer days available than a couple would like if they have consciously and responsibly determined it would not be a good time for a child.

I do not have a magic answer for why this is happening or an easy way to get through such times. That said, if the Church is right about birth control, it is right because the teaching best respects how we as humans are made, the facts about the massive health risks of contraceptives and the real demands of love. This can be difficult at times. But as Simcha Fishier writes, “NFP is the worst possible system, except for all the others.”

My friend Gordon wasn’t able to love his wife at the end the way he did on the first day of their marriage. He had to work hard and sometimes say no’s for the even greater yeses of love. For those who are struggling, situate your frustrations in the big picture of marriage. Then, like Gordon, you can grow into the love that your spouse, your marriage and your family are made for.

Father John Flooder serves as the dean of seminarians at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, St. Paul, Minnesota. His article is from Family Foundations, the magazine of the Couple to Couple League, ccli.org, and is reprinted with permission.

A blessing from the Holy Father for lifelong happiness

Allegra Thatcher
Assistant Editor

A typical honeymoon idea turned into a personal blessing from the pope when Sam and Lauren Rodgers added a stop in Rome a few days after their marriage.

The couple was married at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption on April 27, 2019 and honeymooned in Italy. They had planned to visit Venice, but at the advice of Father Andrew Young looked into the spous novelli opportunity at the Vatican.

They went to Rome to attend the May 1 general audience with Pope Francis as part of the spous novelli, where new brides and grooms wear their wedding garb and receive a blessing from the pope. The phrase means “new spouses,” or newlyweds.

Mr. Rodgers had heard about the spous novelli in the past. But he was reminded two months before his marriage to Lauren, and they decided to add an extra stop to their Venice honeymoon plans.

After getting approved by the Pontifical North American College by an e-mail, the couple took a train from Venice to Rome for Pope Francis’ Wednesday general audience. It also happened to be Mr. Rodgers’ birthday.

“The morning of you’re part of the crowd waiting to get into St. Peter’s Square — the gates

(Continued on page 14)
MARRIAGE AND WEDDINGS

Blessing from the Holy Father

(Continued from page 10)

open at 8 a.m. but you get there by 7,” he explained. It was a chilly morning, but turned hot quickly for a couple in a full suit and wedding dress.

“Once the gates open, you run, run, to the ticketed seats, carrying your tickets and a sheet of paper that says you’re married,” said Mr. Rodgers. “If anyone questions you, we were told to just yell sposi novella and they direct you,” he laughed.

Instead of standing in the square, the couples awaiting the blessing are seated up front with other special visitors on a large platform. The Rodgers’ were grateful for chairs, since they had to wait several hours until after the general audience, which began at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Rodgers said it was a unique experience to be surrounded by at least 100 other couples from across the world waiting for a blessing of their own.

“The Pope slowly walks from one side of the barricade to the other and greets each couple,” said Mr. Rodgers. “I had tried to memorize something in Spanish… but in the moment I just tried to stammer something.” He said he was slightly in shock at being that close to the pope.

“It’s a crazy powerful moment to touch the successor of Peter… that’s our distinguishing feature as Catholics,” he said. “He took our hands and gestured to say a blessing over us, we sort of beamed at each other, and then he moved on to the next couple.”

Mr. Rodgers said the day was an exhausting one to hold the pope’s hand for only about 10 seconds, but he would do it again. He was touched that Pope Francis elevates the sacrament of marriage in a unique way such as this.

“It’s cool that… a couple of nobodies from Kentucky, can without so much effort, have the opportunity to receive a blessing from the pope,” he said.

The Rodgers’ live in South Bend, Indiana while Mr. Rodgers is in law school at Notre Dame University. Mrs. Rodgers works in the area.

Mr. Rodgers said he would definitely recommend that other couples go through the post-novelli procedure. “It’s not well publicized, I don’t think most people hear about it, but it couldn’t be easier to set up,” he said.

