DEAR FRIENDS

THAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE HEARD THAT SAYING? AND HOW TRUE IT IS. SOMETIMES A DAY MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES. WELL, WHAT ABOUT 40 DAYS? WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN 40 DAYS MAKE IN OUR LIVES?

WE BEGIN YET ANOTHER SEASON OF LENT. ONCE AGAIN WE ARE GIVEN 40 DAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES. FORTY DAYS TO UNDERTAKE THE TRIED AND TRUE PROGRAM OF PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING. FORTY DAYS TO RIGHT WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR LIVES, TO CONTINUE — OR BEGIN AGAIN — OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO HOLINESS AND TO THE LORD.

Lent is indeed a blessed season. It is a season for us to take stock, to examine our lives as only we can, to look into the depths of our hearts.

A day can make a difference. Forty days can change a life.

May we make this Lent the best ever by taking advantage of all the opportunities the Church gives us to make a true difference in our lives.

May we seek peace and reconciliation with all those who have hurt us, or whom we have hurt.

May all contention in our lives cease and be replaced with the love that the Lord offers us.

May we emerge from this Lent better than when we began.

It is the Lord who begins all good in us. May we grow closer to the Lord and closer to each other. We are, after all, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the same Father in heaven.

Each of you remains in my daily prayers. Please, pray for me.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

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

Lent 2020

On the many forms of penance in Christian life, the Catechism of the Catholic Church observes, “The interior penance of the Christian can be expressed in many and various ways. Scripture and the Fathers insist above all on three forms, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.” (CCC, n. 1434)

As a reminder, the rules of fasting and abstinence are as follows:

Catholics in the United States, ages 18 to the day after their 59th birthday, are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Only one full meal is allowed on these days, with no eating between meals.

Catholics in the U.S., from the age of 14, are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

Illness or other circumstances might make it necessary for an individual to practice ways of doing penance other than fasting and abstinence.
Lent: Deciding what to bring into the desert and what to leave behind

David Cooley

Messenger Contributor

There is something about Lent that is difficult to describe but makes it one of the most powerful seasons of the liturgical year. It’s kind of a paradox because, at least in human terms, it should be one of the most frustrating, or at least annoying, times of the year — and yet, that is not the case.

During Lent we are called to focus more on praying, fasting and almsgiving. We might also give up chocolate, coffee or other things that we love to make us appreciate all the wonderful gifts we have and to remember those who don’t have the abundance that we have. I’m sure most of us also vow to be a little more humble and kind, especially when dealing with those people we don’t always get along with. These types of acts are always difficult and can be very straining on our moods. However, in a spiritual sense, Lent can be a very fulfilling time of the year. Why is that?

We live in an age where people, especially young people, are anxious, sad, lost and confused; and not to mention too busy! Whether we know it or not we are all searching for answers to some of life’s more difficult and interesting questions. It’s true that we can live a decent amount of time without facing questions like “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” and so on. Our death can be viewed in the abstract and we don’t have to challenge ourselves in thinking through concepts like right and wrong. Yet, there is a longing in our hearts to seek out truth. Lent is ordered in bringing things back into perspective, beginning with reminding ourselves that time is limited.

In the Gospel, after his baptism and before his public ministry, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for 40 days and nights to fast. During Lent, each year, we, too, “sojourn with Jesus in the desert.” I can’t help but close my eyes and imagine the reality of the harshness and the beauty that Jesus must have witnessed out there, 40 days alone. Jesus would always go off to some peaceful, excluded place to pray. This time he is fully entering into the drama of human existence. Now it’s true that, while Jesus physically went into the wilderness our situation is a little bit different. We might have to go to the desert and live in the city at the same time. However, those 40 days shouldn’t be all that much easier for us than they were for Jesus, especially if we have the right intentions. So how, then, do we get to the desert?

For us, the desert is leaving the world behind in a spiritual sense. Going to a desolate land means getting rid of all the noise and distractions that come between us and our Father in heaven. It is a state in which we simplify our lives by limiting, as much as we can, the complications that are caused by sin. That is why Lent is so appealing — we are meant to live simply and peacefully.

Here’s what we are supposed to consider at the beginning of Lent each year: if we are going to go to a barren wasteland we must first decide what to take along. Think carefully on this one because whatever it is you take, you have to carry it with you on your journey. What are the true essentials we must carry to survive? This is why we have the tradition of letting go of something, acknowledging we don’t need it — we just need God. Besides, some of that stuff we carry around day after day is really heavy. The burden of carrying it keeps us from being the people we are supposed to be.

When we are consciously choosing what to carry and what to leave behind, suddenly the things that really matter gain more of our attention. We find out what is truly important to us and we find the willpower to sacrifice some of the rest. If we choose the right things to get rid of, we’ll be surprised how light life can get. It is amazing how letting go of the cares and anxieties of this world can lead us to discover who we truly are and the love that God has for us. There is treasure to be found in the desert.

When we read about Jesus beginning his ministry — how the devil tempts him with pleasure, power and an easy victory — we know the choice he is going to make and how things are going to go at the end of his ministry because of following his Father’s will. The world will reject him and he will be killed because he is good and holy. When he says no to those three temptations he also knows what is going to happen to him.

Part of putting things in proper perspective is knowing we’re only given a certain amount of time on earth to do what we need to do (remember the ashes). We all know that we are going to be tempted and that there will be pain and suffering. But, if we are wise, we also know that there will be love and eternal life. It may not have been an easy victory; but Jesus ultimately conquered sin and death and gave us a path to heaven. He held up our end of the covenant. He asks us to pick up our cross and follow him. Lent comes before Easter, sorrow before joy; work before rest. Jesus began in the desert — and so must we.

David Cooley is co-director and office manager of the Office of Consecration and Evangelization in the Diocese of Covington.

Decades of 1 Do — celebrating marriage on Valentine’s Day

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell, hosted a Centennial Celebration of Marriage, Feb. 14. It featured Mass and a marriage blessing from Father Daniel Vogelbohl, pastor, as well as a “wedding reception.” Couples were honored for their years married, and re-lived their wedding day with cake cutting, a champagne toast, couple games and a DJ for dancing.

Happy retirement

Curia employees honored Terrie Glossner, Feb. 25, on her upcoming retirement. For six years Mrs. Glossner has been payroll coordinator for the Diocese of Covington. Father Daniel Schmoker, vicar general, hosted a luncheon and invited the Glossner family. Pictured (from left) are: Father Ryan Stenger, Tribunal judge and pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs (Mrs. Glossner’s home parish); Father Ryan Maker, vicar general; Mrs. Glossner; Iva Leitch (Mrs. Glossner’s mom); Don Glossner, husband; and Father Schmoker.

Lenten Deanery Penance Services

Covington Deanery

12 p.m.–12:15 p.m. confessions and Adoration

Friday March 13, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

Friday March 20, Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue

Campbell County Deanery

Deanery Penance Service

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m., St. Joseph Parish

Cold Spring

Update

New Mass times at All Saints Parish, Walton, beginning this weekend.

Saturday Vigil

4:30 p.m.

Sunday

7:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. (Extraordinary Form)

11:30 a.m.

Bible study with Father Schehr

The next books of the Bible to be taught by Father Timothy Schehr are Chronicles, Ezra and Malachi.

The sessions begin Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m., at the Curia office building, in Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium.

In Chronicles David realizes his true spiritual potential. He becomes a real model of faith. Ezra seeks to revive the spiritual life of the people by offering powerful prayers to God. Do you want to be superheroes for God just like David and Ezra?

Come and join in these sessions To register call Isaac A. Isaak, at (859) 392-1800, or register online, www.covdics.org/catalog/catholic-education.
Parishes prepare for evangelization weekend

Allegro Thatcher
Assistant Editor

The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization hosted its annual DRE/CRR and RCIA coordinator meeting. Feb. 19, in the Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium.

The meeting included an introduction to Evangelization Weekend, tips for the coordinators to get clearance for speakers and an open forum for attendees to ask questions of the office.

David Cooley, co-director of the Office, spoke to the importance of Evangelization Weekend. “What is evangelization? Going out and bringing others to Christ by being Christ for others,” he said. “Our job isn’t to fix others or to get them to convert to our way of thinking...Our job is to love others.”

It shouldn’t be forced, said Mr. Cooley. “It is a concentrated weekend to highlight something we should be doing 24/7 – 365 days a year.”

Evangelization Weekend was further explained by Vicki Kloeke, RCIA coordinator, St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring. She explained it as a “come and see” event, sharing the Gospel message and introducing the RCIA program to non-Catholics.

It will take place April 25-26 and will encourage parishioners to invite non-Catholics to accompany them to Mass.

Ms. Kloeke said the goal is not explicitly getting people into RCIA, however “Evangelization about sharing the good news of Christ, it’s not about adding members to the Church,” she said. “It’s about inviting others into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We want to show them that that relationship can be built in the Church through the sacraments.”

This year’s theme is “Lead Someone to Faith and Hope in God.” Based on the readings for the third Sunday of Easter.

During the open forum, coordinators had a chance to ask questions and clarify concerns. One topic discussed was the upcoming new textbooks for grade schools, a project Mr. Cooley said is nearly finished. Currently a committee is discerning the options. The committee, through the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization, will submit a recommendation to Bishop Roger Foyos.

Organizers hope that all parishes in the Diocese of Covington will participate in Evangelization Weekend April 25-26 this year and look for creative ways to share the faith with their communities.

Jeff Brammer installed as acolyte at St. Patrick Parish, Maysville

Laura Keener
Editor

At St. Patrick Parish, Maysville, Feb. 22, Bishop Roger Foyos installed Jeff Brammer to the ministry of acolyte. An acolyte serves at the altar and assists the priest and deacon. An acolyte also distributes the Eucharist and brings the Eucharist to the sick.

In his homily Bishop Foyos explained that before the Second Vatican Council the order of acolyte — as well as the order of lector, porter and exorcist (also known as minor orders) — were conferred only on candidates pursing ordination to the priesthood. In 1972, St. Pope Paul IV eliminated the orders of porter and exorcist, and established the ministries of lector and acolyte, opening the ministries to the lay faithful.