For more information on how to get sposi novelli tickets contact the North American College, Rome, by e-mail at: vistoroffice@pnac.org.

Make it last: ‘Love is rooted in self-sacrifice’

Allegre Thatcher
Assistant Editor

Whether driving across Colorado in a Plymouth Horizon with no air conditioning, earning degrees from Purdue University and Notre Dame University, or caring for their grown daughter during chemotherapy for ovarian cancer, Deacon Gerald (Jerry) and Tena Franzen have one secret to nearly 52 years of marriage — working together.

The two met in graduate school at Louisiana State University, studying organic chemistry. Mrs. Franzen hailed from Moline, Ill., while Deacon Franzen was a native of the Diocese of Covington. Their studies took them all over the nation, from Louisiana to South Bend, Ind., and eventually back to Covington.

After devoting some time to raising their two children, Mrs. Franzen spent 23 years as a laboratory manager at Mount St. Joseph University, as well as juggling part time teaching both there and at Thomas More University — her husband’s location for 32 years. When he became a deacon 21 years ago, Deacon Franzen decided to do more work for the Church and began teaching chemistry and religion at Newport Central Catholic High School.

In a family with two chemists at the helm, summers didn’t just hold traditional vacations for the Franzens. For a number of years, they traveled to chemical education conferences at universities across the nation.

“We would go as a family because these events were not just for sharing chemical information, but they were also family-oriented events where they had events for children,” said Deacon Franzen.

Another way the family drew together was by serving the Church, even before Deacon Franzen became a deacon. Mrs. Franzen enjoys being a lector at Mass, and Deacon Franzen has filled all sorts of roles from chairperson of the parish council and St. Paul Parish in Florence to volunteering in the RCIA program and the St. Paul-St. Henry youth program.

The youth program allowed their whole family to make memories together, because “It got the kids into the faith,” and that drew Mrs. Franzen and Deacon Franzen to go on trips with the youth group to Appalachia or various service locations.

More recently the Franzens were drawn together during the hardship of their daughter suffering through ovarian cancer. “We bonded because she lived with us during the time when she had her chemotherapy,” said Mrs. Franzen. “It was 8-10 months.”

“Because I’m a deacon, that has added another aspect to our marriage bond,” shared Deacon Franzen. “It has brought God more into our marriage.”

Journeying with their daughter through her cancer treatments helped the Franzens to see God’s work in their life.

“I think that helped to bring us all together — the fact that God’s in this picture. God’s going to take care of this, we need to follow the plan that God’s set in front of us,” Deacon Franzen said.

The Franzens chuckled a bit when asked how they’ve made marriage last for 52 years.

“Stick with it. Pray a lot. Hold your tongue,” quipped Mrs. Franzen.

“Most of the time we’re on the same page, sometimes we’re on different pages,” said Deacon Franzen. “To love means to say well, okay, we’ll do it your way as long as that is a good and morally acceptable way. … We come from a science background and we’re experimenters. We say let’s do it that way and see how it works out.”

As a deacon, Deacon Franzen encounters couples that are preparing for marriage. “I always investigate whether they really understand what love is all about,” he said. “I ask Why do you want to get married? They’re not sure what to say. They start telling me what they want to get out of marriage. Eventually I’ll say ‘But I didn’t hear the word love in there.’”

“I understand it’s hard to put your finger on it, to nail down,” he went on. “But let’s look at what Jesus said about love. Love one another as I have loved you. How did he love us? Well, he gave his life for us. So each one of us has to be ready to give over our lives to the other. … Love is willing the best for the other in spite of yourself. Love is rooted in self-sacrifice.”

Mrs. Franzen agreed. “The feeling within me for him and our family keeps growing bit by bit by the contact and the communication that we have. When they’re not around, I know that I’m thinking about them and hope and pray they’re thinking about me. I want them always to know that I’m here for them to do what they need me to do if I can do it.”

Fifty-two years hasn’t been easy, but it isn’t complicated for the Franzens. “I think I made it cause I love him,” said Mrs. Franzen.
Will and Midori Stamper, at four and a half years of marriage, say one of their keys to a happy partnership is addressing conflict as it arises.

Married the summer after Mrs. Stamper graduated while Mr. Stamper had one more semester at Christendom College in Virginia, the couple received all sorts of advice going into a marriage so young.

Mr. Stamper emphasized that getting the practical details of life settled was key to the first few years because it allowed them to be free of worry and conflict over issues such as finances and loans.

In the first year, both worked 90-110 hours a week while first living in Mr. Stamper’s parents’ basement and eventually renovating the family barn into a private apartment so that they could pay off their student debt and save for a home.

“We work as a couple to make sure our financial goals are aligned,” he said. “I think the number one cause of divorce in America is money and money fight issues, so we really wanted to check that box as a couple so it wasn’t a stresser and we weren’t in conflict with each other. Where you put your money is in what you value most. What you spend shows where your heart is really at.”

A major part of the first few years was life hacking, they said. Just simple things like getting food on the table and learning to file taxes took precedence, especially when two children came along fairly quickly. Now they’ve come to a better semblance of order with Mr. Stamper’s steady job as manager of seven veterinarian practices, a new home, and Mrs. Stamper becoming a stay-at-home mom of two girls.

“My dad took me out for dinner and gave me a list of 20 things he wished he’d known before he got married,” shared Mr. Stamper. “It’s important to make sure you can have peace of mind with basic things like life insurance, because you can avoid fights that way.”

The next step, they shared, is homemaking.

“We’ve started thinking proactively about how to form a family culture in our household that is more prayerful, more geared toward our faith,” said Mr. Stamper. “That’s one of our goals for 2020, to make that routine.”

Mrs. Stamper is making those initial steps by praying with the children in the morning and getting them involved in liturgy.

“Having children makes you realize how important it is to have a spiritual life,” she said. “Once you have children, if you don’t get it done in the morning before they wake up, it doesn’t get done.” The couple keeps each other accountable for daily prayer by checking in.

It’s also been a challenge to heed and consider the advice of others on parenting and then establish their own rules and culture, balancing the necessary influence of the outside culture as well as their faith.

Mr. and Mrs. Stamper have been working on getting up earlier to pray together using the digital edition of the Magnificat (a popular Catholic prayer resource available offering daily meditations in print and digital formats) and are working to establish a culture of prayerfulness in the household without being overly systematic. As two graduates with philosophy degrees, they see faith applied to real life decisions as being very important...
Joy in comradeship

(Continued from page T1)

life as central.

Mrs. Stamper weaves this into her day with the girls. “We spend a lot of time talking about our faith and how it
applies to our life, because I think that’s a much easier way
for her to grasp the faith than this abstract way,” she said.

“We want to be more positive,” said Mr. Stamper. “What
are we going to do to make sure our children don’t have to
play some weird catch-up game when they are 7 or 8 years
old.”

One key element to their marriage is viewing it as a
partnership.

“Marriage is the highest form of friendship,” Mr. Stamper
said. “Some of the best ways to build friendships is to
work on projects together. We don’t do our own little
thing and then hang out, we do things together and we
enjoy the comradeship that comes along with achieving
and winning our goals.” This works out well because Mrs.
Stamper is goal oriented for today, while Mr. Stamper
enjoys planning for the future. “It’s a partnership.”

Another unique approach the Stampers offered is to see
the marriage as central. “It’s a good rule of thumb to not
go to bed angry, but there are some things you don’t resolve in half an hour; they take time to work through. You sleep on it for a few
days, you come back to it and you see the perspective
the other comes from,” said Mr. Stamper.

“People say it gets really hard once the honeymoon
phase wears off, and then you start getting sick of each
other,” said Mrs. Stamper. “I think for us it’s been the oppo-
site…. honestly I think every year we’ve been together we
site … honestly I think every year we’ve been together we
never talk negatively about her spouse, especially when he’s not present.