“This is a ministry in the Church, and we institute those who are called to this ministry.” Bishop Foyos said. “I am pleased that Jeff has discerned the call to this ministry and that your pastor, Father Andrew (Boung), has seen to it to have him formally instituted into that ministry. We call on the Lord, and pray for him, that God will give him the grace to carry out this very important ministry.”

Monthly Holy Hour

Bishop Roger Foyos led a Holy Hour for Victims of Sexual Abuse and the Sanctification of Priests, Feb. 20, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. The monthly Holy Hour provides priests, religious and laity an opportunity to come together in the presence of the Eucharist to pray for all affected by sexual abuse and to implore for Jesus’ assistance in their ministry.

The next Holy Hour will be March 19, 3 p.m.
The Cross: The Identity of Christ and of the disciple — Mark, Chapters 8-10

From ancient times to the present, Christians have been permanently tempted to follow a risen Lord of glory without the Cross. In particular, the Christology of the Gospel according to Mark serves as a corrective for such spiritual assumptions that misinterpret the identity of Jesus Christ as the triumphant Theos Aner (“divine man”).

The narrative core (chapters 8-10) of the second Gospel revolves around two overarching questions: “Who is Jesus?” and “Who is a disciple of Jesus?” For the scribes, Jesus’ radical question to his disciples — “Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:27) — is the challenge to conversion faced by all Israelites of all times.

Mark the Evangelist boldly proclaims that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Lord. That the Cross is the path to glory is the paradox of his Gospel message. In chapters 8-10, Mark focuses on the questions on the identity of Jesus as well as the identity of the disciple of Jesus. The literary structure of Mark with the distinctive theological perspective on those questions creates an interpretive key to the unfolding narrative from Mark 8:27-10:42.

Since Mark’s Gospel is viewed as a type of conversion story, the contemporary reader is challenged to re-experience his or her own response to Jesus’ initial proclamation of the in-breaking of the Kingdom: “Repent and believe the Good News.” (Mark 1:16)

The narrative core of Mark’s Gospel girds around Jesus’ assertion of his identity as the Son of Man. The disciples persist in blindness to the mission of a suffering Messiah. Nonetheless, the paradox of the Cross will shatter the disciples’ personal projections and expectations that falsify the identity of Jesus and, in turn, the meaning of discipleship.

The narrative begins and ends with two stories of Jesus curing blindness — the cure of the blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8:23-26) and the healing of the blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52). The cure has been described as “parables in action” in the sense that the physically blind receive sight through Jesus’ healings while the disciples remain spiritually blind to the meaning of the Cross. These cures place in sharp contrast the following passages wherein Jesus attempts to open the eyes of his disciples to the reality of salvation through the Cross and Resurrection of a suffering Messiah — “Do you not yet understand?” (Mark 8:21)

“Jesus’ probing question to the disciples — ‘Do you not yet understand?’ — immediately precedes the cure at Bethsaida. (Mark 8:22-26) It is a sign of the continuing blindness that troubles the disciples’ grasp of Jesus’ identity.

In “Mark: Good News for Hard Times,” Marionist Father George T. Montague writes: “The Christian reader is often given the challenge given to the crowds and the disciples: You have seen and heard. Will you allow Jesus to heal your blindness and loose your tongue so you can confess as God’s envoy, the Messiah?”

The exodus of Mark 8:27-10:42 narrates a pattern of recurring elements that make up this central section. First, there are three predictions of the passion and death of Jesus: Mark 8:31 at Caesarea Philippi; Mark 9:31 on the way to Galilee; and Mark 10:12 at the going up to Jerusalem. The passion predictions reveal the true identity of Jesus as the one who will suffer, die and rise on the third day.

Secondly, the three predictions of Jesus’ fate are followed by three sections narrating the blindness and misunderstanding of the disciples — Mark 8:32, Mark 9:33, and Mark 10:33. The disciples insist “yes” suffering of Son of Man, yet the disciples characteristically fail to see the full reality of the Messiah.

The proclamation of the Gospel of Mark in fragile Christian communities, experiencing their own versions of fear and flight, for almost two thousand years suggests that the promise of 14:28 and 16:7 continues in the Christian experience of the subsequent readers and hearers of the Gospel. As Christian disciples continue to fail and flee in fear, they are told that God’s action in and through the risen Jesus overcomes all such failure.” — From Michael J. Gorman, “The Gospel of Mark: A Two-Volume Commentary.”

Thirdly, Jesus’ instructions on the nature of discipleship form the last element of the pattern — Mark 8:34-38, Mark 9:33-37, and Mark 10:44-45. These passages dealing with Jesus’ instructions on the meaning of discipleship rather clearly unmask the mistaken notions of the disciples regarding the identity of Jesus. To accept a suffering Messiah entails accepting the role of a suffering disciple.

After the first prophecy of the Passion, Peter rebukes Christ. (Mark 8:32) This incident seems to illuminate Peter’s confession of Mark 8:29. Moreover, in the same verse Jesus enjoins the disciples to be silent about that confession which serves as another indication that they have not perceived the true meaning of his identity. Peter here represents all believers in his frailty.

The confession of Peter, “You are the Christ,” (Mark 8:29) and the ensuing confrontation by Jesus seem to serve as a paradigm of the other two sections. In particular, verse 33 of chapter 8 provides a pivotal insight into the non-recognition of Jesus’ role — “Because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s.” Faith requires a reversal of human values.

According to Eastern Orthodox Marounas Saboun, the root of such “human-minded” blindness is the misguided religious assumption that “a ‘messiah,’ as God’s agent, was always imagined as victorious in his work.” “Suffering Messiah” was unimaginable.

Dominican Father Rabbi John W. Harrington cautions: “The confession of Peter is the facile projection of too many of Mark’s contemporaries: You are the Christ.” (Mark 8:27-33) He observes: “They cannot have a risen Lord without suffering a Messiah. They cannot be his disciples without out walking his road of suffering.” In his “Invitation to Mark,” Paul J. Artzewi process out the mistaken assumption underlying Peter’s confession. He writes: “If ‘nothing succeeds like success,’ what is left over for failure? Peter, representing all humanity, made the answer plain: avoid it!” (Mark 8:32)

Unimaginable! Yet these verses make it equally plain that anyone who would follow Jesus must also be prepared to share his suffering. (Mark 8:34-8:38) follows Peter’s denial. If Peter in effect declares “I avoid the Cross,” now Christ explains discipleship in terms of embracing the cross: “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34)

In Mark 9:33-34, Jesus offers the second instruction on discipleship. After the second prophecy of the Passion, the disciples argued over power and status. Ironically the first half of Mark’s Gospel — Chapters 1-8 — has already presented the ‘power theme’ as a dead end for understanding Jesus.

In the second lesson on discipleship, a child in his powerlessness becomes an object of the “power” of the Gospel — that of service. Apart from the family circle, a child in that ancient culture enjoyed no rights or status before adulthood. Jesus Father Branden Byrne explains: “For God’s people outside the family to ‘welcome’ a child would be to turn prevailing social values upside down; it would require putting aside all one’s ideas of self-importance and adult status to simply meet a child as an equal, as ‘child’ to child.”

When Jesus “bids” the child, his gesture symbolizes “the preciousness of each and every human life in the sight of God.” Father Byrne adds, “the child’s smallness and littleness rather than in our achievement — hugging God in this moment.”

After the third prediction of the Passion (Mark 10:35-45), James and John request a privileged position in the kingdom. Just as St. John the Baptist answered “littleness” rather than in our achievement — hugging God in this moment.”

The title of Father Byrne’s theological commentary on the Gospel of Mark is apt — “A Costly Freedom.”

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

Commentary

Father Ronald Kettelkamp

4 February 28, 2020

The Messenger 8

Vol. 92 No. 8

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Covington

1125 Madison Ave. • Covington, Ky. 41011-3112

Telephone: (513) 281-1100 • Fax: 513-281-1105

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Subscription Information:


MfP 46/46. Only mailed within United States. Subscriptions published weekly, except for late publish due to holidays. Subscriptions published in English only. Digital subscribers agree to receive digital copies of the weekly edition only. For more information, visit www.covingtonmonitor.com.

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Back to the basics

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent — Cycle “A” are: Genesis 2:7-9, 31-7; Romans 5:12-19; and Matthew 4:1-11.

Lent is a call to get back to the basics. We purposely remove from our midst and our church’s all that is not essential. Thus we remove from our liturgy all flowers, all unnecessary music and all colorful decorations. This pruning away of the non-essential should carry over into our lives as well. Thus we deny ourselves the unnecessary food and drink and entertainment.

Instead, during Lent, we focus on the essential — conversion to Christ and the celebration of the Eucharist. It was and is in the time of final preparation for those who are converging to Christ, the catechumens. But we also recognize that conversion is a never-ending process in the life of the Christian. And so we who are already baptized Children of God should examine ourselves in our time of intense prayer and preparation.

Eighth Day

Father Daniel Vogelbahn

Easter: For the Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the Paschal mystery: catechumens through the several stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices. (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, 4:27)

On this First Sunday of Lent, all the catechumens of the diocese will be present before our diocesan committee and consciously assembled at the cathedral for the Rite of Election by which they will be chosen and receive the sacraments at Easter. The questions that are asked of them then are really asked of us all as we begin this season of grace.

Have they faithfully listened to the Word of God proclaimed by the Church? Have they responded to that Word and begun to walk in God’s presence? Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?

These questions make me squirm a bit. I’m glad they don’t ask me, but I have to answer them. Any Christian who is unsure of the purpose of Lent could fruitfully spend the 40 days reflecting on his or her own answers to these questions.

Throughout the season of Lent the elected catechumens will continue to be discreet before the faithful continue with the liturgy of the Rite of Election. This practice of dismissal may at first seem harsh. However, it certainly makes the baptized person ask “What’s so special about me that I’m allowed to stay and aren’t? What is so important about the Rite of Election that only a baptized member of the community may participate in it?” These again are carefully basic questions that every Christian must confront again and again.