“Every time we went to Divine Mercy, someone would
come up afterwards and say ‘thank you so much for bring-
ing your babies, please come back again, don’t worry if
they cry,” said Mrs. Stamper.

“To have people tell you that’s okay makes a huge differ-
cence,” said Mr. Stamper. “Affirming that culture of life and
young people having kids…. I have great respect for folks
who affirm.”

“The Stampers are excited to see how they can continue
fostering a culture of life and of faith through their mar-
riage.

“Whatever it is, we do it together,” said Mr. Stamper. “It’s a partnership.”

Church needs ‘evangelizing spouses’ to fulfill its mission, pope says

Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If many Catholics marry
today without fully understanding the permanence of
their bond and the grace of the sacrament, it partly is the
fault of the clergy, Pope Francis said.

“Evangelizing spouses,” the pope said, is “what our
philosophy of the little circle of the perfect. The Lord came to
seek sinners, not the perfect.”

“Those in need. ‘They ignored the example of Aquila and Priscilla, the
couple already are a gift of God and not
trying to understand the problems they face in their lives and
their group and preferring to spend time only with committed
parishioners is not reality of the faith as Pope Francis said.
“Fostering a culture of life and of faith through their mar-
riage.”

Bob Hagedorn and Marci Greene were married December 28, 2019 at the
Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption by Bishop Roger Foys.

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the courage necessary to wake from lethargy and sleep their
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seek sinners, not the perfect.”

Choosing to live among and minister only to a small
group and preferring to spend time only with committed
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SPECIALIZING IN REFURBISHED 1950S HUD WEDDINGS, NEW ESTATE JEWELRY, AND A LARGE SELECTION OF VINTAGE CERTIFIED DIAMONDS.
Bishops among critics of Canada’s quick changes to assisted suicide law

Brian Dryden
Catholic News Service
OTTAWA, Ontario — The federal government is coming under increasing fire from critics for how quickly it is moving to change the regulations around assisted suicide and for how short a time period Canadians were given to express their views in an online survey overseen by the Ministry of Justice.

In a strongly worded letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dated Jan. 31 — four days after the federal government's two-week online survey of Canadians regarding changes to the so-called Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) law ended — Archbishop Richard Gagnon, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, reiterated church opposition to government-sanctioned suicide while slamming the idea that a survey is the way to address “grave moral questions.”

“It is inappropriate and superficial to use a survey to address grave moral questions concerning life and death,” said Archbishop Gagnon, who is archbishop of Winnipeg, Manitoba. “Two weeks is entirely insufficient to study the question as well as to learn from the sobering lessons in other jurisdictions where euthanasia/assisted suicide has been practiced with fewer restrictions.”

In contrast, when the federal government was considering legalizing marijuana, the public was given two months to comment.

The federal two-week consultation period is troubling to more than the Catholic Church.

“The government gave Canadians just 14 days to fill out a barcode online questionnaire on expanding MAiD. Graduating high school students have more time to consider a university acceptance letter than Canadians were given to consider monumental social change fraught with moral complexity,” said Roy Femings, executive vice president of Cardus, an Ottawa faith-based think tank. “The government needs to take

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Lead Carpenter Opening
Local faith-based non-profit org in NKY is seeking for a highly skilled person to serve as lead carpenter on single-family rehab projects and new construction while assisting with maintenance of housing units. Position is full-time with some Saturdays as needed. Valid driver’s license, auto insurance & reliable transportation needed. Paid Holidays & Personal Time Off. Eligible for Retirement Plan after 3 yrs. $18-22/hr depending on experience. Visit www.honkhomes.org/carpenter for more info and send resume or detailed experience, availability, salary requirements & contact info to: David Hastings, HONK, 502 Fry St., Covington, KY 41011; or dhastings@honkhomes.org