The Scriptural readings from Genesis 2:1-3 provides us with Jesus’ own struggle to confront the basics of his life and mission on earth. The devil tempts him to set aside the plan of the Father. The devil’s logic, Jesus had to reflect on whether he listened to the Word of God his Father or be the word of the devil. The tempted tried to get Jesus to abandon the Father’s long and painful way for Christ to establish his reign on earth and replace it with a “quick fix” that produced instant results. The defeat of the devil’s tactics by Jesus in the desert stands in direct contrast to the victory the tempter accomplished in today’s first reading. The scene portrayed for us in the Garden of Eden is one in which Adam and Eve had to choose to follow either the Word of God or the word Satan. Unlike Christ, they chose the latter.

The temptations they faced is perhaps little different from the ones we face. The ways and the wisdom of the world often tempt us to believe that we can accomplish much apparent good if we just forsake the ways of the Lord — just a little. I can hear Eve saying, “It’s just a piece of fruit; no big deal.”

Father Ron Rolheiser

Eighth Day

We are growing ever more distrustful of words. Everywhere we hear people say: “That’s just talk! That’s nothing but empty words.”

And empty words are all around us. Our world is full of lies, of false promises, of advertising that doesn’t deliver, of words never backed up by anything. We trust less and less in what we hear. We’ve been lied to and betrayed far too often, now we’re cautious about what we believe.

But distrust in the words we hear is only one way in which our spoken word is weak. Our words can be truthful and still have little power. Why? Because, to use Gospel terms, we may not be speaking with much authority. Our words may not have what they need to back them up. What’s meant by this?

The Gospels tell us that one of the things that disdained Jesus for the other religious preachers of his time was that he spoke with authority, while they didn’t. What gives words authority? What gives them transformative power?

There are, as we know, different kinds of power. There’s a power that flows from strength and energy. We see this, for example, in the body of a gifted athlete who moves with authority. There’s power too in charisma, in a gifted speaker or a rock star. They too speak with a certain authority and power. But there’s still another kind of power and authority, one very different in kind from that of the athlete and the rock star.

There’s the power of the baby, the paradoxical power of vulnerability innocence and helplessness. Powerlessness is sometimes the real power. If you put an athlete, a rock star and a baby into the same room, who among them is the most powerful? Who has the most authority?

Whatever the power of the athlete or the rock star, the baby has more power to change hearts. The Gospel texts that tell us that Jesus spoke with “authority” never suggest that he spoke “with great energy” or “powerful charisma.” In describing Jesus’ authority they use the word “ekklesia,” a Greek word for which we don’t have an English equivalent.

What’s “ekklesia”? We don’t have a term for it, but we have a concept. Exousia might be described as the combination of vulnerability, innocence and helplessness that a baby brings into a room. Its very helplessness, innocence and vulnerability have a unique authority and power to touch your conscience. It’s for good reason that people watch their language around a baby. Its very presence is cleansing.

But there are a couple of other elements, too, undergirding the authority with which Jesus spoke. His vulnerability and innocence gave his words a special power; yes, but two other elements also made his words powerful. His words were always grounded in the integrity of his life. As well, people recognized that his authority was not coming from him but from something (someone) higher whom he was serving. There was no discrepancy between his words and his life. Moreover, his words were powerful because they weren’t just coming from him, but they were coming through him from someone above him, someone whose authority couldn’t be challenged — God.

You see this kind of authority for example, in persons like St. Mother Teresa and Jean Vanier. Their words had a special authority. Mother Teresa or Jean Vanier could meet someone for the first time and ask him or her to come to India and work with her. Jean Vanier could do the same. A friend of mine shares how on meeting Vanier for the first time, in their very first conversation, Vanier invited him to become a missionary priest. That thought had never before crossed his mind. Today he’s a missionary. What gives some people that special power? Exousia, a selfless life, and a grounding in an authority that comes from above. What you see in persons like Mother Teresa or Jean Vanier and the Powerlessness of a baby, combined with a selfless life, grounded in an authority beyond them. When such people speak — let it be Jesus — their words have real power to calm hearts, heal them, change them and, metaphorically and really, cast out demons from them.

But we do not always have to look to spiritual giants like Mother Teresa and Jean Vanier to see this. Most of us have not been so personally influenced by Mother Teresa or Jean Vanier, but have been spoken to with authority by people around us. In my case, it was my father and mother who spoke to me with that kind of authority, especially some of the Orphanian nuns who taught me in school and some of my uncles and aunts had the power to ask sacrifices of me because they spoke with exousia and with integrity and a faith that I could not question or deny. They asked me to consider becoming a priest, but I believe I’ve been influenced by them.

What moves the world is often the powerful energy and charisma of the highly talented, but the heart is moved by a different kind of authority.

Another Lenten season — how do I respond?

The Scripture readings from Ash Wednesday through the last day of Lent call us to consider change. They use words that make us shudder: “You are to be dust and to dust you shall return” and “Repent and return to the Lord.” Not exactly the requests that cause many of us to jump for joy. These readings and the Gospel appointed for the first day of Lent sound three important themes, and also declare the final destination of this 40-day and six Sunday pilgrim age. They specify what act of “penance” the Lord requires — justice — with a warning about how not to conduct a season of penance. They invite the willing to examine their faults and they promote reflection on one’s own mortality.

They also announce the purpose of doing these specific things: to see more clearly the Lord’s steadfast love. The Lenten pilgrimage will take us through the least attractive aspects of our humanity and reach its destination on Easter Eve/Easter Day in front of an empty tomb — the sign of God’s prevailing love.

What’s self-sacrifice serve their purpose, the text of the Book of Isaiah insists that the Lord wants specific acts of justice — feeding the hungry, relieving the barrens of those who are weighed down, sheltering the homeless.

The Lord is reputed by the practice of carnal party as a substitute for specific acts of justice. Jesus expresses the same conviction when he calls for generosity to others. He also warns that for these acts to be authentic they ought to be carried out in secret.

Penance in these texts is not pernicious posturing. Penance is action! Matthews and the prophets that came before him instruct us to give out of our sustenance and not out of our surplus. A suggestion is to make a conscious choice to consume less of something — a single PC, one less music download — then give that sum of money to someone in need. Make an appointment with one of the many agencies and groups within our parishes and diocese and go to where the ministry is taking place, see the conditions of the client and how that money is being spent to feed the hungry or shelter the homeless. Perhaps
Almsgiving: An overshadowed Lenten pillar has something to say

Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON — When it comes to the three pillars of Lent, almsgiving is a little bit like the middle child, not always getting the attention that fasting and prayer do.

The word hardly rolls off the tongue and people don’t talk about it as they might discuss what they are giving up for Lent or how they might be praying more or reading spiritual books during the 40 days before Easter.

So, if believers know that they should give, why isn’t this discipline more of a Lenten topic of conversation? Jesuit Father Bruce Morrill, the Edward A. Malloy professor of Catholic studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, said one possibility is that so much of the religious practice of Lent is shaped by images that represent what people are trying to do with their faith — ashes, for example, or fish on Fridays.

“Almsgiving is not easily recognizable,” he noted, “nor does it rec-}

essarily demonstrate religious devotion as prayer and fasting do with their focus on personal holiness, he said.

He pointed out that the practice of giving to those in need was not recognized for its spiritual value even in the New Testament. Jesus spoke about being asked: “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?” and his response was if they did this for “the least of these” they also did it for him.

Since the Second Vatican Council, Father Morrill said, the Church has made more of an effort to connect worship and prayer to moral activity, and many Catholics have made the connection that fasting is not just to be pious but should have practical measures: taking the money that would have been spent on food or drink, for example, and setting that aside to give to the poor.

That is the whole idea behind Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowl, the small cardboard box for collecting donations to help those supported around the world by CRS, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency since its inception in 1975. CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly $300 million. Last year, nearly 14,000 Catholic parishes and schools across the U.S. participated in the program.

One of the suggestions on the website is to follow foodies recipes from around the world and put the money saved from not buying meat into the Rice Bowl.

Deacon Nicholas Shalaye, writing in a 2018 issue of Horizons, the online newsletter of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, Ohio, linked almsgiving to the other Lenten disciplines by describing it as “fasting from our income and material possessions” and saying it translates “prayers into love for each other by giving to the needy in the name of Christ.”

He stressed the practice is not an optional one, but one that is required of believers, but he also lamented that it “seems to get the least attention among the three” Lenten disciplines.

The deacon suggested that people create an almsgiving plan that doesn’t necessarily need to be about giving money but also could be a donation of time, energy or talents to those in need.

“Let’s make almsgiving an encounter with God during Lent through the face of the poor,” he wrote.

Similarly, Father Morrill stressed that when rooted in faith, the practice of caring and providing for those in need is a way of “knowing this is how you encounter and know God.”

Alms might not get their due, so to speak, because Christians are hesitant to say their efforts help others somehow earns them something, the priest said. But real- ly, he said, they should recognize the practice is “a way to join in the generosity of God” and show the love of God for all, which is “truest when given to the least.”

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What do you want of me, Lord?

Karen Kuhlman
Messenger Correspondent

Our memories are a bridge to our past and the experiences that paint a portrait of our lives. Sometimes, those memories seem to lose their form and we wish we had a way to bring them into focus. Benedictine Sister Andrea Collop found a way to assure the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery that many of their treasured memories will not be lost to time.

Sister Andrea grew up on East 33rd St. in Latonia in a close Catholic family. She was the eldest of five girls and three boys, and the first to graduate from Holy Cross High School. She admired the Benedictine sisters who were her teachers and, as graduation approached, decided to give a religious vocation a try. Her mother was a little uncertain, but her father reassured her mother, saying, “Mary, let’s let her go. She can always come home.”

With her parents’ blessings, she entered the community of St. Walburg Monastery in 1944. The young girl experienced some serious bouts of homesickness during the early days of her postulancy, but once that dissipated, she went forward, secure in her decision and her vocation. She received a bachelor’s in English from Villa Madonna College and a master’s in English and history from Notre Dame University.

Sister Andrea taught English, history and Latin to generations of students at Villa Madonna Academy between 1950 and 1990, and was director of boarders for some of those years. She was known and loved by most everyone who passed through the halls of the academy. She never strayed far, residing for most of her life at St. Walburg Monastery, located on the property with Villa.

Over the years, she has worn many hats: she has been sub prioress of St. Walburg Monastery, house coordinator, procura- tor and infirmary coordinator. Sister was a volunteer EMT with the Crescent Springs Fire Department for 10 years, replacing her customary habit with the uniform of the EMT for squad runs. In retirement, she works in the kitchen doing dishes and taking her turn in the laundry, providing clean clothing for the community. She took telephone duty for the monastery for many years, and that gave her time to crochet hundreds of pairs of baby booties.

Benedictine Sister Deborah Harnelings, communications director and archivist for St. Walburg Monastery, said, “Sister Andrea is just a wonderful hands-on person who wants to be of service to others. Even now, she helps out in the chapel by lighting the candles for Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and prayers. She recognizes needs and quietly meets people where they are. She is very humble, always concerned to do the right thing in every situation, always wanting to do what is best. I don’t think she understands what an exceptional person she is.”

Sister Andrea is always looking for ways to serve others. For 27 years she faithfully noted the details of the everyday lives and works of the Benedictines. She has a nose for news and tracks down pertinent information by way of conversations with her sisters and she visits community bulletin boards placed in strategic locations around the monastery.

She recorded the events — big and small — which are the fabric of community life. News of activities, accomplishments and endeavors; visits by the sisters to mission in Africa or conferences in the United States; requests for prayers of consolation or thanksgiving, announcements of events for the Oblate community and the laity; the passing of eight once-sturdy oaks that sheltered the monastery for more than 80 years. Sister took note of the daily goings-on of life that might otherwise have been forgotten and set them down in The Chronicles. For almost three decades, The Chronicles has been printed in the biannual editions of St. Walburg Monastery’s Leaven newsletter.

At the top of the list of things Sister Andrea makes time for is prayer — community prayer and personal prayer. Like many religious, she keeps a personal journal. Her journal contains her prayers and reflects the joy that her vocation has brought her — a life, surrounded by so many friends.

Now, the time has come for Sister Andrea to pass The Chronicles on to a new chronicler. Sister Mary Tewes, oblate director, said, “We are all so grateful to Sister Andrea, for we now have a running history of our community.”

Sister Mary now assumes the formidable task of continuing the ministry that Sister Andrea undertook with such love, humility and devotion.
The weekly TV Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption will be broadcast on Sunday, 5 p.m. on station Me-TV WLRJ on channel 58. The service is also available online at www.wlrb.org/catholic.org.

There will be a Holy Hour on the third Thursday of every month, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 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, March 19.

*Colleen’s Concert,* performed by Brian Malley and The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Glees Club in memory of Brian’s deceased daughter, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Mother of God Parish, Covington.

*Brooks Flooring Fish Fry,* Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Benefits local organizations. 1840 Ashwood Circle, Ft. Wright. Carry out available, contact 1-813-6555.

*Lenten morning of reflection,* Feb. 28, 8-11:30 a.m., St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati. Featuring speaker Mary Hallan Fiofrto, tickets $25 via Boxoffice.

*Carvings* art display by River Valley Wood Carvers, presented by Bishop Brossart High School Art Gallery Free and open to the public March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 12-4 p.m.

Newport Central Catholic girls soccer team informational meeting, March 3, 7 p.m. in the NCC cafeteria for 7-12th grade girl interested in trying out for the 2020 team.

**Lenten Lector,* group lector-divina, Tuesdays beginning March 5, 7:30 p.m., St. Walburg Monastery, e-mail maryteese@gmail.com or call (859) 584-4216 for more information.

2nd annual NKY Orange Crush vs. Newport Central Catholic Thoroughbreds basketball game, March 5, 7 p.m. Admission $5, all proceeds will go to the Northern KY Special Olympics.

Young Adult Candlelight Mass, March 6, Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue. Consecrations at 6:30 p.m., Mass 7 p.m. Social following Mass with free food and drinks.


*Eucharist: Rediscovering the Hope at the Heart of Worship,* presented by Divine Providence Sister Lucy Zientik, March 7, 9-11 a.m., St. Anne Province Center, Melbourne: Continental breakfast served. Register by e-mail annamiller@gmail.com or call 251-8103.

**Trivia night,** March 7, 8 p.m., hosted by the Knights of Columbus Father Rehe Council. Details available on Facebook. Register by e-mailing billyoung118@gmail.com.

**Students donate dimes to build a school**

St. Thomas, Ft. Thomas, kindergarten class completed a service learning project where they collected enough dimes to build a school in Madagascar. To celebrate the success of the service learning project, Sister Emerita McGinn, CDP gave a presentation on Madagascar and her experiences from when she travelled there.

**Burning of palms**

The Catholic Order of Foresters Court 2514 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, hosted a Burning of Palms Feb. 21 immediately after school. Deacon Brian Cox gave a quick lesson about Lent and where the ashes come from for Ash Wednesday.

**Crusading Christians**

The Crusading Christian award is the highest award given each trimester at St. Henry School, Elsmere. One student in every class, kindergarten through eighth grade, is chosen by a teacher as exemplifying the Christian qualities of being connected, confident and contributing in their work as well as in the classroom.
Fish fry 2020

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

St. Augustine Parish, Covington, 4-7 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3, in the gym. Call 431-3343.

St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger, 4:30-8 p.m., Feb. 26, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3. Drive thru available.

St. Benedict Parish, Covington, 4:45-7 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3. Carryout available.

St. Bernard Parish, Dayton, 5-9 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3. Carryouts available, 638-4511.

Blessed Sacrament Parish, March 27 and April 3.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ft. Thomas, 4:30-7:30 p.m., McElroy Hall, Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3.

St. Francis Xavier Parish/Knights of Columbus, Falmouth, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3.

Holy Cross High School, 5-8 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3. Eat in or carry out.

St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, 4-7:30 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3. Drive-in or carry-out, 635-2491.

Knights of Columbus, Elmwood, Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10. Carry-outs are available by calling 261-2704.

St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6 and 13.

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger, 4-8 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3. Drive-in, drive thru or call ahead 271-2822.

St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill, Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Call 356-5151.

St. Paul Parish, Florence, 5-8 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3.

Prince of Peace School, 5-8 p.m., Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3. Live music, bake sale, carry-out available. Call 431-5153.

St. Therese Parish, Southgate Fish Fry, Feb. 28, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

―Unplanned‖ movie showing, March 15, 2p.m., Middletown. Family Performing Arts Center, Bishop Brossart High School. Free admission; sponsored by St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring. Families for Life. Contact tklocke@stjosephparish.org or call 927-2381.

Dave Ueding Mathematics Competition, March 16, 5 p.m., Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport. Seventh and 8th grade students solve math puzzles and challenges for trophies and ribbons. Pizza and drinks follows individual competition. RSVP kklehschnaudechschs.com or 628-6646.

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

Healing Mass and service, March 19, 6:30 p.m., Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger.

―Arms Open Wide: An Encounter with God’s Mercy,‖ a Lenten evening of reflection, March 19, 7 p.m., St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; music from 6:40-7 p.m. Contact tklocke@stjosephparish.org or 927-2381 with questions.


―Lenten Mission‖ with Steve Angriano, March 22-25, 7 p.m., St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Alexandria.

Silent directed retreat for men and women, March 27-29, Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery. $155 fee. For more information contact dorothybob@gmail.com or (859) 441-8315.

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

3rd annual St. Padre’s Pub Night and Irish concert, Molly Malone’s Irish Pub & Restaurant, March 28, 7 p.m., for young adults 18-25. Featuring the music of local Irish band Easter Rising.

NKU Catholic Newman Center Women’s Group, March 29 and April 26. Workshop and discussion, accountability partners. Email Kathryn at russell.k@euku.edu.

Memorial Mass for the Loss of a Child, April 2, 7 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington. Hosted by the Pro-Life Office. Contact picopics@eckochs.org.

Derby dinner, ―Anything Goes,‖ April 16, sponsored by the St. Thomas Travelers. Cost $65; call 441-8567.

Holy Cross District High School is selling 3 kinds of mulch ($12.50/hug) and pine straw ($6/bale) with free delivery to addresses in Kenton, Boone and Campbell Counties. Deliveries April 24 – May 9. All proceeds benefit Holy Cross High School, Latonia. Go to www.hcrmulch.com or call 382-1699.

―Swing into Spring,‖ DCCHS Center for Children and Families gala fundraiser, April 25, St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center, Ballroom, Erlanger. E-mail apollancos@dcchscenter.org for details.
Reconciling oneself to God leads to healing, pope says in Lenten message

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service
VAI7C7 CITY — Lent is a time for deeper dialogue with God through prayer, for renewed gratitude for God’s mercy and for increased compassion for people whose lives are under attack, Pope Francis said.

Also, people must not only show generosity through charitable giving, but they should also work for a real structural change to today’s “economic life,” the pope said in his annual message for Lent, which begins Feb 26 for Latin-rite Catholics.

The text of the pope’s message was released by the Vatican Feb 24.

“Contemplating the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus and putting it at the center of one’s life means feeling compassion toward the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life from that of the unborn to that of the elderly and various forms of violence,” the pope said in his message.

Leap year’s extra day has a Catholic origin

Denis Tracy
Catholic News Service
BOSTON — The extra day we get approximately once every four years is a way to adapt the calendar year to the astronomical year.

But did you know the present system of calculating the leap year originated around fixing the date of Easter?

While the concept of the leap year has been around since ancient times, the current calendar year has its origins in the Catholic Church.

According to the Rev. James Weiss, associate professor of Church history at Boston College, in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII set about adjusting the calendar to bring the celebration of Easter to the time of year it was celebrated when it was introduced by the early Church.

The Julian calendar — used by the Roman Empire and named after Julius Caesar — had followed the ancient Egyptian calendar and added an extra day every four years. However, Rev Weiss explained, that was not in keeping with the astronomical calendar.

“One every four years proved to be too many leap years, and over time, the calendar year did not match the astronomical year,” he told The Pilot, newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese.

Pope Gregory determined the calendar was out of sync with the spring equinox by 11 days, which was significant to the Church because the date of Easter was set by the Council of Nicaea in 325 as the Sunday after the first full moon of spring, and the start of spring was fixed as March 21. Without adjustment, the date of Easter would eventual- ly drift into the summer.