APARTMENT FOR RENT—LAKESIDE PARK
Seniors only 55+. 2 Bed, 2 Bath, 1st floor unit located in four family building. Hardwood floors, one car garage, laundry and storage locker in basement. Landlord pays heat, water and sanitation. $650 month + deposit. No Pets. Call (859) 341-7076

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Offering home care to include meals, baths, laundry, elder sitting for safety, transportation, light housework, 24 hour care. Call Chris Heimbrock Hiltz or Sean Chrusniak. www.familywatch.biz

FORT WRIGHT DUPLEX
2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath, equipped kitchen, family rm. Newly Remodeled with custom paint & granite tops! Senior Citizen. No pets. $1095/month + $1095 deposit + Utilities (859) 342-7772

Hilton Head Island Condo Rental
Marriott Sea Pines Oceanfront Resort. 2 br, 2 bath, fully furnished condo includes access to resort amenities. Available May 23rd—May 30th. $2,000 For more information call 859-331-1010

Office Coordinator Needed
Part-time Office Coordinator for faith-based non-profit lease-to-own homeownership program in NKY. Duties include scheduling repairs; ordering materials; maintaining residential utility services; monitoring contracts; submitting reimbursement requests; keeping up-to-date property records; maintaining org. database; helping plan/ implement events; assisting w/ marketing efforts; coordinating mass mailings; maintaining office supplies; answering phones; and maintaining exemplary customer service relationships. 12 hrs/wk @ $12,50/hr with opportunity to work more hours if desired. Visit www.honkhomes.org/OfficeCoordinator for more info and send resume to: David Hastings, HONK, 502 Fry St., Covington, KY 41011; or dhastings@honkhomes.org

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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.F.

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NOTRE DAME NURSE zusenswurtorr

(Continued from page 19) Notre Dame Sister Mary Paulla Hanneken (Alma Ann) was born into the loving family of Harry and Alma Hanneken on Oct. 17, 1934, in Covington, Ky. Alma Ann was the youngest of five children. She attended St. John grade school, Covington, and Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills. The example of her sister, Sister Paul Ann, and her close cousins inspired Alma Ann to enter religious life. Like them, she felt drawn to the Sisters of Notre Dame and their good works. She entered the congregation in 1952 and made her first vows in 1955. After attending Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University), Sister Mary Paulla taught in the primary grades in several local schools. In 1966, she started the Guardian Angel School, run by the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home. The program aimed to help children who struggled academically and behaviorally so that they could transition into a regular academic setting.

In 1979 Sister Mary Paulla continued her ministry at the Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home for six years as the executive director. She then held the same position at St. Aloysius Orphanage in Cincinnati, Ohio, for three years. Sister Mary Paulla ministered for eight years in community relations at St. Claire Regional Medical Center (now St. Claire HealthCare) in Morehead, Ky. She then returned to her greatest passion, teaching and working with children and their families. She did this as assistant director of Julie Learning Center and, later, tutoring children at Holy Trinity School, Harlan, Ky.

In 2006, Sister Mary Paulla came back to St. Joseph Heights where she became an inspiration to her sisters and the many health personnel who cared for her. Sister Mary Paulla will be remembered for her captivating smile, warm heart, and her passion to help children.

May the love with which Sister Mary Paulla served God give her eternal happiness with them forever.

Sister Mary Paulla was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Arthur and Paul. She leaves behind her beloved sisters, Rose Mary O’Brien and Notre Dame Sister Mary Paul Ann Hanneken. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and grand-nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 6 at the Sisters of Notre Dame Provincial Center, Covington, with interment the following morning in the convent cemetery.

Kobe Bryant’s legacy

(Continued from page 18) When I learned of the helicopter tragedy and that Bryant and eight others were killed with him, I was saddened. As sports fans, we get to know some people with our own experiences and what motivates them. For someone who grew up watching him, he was a leader in how a basketball player handled his career and personal life.