So, on Feb 24, 1582, Pope Gregory issued a papal bull titled “Inter gravissimas” in which he set about to correct the error. The new calendar — which would be called the Gregorian calendar — added an extra day to February every four years, unless the year is divisible by 100. Those years do not have a leap year. The exception to that rule is if the year is divisible by 400. So, following this rule, 1900 events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness,” he said.

“Despite the sometimes tragic presence of evil in our lives and in the life of the Church and the world,” he wrote, “this opportunity to change our course expresses God’s unwavering will not to interrupt his dialogue of salvation with us and his desire that people also engage in fruitful dialogue with each other.

God’s dialogue with humanity “has nothing to do with empty chatter” which “characterizes worldliness in every age; in our own day, it can also result in improper use of the media,” he said.

At a news conference to present the message, Cardinal Peter Turkson further elaborated on what an improper use of media would look like.

The head of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development told reporters that different forms of communication can either promote content that is “empty” or “rich” in that it helps build up human charac- ter and society or fosters new ideological models.

For example, he said, when media outlets cover certain tragic events, like the coronavirus or war and conflict, they might actually be setting up a kind of “barrier” between the event and the people hearing about it.

“You see something is happening but at the same time you can see that you are not involved, as if the person is above it all and untouched by others’ circumstances, the cardinal said.

Instead what is needed is a situation where after seeing and hearing about such events, people feel inspired or driven to try to get involved or do something useful to help the situation, he said.

Pope Francis asked in his message that the Lenten sea- son lead to people opening their hearts “to hear God’s call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dia- logue with him” so that everyone becomes “what Christ asks his disciples to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.”

was not a leap year, but 2000 was.

Although this mathematically corrected the problem, Rev Weiss continued, there was the problem of the 90 days that were “out of sync.” Catholic countries such as Italy, Spain and Poland, he said, altered their calendars during the months of October, so that when people went to sleep Oct 4, they awoke on what was then Oct 15.

“To complicate matters, not all of Europe followed the Gregorian calendar,” Rev Weiss continued. “There was a huge confusion for a very long time with regards to the date, which introduced a kind of chaos into European dating.”

Over the next 260 years, most European nations adopt- ed the Gregorian calendar before. “The final country to switch to the Gregorian calendar was Turkey, which finally adopted the calendar in 1927.”

Today most of the world uses the Gregorian calendar.

Some exceptions, such as Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Afghanistan still use their traditional calendars to mark the years. Others, such as India, Bangladesh and Israel use both the Gregorian and their traditional calendars to mark the passage of time.

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

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10 February 28, 2020
“The work that has been done not only benefits current students but also is an investment in the future.”

— Bishop Roger Foys
February 16, 2020

Dear Principal Otte,

Sincere and heartfelt congratulations on the completion and dedication of the extraordinary addition to St. Henry District High School! What a magnificent accomplishment and what a tremendous asset this new addition is to the already stellar program offered by SHDHS.

My congratulations and my gratitude to you, to your faculty and staff, to the students and their parents and to the many benefactors who have made this dream a reality. Your leadership at SHDHS for three decades has made what we celebrate today possible.

Catholic school education is more important today than ever before in our history. In our Diocese of Covington, Catholic school education has been a primary apostolate from the earliest days of our founding more than 160 years ago. That apostolate is carried on through superior institutions of learning such as SHDHS.

This is indeed a day to celebrate and to give thanks to God for his many gifts.

Be assured of my prayers for the entire St. Henry District High School family. Please, pray for me and for our Diocese.

Yours gratefully and devotedly in the Lord,

Bishop of Covington

SHDHS “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” Steering Committee Members

Campaign Leadership
David M. Otte, principal
Beckie Middendorf, advancement director
Dan Riegler, co-chair
Karen Riegler, co-chair

Steering and Building Committee
Mike Arthur
Chris Berling
Jim Berling
Steve Berling
Kevin Collins
Chris Chook
Tom Erpenbeck
Mike Esselman
Don Melhaus
Dan Middendorf
Bob Niels
Stephanie Renaker-Jansen
Mike Riegler
Beth Sweeney
Dan Tobergte

“Though your beginning was small, your future will flourish indeed.” Job 8:7

In the 1950s, this humble stage saw its first theatrical performance. May your state-of-the-art facility continue the tradition of creating memories that last a lifetime.

Congratulations from your Crusader Family!
February 16, 2020
Dear St. Henry District High School Community,

On behalf of the Department of Catholic Schools, I congratulate and extend my best wishes to the St. Henry District High School community on the dedication of the Drees Homes Auditorium, the Riegler Family Alumni Gallery, the Ed and Betty Duising Black Box Theater, the Wilson Family Art Gallery, the Neidig Family Box Office, the Brent Rouse Concessions, and the scene shop, STEM laboratory, media center, guidance counselor and advancement suites. During a time of celebrating a new construction project, I appreciate one of our many gifts — the gift of hands. I see hands that help, and those that hold us back from harm's way. I see graceful hands that nourish and comfort. I see skilled hands that produce works of art, and hands that mend broken bones. I see hands that push open doors, and hands that secure the same. I see hands lifted in prayer and hands that bless. I see hands that join together to dance, to applaud and to celebrate.

All these helping hands have been a part of the “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” project. These are the hands of administrators, teachers, staff, students, parents, boosters, alumni, volunteers, construction workers and benefactors. Each has graced St. Henry District High School in so many ways.

The “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” project is a source of awe and prayers of thanksgiving. To truly appreciate the change, I urge those who haven’t been to the St. Henry District High School campus recently to visit the campus to see for yourself this awesome work.

As educators, we consistently experience the joy of working with adolescents to reach their fullest potential. By the grace of God and the collaboration of the St. Henry District High School community, SHDHS has been and will continue to be crucifiers in all its endeavors.

I express a very special “Thank You” to all those hands that helped make possible the “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” project. Spread the good news that St. Henry District High School continues to build on excellence and is guided by faith. Yours in Catholic education,

Michael Cline
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Covington

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February 2020
Dear Friends,

The “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” capital campaign theme couldn’t have been more appropriate for our expansion project. Over the last 30 years, I have watched St. Henry District High School grow from the small campus on Dixie Highway in Erlanger — which was shared with the elementary and middle schools — to our newly-expanded, 118,000 sq. ft. campus in Erlanger off Donaldson Road.

We take great pride in excellence in each of our five pillars of success: faith, scholarship, athletics, arts and leadership. The dedicated faculty and staff at SHDHS are second to none and are the reason our students excel at every level. The unwavering support of our parents, families and alumni allows us to concentrate on our primary purpose — educating and supporting the success of every student.

I believe the four words, “we are better together,” sum up the entire project. What a powerful force we are when we work together.

I’d like to extend my gratitude to Bishop Roger J. Foys for his constant support, spiritual guidance and dedication to Catholic education and St. Henry District High School.

I am also grateful to my high school classmate, Boone Riegler and his wife, Karen, for agreeing to be our campaign co-chairs and working tirelessly to make this project a reality.

I also thank Ralph and Ima Drees for their generous gift of $750,000 — a defining moment in the campaign. In addition, this project would not have happened without our architects, construction company, faculty and staff and campaign steering committee members.

This project was in the works for approximately six years. I won’t say we ever lost faith; however, there were times when we weren’t sure it was going to happen. Then I remember a homily I heard at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption one Sunday: “If you don’t know what else to do and have nowhere else to go — all that is left to do is submit yourself to the Lord.” This message helped guide us through some challenging times.

We hope and pray that all we have accomplished will serve as inspiration to our current students, future students and the greater community.

Sincerely,

David L. Cline
Principal
St. Henry District High School
SHDHS dedicates major expansion promoting arts and technology

Laurie Kerner

In his 2008 letter to artists, St. Peter-John Paul II School’s first principal, outstanding artists, art teachers, arts-oriented parents, administrative team, teachers, students and others ... within the vast cultural panorama of each nation, artists have their unique place. Guided to their inspiration in creating works both worthwhile and beautiful. More not only in the arts, but in all humanity but they also render an eminent cultural service in favor of the common good.

The St. Henry District School community has made a significant investment in promoting the spiritual development of its student body and community through art and artists in its “Staking on Beauty, Guided by Faith” project.

The purpose of SHDHS is to provide a warm, loving and supportive educational environment that teaches students in their Catholic faith and the Gospel message of Jesus Christ,” said Karen Bayler.

She and her husband Don, “are thrilled at the project’s ‘Building on Beauty, Guided by Faith’ campaign. This particular campaign was and still is important to us because it is not just about building a building, but also about building up our Catholic faith and our community and strengthening our student community.”

On Fri. 14, Bishop Roger Ely blessed and dedicated SHDHS’ $7.8 million expansion project. The project dedications 43,000 square feet of space to ensure the day-to-day functions of the arts but also include space dedicated to information technology and a STEM lab.

“Don’t underestimate this,” said Bishop Ely in his remarks of the dedication. “The school has had a 30-year tradition of Catholic education which we were able to build on in this expansion. This expansion project was not only a way of providing a new and modern space for our students, but also to enhance their learning experience in the arts.”

The ceremony was part of a $3.4 million expansion that includes performing arts and became the latest in Northern Kentucky and SHDHS looks forward to sharing this theatrical gift with the rest of the community.

“Many of these spaces will not only be for our use but for others as well,” said Dave Otto, principal. “Our theater, bands and choir, science, lab space, all benefit the community as well as our students.”

Mrs. Ottoadded that four months sum up the thoughts about the project. “We are better together.”

“I hope everyone realizes what a special force we are as everyone works together,” Otto said. “In the past, the many local organizations, benefactors and the project and the more than $6 million in additional businesses that financially supported the project.”

Timelines of the major events of Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith Campaign and Project Completion

2014
Bishop Ely approves feasibility study to gauge support for capital campaign.

2015
Bishop Ely approves the official launch of the $8 million “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” capital campaign.

2016
Dan and Karen Reiger break ground on the capital campaign.

2017
SHDHS launches major donor solicitation phase of the campaign.

2018
Bishop Ely, Dan and Karen Reiger break ground on the expansion project.

2019
The Dr. George A. and Dolores E. Remaker STEM lab, biotechnology lab and expanded media center are completed.

2020
The St. Henry District High School community celebrates the blessing and dedication of its building project.

(above left) Don Knechtleman, director, Buildings and Properties, assisted during the project. Congratulations on the opening and dedication of the St. Henry District High School expansion,” he said. “This new state-of-the-art facility will provide an opportunity for the youth in our diocese to experience an outstanding arts education.”

(above right, from right) Michael Drives, superintendent of Catholic schools; Dan Reiger and Karen Reiger, chairs, “Guided by Faith, Building on Excellence” campaign, share in the happiness of the dedication. “We thank God for his blessings on this project,” Mr. Reiger said.

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“Don’t underestimate this,” said Bishop Ely in his remarks of the dedication. “The school has had a 30-year tradition of Catholic education which we were able to build on in this expansion. This expansion project was not only a way of providing a new and modern space for our students, but also to enhance their learning experience in the arts.”

The ceremony was part of a $3.4 million expansion that includes performing arts and became the latest in Northern Kentucky and SHDHS looks forward to sharing this theatrical gift with the rest of the community.

“Many of these spaces will not only be for our use but for others as well,” said Dave Otto, principal. “Our theater, bands and choir, science, lab space, all benefit the community as well as our students.”

Mrs. Ottoadded that four months sum up the thoughts about the project. “We are better together.”

“I hope everyone realizes what a special force we are as everyone works together,” Otto said. “In the past, the many local organizations, benefactors and the project and the more than $6 million in additional businesses that financially supported the project.”

Timelines of the major events of Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith Campaign and Project Completion

2014
Bishop Ely approves feasibility study to gauge support for capital campaign.

2015
Bishop Ely approves the official launch of the $8 million “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” capital campaign.

2016
Dan and Karen Reiger break ground on the capital campaign.

2017
SHDHS launches major donor solicitation phase of the campaign.

2018
Bishop Ely, Dan and Karen Reiger break ground on the expansion project.

2019
The Dr. George A. and Dolores E. Remaker STEM lab, biotechnology lab and expanded media center are completed.

2020
The St. Henry District High School community celebrates the blessing and dedication of its building project.

(above left) Don Knechtleman, director, Buildings and Properties, assisted during the project. Congratulations on the opening and dedication of the St. Henry District High School expansion,” he said. “This new state-of-the-art facility will provide an opportunity for the youth in our diocese to experience an outstanding arts education.”

(above right, from right) Michael Drives, superintendent of Catholic schools; Dan Reiger and Karen Reiger, chairs, “Guided by Faith, Building on Excellence” campaign, share in the happiness of the dedication. “We thank God for his blessings on this project,” Mr. Reiger said.

In his 2008 letter to artists, St. Peter-John Paul II School’s first principal, outstanding artists, art teachers, arts-oriented parents, administrative team, teachers, students and others ... within the vast cultural panorama of each nation, artists have their unique place. Guided to their inspiration in creating works both worthwhile and beautiful. More not only in the arts, but in all humanity but they also render an eminent cultural service in favor of the common good.

The St. Henry District School community has made a significant investment in promoting the spiritual development of its student body and community through art and artists in its “Staking on Beauty, Guided by Faith” project.

The purpose of SHDHS is to provide a warm, loving and supportive educational environment that teaches students in their Catholic faith and the Gospel message of Jesus Christ,” said Karen Bayler.

She and her husband Don, “are thrilled at the project’s ‘Building on Beauty, Guided by Faith’ campaign. This particular campaign was and still is important to us because it is not just about building a building, but also about building up our Catholic faith in our diocese and our community and strengthening our student community.”

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Congratulations to the Diocese of Covington and the Saint Henry District High School community on your Renovation and Auditorium Addition. We are proud to have been selected as the General Contractor for your expansion campaign of

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Scott Millay '91 + Jim Goetz '78 + Rob Millay '85
Dave Huesman '84 + Dodd Hance '98 + Jamie Spille '83 + Matt Radcliff '02

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SHDHS ‘Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith’ expansion project

Nearly six years ago, school leadership identified the ever-increasing need for a fine arts facility. In 2014, over 65 percent of students participated in band, chorus, chamber choir and art or drama, but the current space for these classes was limited. Future growth and an anticipated increase in student interest in the arts led to a community study to determine stakeholder interest and resources needed to construct a new fine arts facility.

In the fall of 2014, Bishop Roger Foys approved St. Henry’s request to perform a feasibility study to gauge at what level the school’s constituents would support a capital campaign. Based upon the positive feedback received through this study, Bishop Foys approved the official launch of the $7.8 million ‘Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith’ capital campaign in 2015. This would be the first major expansion at the high school since opening in 1998. Bishop Foys’ unwavering support and dedication of Catholic education and St. Henry District High School was a driving force behind this project.

The vision for the campaign was developed, managed and executed by a diverse group of leaders including school administration, alumni, architects, construction managers and more. They supported the project through every phase including strategic planning, fundraising and construction.

This campaign was about so much more than just building a beautiful 600-seat auditorium. Over the past six years, God’s hands have been at work each and every day, demonstrating the power of teamwork and collaboration. Ron Dressman (’71) attended the campaign kick-off event in 2015. He very wisely pointed out that, while it’s wonderful to plan for and address the future needs of the school, we must never lose sight of why St. Henry District High School exists — to provide a well-rounded, college-preparatory education that teaches students to live the Catholic faith by embracing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. With that, he proceeded to make the first major financial contribution to the campaign before sadly passing away just a few short weeks later. Mr. Dressman had a deep love for SHDHS and his gift helped launch the project into action.

The steadfast leadership of campaign co-chairs, Dan (“76) and Karen Riegler, was humbling and inspiring. They live their Catholic faith daily, dedicating their time, talent and treasure to countless projects within the Diocese of Covington.

Beckie Middendorf, advancement director said, “We’re so very thankful the Rieglers chose to answer Dave Otto’s call to lead our campaign. This project would not have been successful without their dedication and support.”

Once again, God’s hands were at work when Ralph and Irma Dressman decided to support the campaign with a gift of $750,000. They recognized the importance of this project not only for St. Henry District High School, but for the entire community and the future of Catholic education.

This gift poured new life into the campaign, inspiring others to give, and without a doubt, ensured the success of the campaign. Throughout the life of the campaign, more than 400

(Continued on page 19)

Congratulations Crusaders!

Your new Fine Arts Building is a wonderful addition to the St. Henry District High School mission guided by faith, scholarship, arts, athletics, and leadership!!!

The Riegler Blacktop Family
Home is where the art is

Home is where the art is. This saying epitomizes the role and teaching philosophy of Katie Baker ('96), St. Henry District High School alumna and current Fine Arts chair.

"As a student, I took all of my visual art classes in the former art room and taught in that same space for 10 years. It’s where I became an artist, it’s where I decided to become a teacher, it’s where I learned who I was and who I wanted to be and where I accumulated a lifetime of memories. It was home."

Now, Ms. Baker has the opportunity to continue making St. Henry’s art room home to many, but in a more modern, revamped, and renovated space.

"The natural light in the new art room literally changes students attitudes as soon as they walk in. They could be having a really bad day and then they walk into the new art room and that exposure to outside immediately brightens their day," said Ms. Baker. "With the new art gallery, we now have a space where artwork can be continuously observed in a safe and secure location with no worries about what might happen to it if it is left overnight. It also allows for alumni art shows, feeder school art shows and professional artist shows to be presented."

Ms. Baker is extremely proud to be a part of the SHDHS community and can’t wait for future generations to use the renovated spaces.

"This new addition means growth, opportunity and pride. Growth in a physical aspect, but also growth within our program, giving kids more options for learning. Now, I have the privilege of helping students experience art class in a brand new, much more usable space. I get the chance to lead students in the development of their own skills, passion and identity in a space they will come to have memories about just as I do about my old art room."

"I bleed red and white and words cannot do justice for how proud I am of our students, our faculty and our community for coming together to make this dream a reality. SHDHS is a family. We help each other, we support each other; and no matter how much time has passed we always come together to make sure our students have the best education and experience we can offer: ‘Come as Many, Leave as One!’"
Science and technology open concept spaces, new possibilities for learning

The “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith” expansion project enhanced both the fine arts facilities and the science and technology spaces at St. Henry District High School. These were critical elements of the project because science, technology, engineering, arts and math are vital components of 21st century learning, which help provide students with the skill sets they need to become successful, well-rounded thinkers.

The Dr. George A. and Dolores E. Renaker STEM lab, biology lab and expanded media center were completed at the start of the school year. With the addition of the STEM and biology labs, SHDHS now has four dedicated instructional science labs — STEM, biology, chemistry and physical science. These new labs provide students with increased opportunities to work on project-based classroom content.

This additional space also allows teachers to do more hands-on classwork with students, helping them better understand scientific methods and various theories. The STEM lab, which boasts a reinforced steel beam that can be used for physics-based projects, is also home to SHDHS robotics team — better known as Crubotics.

The new media center includes a redesigned computer lab, green screen room and communal space that focuses on collaboration and new technology development. It is home to the eSports team with state-of-the-art equipment built by SHDHS students. It also provides space for professional development opportunities, parent orientations and presentations.

“Allowing students to have the freedom to learn concepts kinesthetically is the best part of the new media center,” said Poly Seguin, chair of the Department of Technology. “Its open concept gives students the freedom to explore multiple subjects independently, including computer networking, computer hardware, gaming, video recording and editing, computer programming and software development.”

The new addition also features expanded spaces for Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). (above) The new media center not only includes state-of-the-art equipment but its open space also provides room for collaboration and presentations.

Expansion project

(Continued from page 17)

individuals and businesses came together to financially support the expansion project and helped make the vision become a reality.