Bryant’s work after he left the court was what stood out to me. In October 2018, he spent time watching the Aspen Institute’s live online viewing of its Project Play Summit. The Summit annually brings together sports leaders to promote sports participation among youth. Bryant was a featured speaker and even led a panel of three youth athletes where he inquired about their own youth sports experiences and what motivates them. For someone who had a legendary work ethic and seemed so focused on his own playing career, it was fascinating to see him in this light.

Through the Summit, I sensed that Bryant was genuinely concerned with keeping the joy of play in young athletes. He advocated for multi-sport participation. He promoted positive coaching — studying psychology in order to best connect with your athletes, challenging athletes while providing tools to encourage them to problem solve, and showing them what excellence in their lives looks like. These were all actions that he was able to put into action by coaching Gianna’s basketball team.

Kobe left this world as one of the greatest basketball players who has ever lived. But his legacy will extend far beyond his playing accomplishments. He left us with a challenge to live our faith not just on Sundays but by committing to help others with the gifts we have. We know Kobe was a great basketball player but he also left the world as a great father, as a great coach and as someone who was trying to make the world better. Kobe was a great Christian.

Rich Hoyt is an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati, a parishioner at St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright, and a longtime youth and high school coach. He is the head trainer for the Play Like a Champion Today program in the Diocese of Covington.

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Sister Mary Paulla Hanneken, O.S.B. (Alma Ann)
VATICAN CITY — People who recognize and embrace their spiritual poverty will inherit the kingdom of God, not those who place their trust in the comforts of this world, Pope Francis said.

“The rise and fall of powerful governments and kingdoms throughout history are a lesson that no matter what wealth, power and comfort one has, “the wealth of this world disappears,” the pope said Feb. 5 during his weekly general audience.

“Our elders would teach us that our burial shroud doesn’t have pockets. It’s true. I’ve never seen a moving van behind a funeral procession. Nobody can take anything with them. Those riches remain here,” he said.

Continuing a series of talks on the Eight Beatitudes, the pope reflected on Jesus’ “paradoxical proclamation, ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’”

The spiritual poverty Jesus speaks about, the pope explained, refers to “those who are and feel poor, who are beggars in the depths of their being.”

“How many times have we been told otherwise! ‘You have to be something; you have to be somebody; you have to make a name for yourself,’” he said. “This is what gives rise to loneliness and unhappiness. If I must be ‘somebody,’ I am in competition with others and I live in obsessive concern for my ego.”

Often, he added, people don’t accept the truth of that beatitude because it impedes them from achieving fame and fortune, and no matter how hard they try they always “remain radically incomplete and vulnerable.”

“Every one of us is vulnerable within,” the pope said.

Pride, he continued, also can impede a person from being humble or admitting a mistake and asking for forgiveness.

“A ‘proud person can’t do it, they can’t say ‘sorry’ they are always right. They are not poor,” the pope said.

Why is it difficult to ask forgiveness?” he asked.

“Because it humiliates our hypocritical image. And yet, to live trying to hide one’s shortcomings is exhausting and distressing.”

Pope Francis said that in the first beatitude, Jesus teaches that being poor “is an occasion of grace,” and he shows “us the way out of this fatigue.”

“We are given the right to be poor in spirit, because this is the way of the kingdom of God,” he said.

True power, the pope said, doesn’t come from accumulating wealth, fame or status but rather from following the example of Christ, who gave his life for all men and women.