The 4,000 square feet addition includes:

— 250-seat Drueckh Auditorium
— Rieger Family Alumni Gallery
— Ed and Betty Dearing Black Box Theater
— Wilson Family Art Gallery
— Nields Family Box Office
— Brent Rouse Concessions (Smiley’s Snack Shop)
— Some workshops and studio
— Dr. George A. & Dolores E. Renaker

STEM Lab and biology labs
— Art, band, chorus and general classrooms
— Expanded media center
— Student print center

— Advancement offices
— Guidance counseling suite
— Virgin Mary grotto (scheduled for completion later this year)

“The new addition demonstrates the care the greater community has for our Catholic school system, and we are very grateful for the generosity of our donors,” said Victoria Samolis, a junior at St. Henry.

“The faculty, staff and students have never been more humbled and honored to be a part of such a big project. Most importantly, the new addition is a symbol of the school’s care for the students’ needs and continued support of our greater well-being.

“I am not only excited about using the new additions, but I am also excited for the underclassmen and future students who will get to utilize the new facilities. I hope the school continues to grow and change in future years because I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my time here. I know that with the new addition, future students will, too.”

Congratulations St. Henry District High School on the new addition from Cristo Rey Parish.
St. Henry District High School — mission driven, student focused, united in Christ

Since 1911, the mission of St. Henry District High School has been to educate young men and women and prepare them to meet the challenges of the future. As Northern Kentucky’s largest Catholic, college preparatory, co-educational high school and a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School, SHDHS has a long-standing tradition of providing a well-rounded education that nurtures the spiritual, intellectual, social and emotional development of all students.

SHDHS offers a warm, family atmosphere where faculty and staff are focused on meeting the needs of every member of the diverse student body guided by the school’s five pillars of success: faith, scholarship, athletics, arts and leadership.

The nearly 500 students who attend SHDHS come from more than 20 Catholic and public grade schools in the tri-state area to be SCRDunited in Christ.

The faculty challenges students through creative and critical thinking, cooperative learning and classroom technology with a passion to advance student learning. Throughout the year, the student body performs more than 2,000 hours of community service, in which students give their time and talent to a wide variety of organizations, including local parishes, food pantries, homeless shelters, urban schools and community non-profits.

Upon graduation, students are prepared for college, career and life. Students grow to become active, caring leaders who value human life, are dedicated to family and live a life in service of others.

Academically, SHDHS is a recognized leader, consistently scoring above national, state and local norms on national assessments. Over the previous four years, SHDHS had:

- 6 National Merit Finalists and 10 National Merit Commended
- 9 National AP Scholars / 74 AP Scholars with Distinction / 50 AP Scholars with Honors / 74 AP Scholars.
- Out of 1,305 AP Exams, 80 percent of students received a score of 3 or higher.
- Over $1 million in scholarship offers.

The Crusader community is extremely proud of the success of its athletic programs. In 2019-2020:

- The boys’ cross country team reached the podium at the State Championship, placing 3rd.
- The boys’ golf team qualified for the 1st annual All-State Championship and finished 2nd in the All ‘A’ State tournament.

- The girls’ soccer team defended its District Championship and continued on to win the All ‘A’ State Championship.
- The girls’ volleyball team won the NKA Conference title, District 17 title, and head coach Maureen Kaiser was named the KHSAA Coach of the Year.
- The competitive cheer squad qualified for Nationals.
- The swim and dive team were Combined Champions in the All ‘A’ State Invitational and NKAC Division I Championships.
- This spring, boys’ and girls’ lacrosse will kick off inaugural seasons.

The Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish and School congratulate you on the completion of your classroom renovations and the brand new Fine Arts Center.

We look forward to seeing some of our young parishioners become stars on your stage!
A history filled with faith, courage and vision

Nearby 87 years ago, St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, and the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Villa Hills, courageously committed themselves to serving high school age Catholics in Northern Kentucky.

When Father Emil Carty succeeded Father George C. Beeler as pastor of St. Henry Parish in the spring of 1931, he had his hands full. With less than 225 families, he took on the challenge of starting the freshman year of a high school program that fall. Meanwhile, plans were underway for the construction of the present St. Henry Church, which was important not just because of the need for a new church, but also because the old church was needed to accommodate the next few years of high school space requirements.

The first class began in a one-room schoolhouse with just one teacher and 20 freshmen. By 1939, St. Henry High School was advanced to the category of a Class A school by the Kentucky State Accreditation Department. This was also the year that Father Herbert Kehring became pastor and Bob Ross became a coach and launched a fledgling sports program at SHHS. The first high school basketball team was organized in 1936 and a football team was formed in 1940. The school also had volleyball, bowling, golf, boxing and a band. Father Paul Ciampitti, who came to SHHS as assistant pastor in 1944, played an active part in beginning the basketball prestige the school now possesses.

As years progressed, so did St. Henry High School, from one building to another. At one time, classes were held in four different buildings until the first dedicated high school building was completed in 1968 on Dixie Highway in Elsmere. This building, located on the same campus as the elementary and middle schools, served the community for many years, but as the school continued to grow, the need for a new, larger structure to serve the region was inescapable.

After 16 years of dreaming, planning, organizing, fundraising and, most of all, praying, the new $75,000 sq. ft. St. Henry District High School, located off Donaldson Road, Erlanger, was dedicated in November 1998. As the student body grew over the years, so did the campus with the addition of athletic facilities designed to meet the needs of students both inside and outside of the classroom.

All of this set the stage for the successful “Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith!” capital campaign and 40,000 sq. ft. expansion dedicated this year.

(right) A single classroom in the old St. Henry Church on Garvey Ave., Elsmere, housed the entire high school.

(above) As the surrounding population grew, high school classes were moved to St. Benedict Hall allowing room for a science lab, typing, homemaking, publication, and mechanical drawing rooms.

(below) The first high school building was dedicated in 1968 and was home to the Crusaders until the dedication of its current campus in 1998.

2019-2020
St. Henry District High School

School Board
Scott Scheben, president (St. Timothy Parish)
Tim Kappes, vice president (St. Henry Parish)
Londa Straburger, immediate past president
Tim Mueller (Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish)
Debra Croyle (Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish)
Jill Felix (Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish)
Bill Engel (St. Barbara Parish)
Carol Engel (St. Barbara Parish)

Ex-Officio Board Members
Father Gregory Bach, pastoral administrator
David M. Otte, principal
Becky Middendorf, advancement director
Debra Croyle, PTO representative
Ronnie Holmes, Athletic Boosters representative
Courtney Hoffer, alumni representative

Adjunct Member
Billy Sturtevant, enrollment representative
Bring your next event to life at SHDHS Fine Arts Center

The facilities at St. Henry District High School’s Fine Arts Center can be utilized by the local community, district parishes and schools, the diocese, alumni and outside groups for a number of different types of events — accommodating both small and large groups.

The 600-seat Drees Homes Auditorium can host theatrical productions, concerts, seminars, conferences, dance recitals and more. The Ed and Betty During Black Box Theater is a multipurpose space that can seat up to 150 guests and can be set with multiple staging opportunities to support event needs. Ample classroom space is available for breakout sessions, warm up areas, or dressing rooms for productions. Meeting rooms, the

Wilson Family Art Gallery, the Nields Family Box Office and Smiley’s Snack Shop can also be made available based upon event needs. SHHHS staff is excited to help you bring your next event to life. To learn more, visit theater.shdhs.org or contact the Fine Arts Facility Manager at theater@shdhs.org.

(above from left) Dave Otto, principal, SHDHS; Becky Middendorf, advancement director, SHDHS; members of the Dress family — Ralph Dress, Richard Jones, Irma Dress; Dan Riegler, Karen Riegler, campaign co-chairs; Brent Cooper, president and CEO, NKY Chamber of Commerce and Dan Tobergate, steering and building Committee member.

Drees Homes Auditorium
Upcoming events
Feb. 28-March 1
“Hello, Dolly!” presented by SHDHS Drama Department
Feb. 27-March 8
SHDHS underclassman Art Show
March 14-15
“High School Musical” present by Mary, Queen of Heaven School
April 19
SHDHS Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
April 22
SHDHS Chamber Choir and Chorus concert
April 25
SHDHS Senior play
April 26-May 3
SHDHS Senior art show
May 10
Crusader Band and Cadet Band concert
May 29
“All Are Called to Serve” concert, presented by American Transplant Foundation Fundraiser

Learn more at www.theater.shdhs.org
“The Call of the Wild” (Twentieth Century) Jack London’s beloved 1905 novel returns to the big screen for the seventh time in this computer-generated special effects extravaganza, directed by Chris Sanders. A pet St. Bernard-Scottie Collie mix dog is kidnapped from his California owner and shipped to the Yukon, where gold fever is raging, and large dogs are in demand to pull sleds. He joins a team run by two bumbling mail carriers, before being sold to a wicked gold prospector. Eventually he’s rescued by a kindly explorer and joins him on an expedition deep into the wilderness, all the while hearing the “call” to return to his primal roots. Although purists will be disappointed by the defanging of London’s scaring tale, this is a highly entertaining comedy-drama with solid messages about love, friendship and respect, suitable for all but the youngest viewers. Mild violence, characters in peril. CNS: A-II; MPAA: PG.

“Fantasy Island” (Sony) Muddled horror flick transforms the TV drama series that aired in the late 1970s and early 1980s into a dark, incoherent mess. Under the supervision of the manager of a luxurious resort, an ensemble of guests lives out a variety of dream scenarios, all of which take unexpected turns. While there are respectable messages underlying some of the storylines, director and co-writer Jeff Wadlow’s film makes for a dreary slog and exudes an air of desperation as it hunches toward its conclusion. Some stylized violence, including gamplay with minimal gore, a few gruesome images, drug use, mature references, including to homosexuality and promiscuity, fleeting partial nudity a couple of mild baths, at least one rough and several crude terms. CNS: A-II; MPAA: PG-13.

“Sonic the Hedgehog” (Paramount) There’s something oddly mechanical and even malodorous about this adaptation of the Sega video game. On a lengthy road trip from rural Montana to San Francisco, the super-speechy extraterrestrial character of the title interacts with various humans, most prominently a sheriff he’s befriended, while being pursued by his nemesis, a mad scientist. Oft this mix of animation and live action has been larded considerate sentiment in the form of a subplot involving the protagonist’s improbable yearning to belong to a family. Director Jeff Fowler’s film doesn’t constitute original comedy gold, but children should find some level of fascination. Intense action sequences, a single scatological reference. CNS: A-II; MPAA: PG.