“This is true power: the power of brotherhood, the power of charity, the power of love, the power of humility,” Pope Francis said. “This is what Christ did; in this lies true freedom. The one who has the power of humility, of service, of brotherhood is free. At the service of this freedom lies the poverty praised by the beatitudes.”
Jesuit provincials demand end to Nicaraguan harassment

MEXICO CITY — Jesuit provincials have demanded that Nicaraguan authorities end a “campaign of slander and aggressions” against the Jesuit-run Central American University in Managua and its rector, Jesuit Father Jose Alberto Idiaquez, “as well as other institutions and people linked to the Society of Jesus in Nicaragua.” A Feb. 7 statement published the conference of Jesuit provincials of Latin America and the Caribbean and signed by more than 50 supporters — including many affiliated with Jesuit institutions — said it would “hold responsible” the president for any harm affecting staff or students at the school. “We deeply regret that the political crisis in Nicaragua continues to worsen and the possibility of dialogue between the government and the opposition has been interrupted, with the result being an increase in the suffering of the Nicaraguan people,” the statement said. “We denounce in the most firm and ample way possible ... the constant financial, economic and physical siege the university is subjected to. Nothing ... has been subject to in recent times.” The statement continued. “The siege” refers to the university not receiving its share of the federal budget earmarked for education, as it did in the past.

Policy change on funding for campus events ends pro-life group’s lawsuit

SAN DIEGO — California State University-San Marcos has agreed to revise its student fee policies after a federal district court ruled last August that the university cannot block fees to pro-life students. The university said it will make sure funding decisions going forward are “viewpoint neutral” and also agreed to pay more than $240,000 in legal fees and other costs to settle a 2017 lawsuit filed against the university by the Alliance for Life of America, which is based in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Human Rights Watch says deportees killed after return to El Salvador

MORELIA, Mexico — At least 138 Salvadorans have been murdered after being sent back to their violent Central American country from the United States, according to a report from Human Rights Watch. The report, released Feb. 5, also documented “more than 50 others, who were beaten, sexually assaulted, extorted or assaulted” by perpetrators ranging from gangsters to intimate partners to police and security personnel. “Some of the findings surprised Catholic officials in the country, long a source of migrants because of civil war and later gang-driven violence and poverty. Church workers say deportees return to the same dangerous situations that forced them to flee in the first place. ‘We know this is very real, and I know of cases,’ said Rick Jones, adviser on migration for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.”

Mideast patriarchs tell pope they’re concerned about Christian survival

BEIRUT — In a private meeting with Pope Francis, Catholic patriarchs of the Middle East had an opportunity to sound the alarm regarding the survival of Christians in the region as a result of persecution, extremism, civil insecurity and immigration to the West. They provided Pope Francis with an overview of the general conditions of their countries and regions — Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Egypt and the Holy Land — particularly wars and crises that have led to the emigration of Christians and the need to follow the faithful pasturally in their adopted Western countries. They also presented the pope with a more detailed memorandum at the Feb. 8 meeting at the Vatican. The Vatican did not comment on the meeting, but, in a statement, Cardinal Raffi said he was “very happy” about the Holy Father’s awareness and concern regarding the churches’ affairs in the Middle East and the issues they face as well as “the importance of the presence of Christians, their role and mission” in coexisting with Muslims. Cardinal Raffi said the meeting “was an occasion to emphasize the importance of the word and presence” of the pope “to our Christian peoples and our region, which lives a model of coexistence with Muslims to build our homelands and preserve their rich heritage” as well as to stress the role of the Holy See “and its diplomatic relations with the international family in order to put an end to the wars and conflicts that our Arab world suffers from.”

Marriage, family therapist to chair U.S. bishops’ National Review Board

WASHINGTON — Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has appointed Suzanne Healy, the former victims assistance coordinator for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, as the new chair of the National Review Board, effective in June. Healy, a retired marriage and family therapist, served as the victim assistance coordinator for the Los Angeles Archdiocese from 2007 to 2016 and for the past three years she has been a member of the National Review Board. Prior to her work in the Los Angeles Archdiocese, she served as a high school counselor and before becoming a therapist, she served in strategic planning experience for ATR/ Pacific Bell. Healy will succeed Francesco Cesareo, who concludes his term as chair after the bishops’ June 2020 meeting. Cesareo, president of Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, has served as the review board chairman since 2013. The group advises the bishops’ Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People and works closely with the U.S.C.C.B.’s Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection in accordance with the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” which the bishops first adopted in 2002.
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