For full reviews of each of these films — go to catholic

news.com and click on “Extras,” then choose “Movies.”

Catholic News Service (CNS) classifications are:

- A-I — general patronage
- A-II — adults and adolescents
- A-III — adults
- L — limited adult audience
- O — morally offensive.

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Candidates must be actively practicing Catholics with a demonstrated commitment to Catholic education. A Masters Degree in Education or an Education related program is required for the position, as well as a Kentucky teaching and/or Administrative Certificate. Candidates should have at least five years of teaching experience with some of that time spent in Catholic education. Administrative experience as a Principal and/or Vice Principal is preferred in Candidates but is not required to apply for this position. Commensurate experience or credentials may be accepted for teaching, Catholic education, and/or administration. All wishing to apply for this position need to submit a cover letter, resume, and a copy of all relevant transcripts and certifications to Father Andrew Young at 119 E. 3rd St., Maysville, KY 41056 or by e-mail to ayoung@stpatshool.com.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Care Net Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky is seeking to advance it’s development efforts and is in search of a part-time (25 hour) Development Director.
The Development Director is responsible for planning, management, and execution of development strategies as outlined in the annual development plan: annual banquet, fundraiser events, major gifts, planned giving, grant writing and capital campaign. This entails active engagement with donor base including prospecting, development and procurement of financial gifts. The Development Director is responsible for managing special events and donor marketing. The Development Director supervises the Development Assistant, Social Media Coordinator, Baby Bottle Campaign Coordinator, and works in close partnership with the Executive Director, Development Committee and Board members.
Candidates must possess strong verbal and written communication skills and demonstrate advanced PC skills in Microsoft Office.
Applicants should include resume, cover letter and salary requirements to info@carenetnk.org

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Work with persons diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a social, leisure, and recreational based adult day training program. Part-time hours available. Forward resume to: BAWAC, Inc. Attn: Director of Services, 7970 Kentucky Dr., Florence, KY 41042.
e-mail: hr@bawac.org. E.O.E.

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fax: 371-1725, email: hr@bawac.org. E.O.E.

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PART-TIME SCHOOL CAFETERIA POSITIONS
St. Augustine, Covington, School Cafeteria is in need of a part-time staff member from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the school year. Duties include food preparation, serving, daily cleanup, helping with deliveries, and other tasks as needed.
St. Agnes, Ft. Wright, School Cafeteria is in need of a part-time dishwasher for three hours per day, Monday through Friday during the school year.
Candidates interested in either or both positions may contact Diocesan School Food Service Director Jackie Kaiser at jkaiser@ccdio.org, or call 859-392-1536.

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Appeals court upholds Trump administration’s ‘Title X Protect Life Rule’

Catholic News Service

SAN FRANCISCO — The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Feb. 24 upheld the Trump administration’s “Protect Life Rule” that enforces the Title X rule banning taxpayer funds from being used to promote or provide abortion as family planning.

Abortion is not “family planning” and a strong majority of Americans — including 44% of Independents and more than one-third of Democrats — oppose taxpayer funding of abortion,” said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the national Susan B. Anthony List, which provided organization.

She called the 9th Circuit’s 7-4 ruling “a vindication of President [Donald] Trump’s pro-life policies and a victory for the American people.” The “Protect Life Rule” can now go into full effect.

The court had already allowed the administration’s changes to start taking effect while the government appealed lower court rulings against the policy.

The Trump administration finalized the “Protect Life Rule” in February 2019. By its action, the administration reaffirmed that abortion “is not family planning,” Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, said in a statement at the time. “Abortion ends the lives of families’ most vulnerable members, as well as damaging the spiritual, mental and physical health of mothers.”

According to the Office of Population Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it is based on the most accurate interpretation of the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, which enacted Title X.

Section 108(b) of this act states that “none of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.”

HRH said the rule also requires “clear physical and financial separation between Title X funded projects and programs or facilities where abortion is a method of family planning. This separation will ensure adherence to statutory restrictions, and provide needed clarity for the public and for Title X clients about permissible and impermissible activities for Title X projects.”

On March 5, 2019, 20 states and the District of Columbia filed a joint suit against the new rule in U.S. District Court in Eugene, Oregon. Its opponents call it a “gag rule” because it does not allow referrals for abortion as family planning.

In her majority opinion, Judge Sandra Ikuta of the 9th Circuit said Title X regulations are similar to those upheld by the Supreme Court in Rutan v. Blumhorn in 1986 prohibiting employees in federally funded family-planning facilities from counseling a patient on abortion.

Ikuta noted that “a counselor providing non directive pregnancy counseling ‘may discuss abortion’ so long as the counselor neither refers for, nor encourages, abortion.” So, she added, there “is no ‘gag’ on abortion counseling.”

Kristan Hawkins, Students for Life of America president, called the 9th Circuit ruling “a victory for sound public policy and fiscal responsibility” that “not only taxpayers have many health care options for full-service care making Planned Parenthood’s involvement in family planning programs irrelevant and unnecessary.”

Last August, Planned Parenthood Federation of America announced it was withdrawing from the federal Title X program over the Trump administration’s “Protect Life Rule,” which like other opponents of the policy called it a “gag rule.” It will no longer receive $60 million of the $286 million allocated annually through Title X.

Another Lenten season

We can understand more fully Pope Francis’s call to be among the sheep and feel the conditions of the poor and oppressed.

The second Ash Wednesday theme is intense self-examination that arrives at a deeper, more honest self-awareness, which is inevitably different from one’s public persona. Throughout one’s life it ought to grow more honest. Perhaps this is the time to investigate various forms of spirituality, such as the brilliant work of Ignatius Loyola, and join the Jesuits using a prayer technique or purpose process called the Examen. It is a different perspective on the traditional examination of conscience learned as child.

Alternatively, the various Scripture passages of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer can be used as a starting point of a self-examination. Perhaps this is the year we could engage more closely with the sacrament of reconciliation and go with a regular confessor to allow a consistent observation from an outsider on our spiritual progress.

The third prominent theme of this day is our own mortality. While, thankfully, none of us know the time or place the Lord will call us home, heaven, the reality is all will be called. When we look at the data that suggests many of us will live on average 79 years, it causes us to consider where we have been, with whom we have been blessed to share the journey and how we use the gifts we have been given for this last part of our life. Come from a profession that believes that people can change and the change can be permanent. So what will I do for these last few chapters of my life and how will I answer the call to assist in lessening the burdens of the poor and oppressed? It’s important to remember that “the poor” and “oppressed” is often people living within five or 10 miles of our homes and parishes.

These three themes wound on the first day of Lent are the first step on a pilgrimage that stops right in front of an empty tomb and invites us in — if that is our choice. If we elect to participate, it alters not only how we face death but, perhaps even more importantly, it alters how we face life — day in and day out.

Deacon Steve Darke is assigned to St. John the Evangelist Parish and St. Ann Mission, Clewiston.

Protecting God’s Children for Adults

For all employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Covington, any way provide a safe environment for children.

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

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and request a background check.

Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your record and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will also sign up for a VIRTUS class during the registration.

Step 3: Attend the VIRTUS session you chose.

No children, please.

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

You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive email notices at systempdb.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Bulletin

VIRTUS trainings:

Diocesan Catholic Children’s Home, Ft. Mitchell (training room)

Monday, March 9, 6:30–10 p.m.

Catholic Charities, Latonia (Mary Moser Room) Parking at Latonia Baptist Church NOT Holy Cross School

Wednesday, March 11, 1:30–5 p.m.

Thursday, April 8, 1:30–5 p.m.

St. Therese School, Southgate (cafeteria)

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30–10 p.m.

Play Like A Champion

Coaches Only Training

Elementary Coaches Training:

St. Ria X Parish, Edgewood (Church meeting rooms 1-2-3)

Monday, March 2, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution.

For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@cwngo.org.
Being meek does not mean being a pushover, pope says at audience

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Those who are meek are patient, gentle and merciful, drawing people together and salvaging relationships, Pope Francis said.

Meekness entails tamely allowing one’s trust in and relationship with God and protectively guarding his gifts of peace, mercy and fraternity, the pope said Feb. 19 during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI hall.

The pope continued a series of talks on the Right Beatitudes by reflecting on the third beatitude: “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.”

It seems strange that meekness and inheriting land are somehow related, the pope said.

But, he said, it is rooted in Psalm 37:31, which tells believers to trust in the Lord, refrain from anger, be patient and “make your righteousness shine” for then shall they “inherit the earth” and “delight in great prosperity.”

The “land” the psalm refers to is something greater than some earthly territory, which is so often a source of conflict, war and aggression, the pope said.

“That land is a promise and a gift for the people of God,” he said. It is heaven — that “new earth” that God has made for his children.

“Therefore, the meek are those who inherit the most sublime of territories,” Pope Francis said. “They are not cowards, weak, looking for some fallback moral principle in order to steer clear of trouble. Far from it!”

Whether a person is meek is seen during moments of conflict, crisis or pressure, he said, since it’s easy to seem meek when life goes smoothly.

“You see it in how they react to a hostile situation,” when they are attacked or offended, he said.

Meekness is what Jesus displayed during his passion, according to St. Peter. Jesus returned no insult, did not threaten and instead, “handed himself over to the one who judges justly.”

The meek are those who know and trust in what God has offered and they do not want to lose it, the pope said.

“The meek are not people-pleasers but are Christ’s disciples who have learned to defend a whole other land,” he said. “They defend their peace, they defend their relationship with God and God’s gifts, guarding mercy, fraternity, trust, hope.”

“People who are meek are people who are merciful, fraternal, trusting and hopeful,” he said.

To talk about meekness, the pope said, it is important also to talk about the sin of wrath.

“A moment of anger can destroy so many things; you lose control and you don’t evaluate what is really important and you can ruin a relationship with someone, sometimes irreparably,” he said.

How many family members, he added, no longer speak with each other or are cold with each other because of anger, which always divides, while meekness, “gathers together.”

“Meekness conquers many things. Meekness is able to win over hearts, salvage friendships and much more,” he said.

It’s natural to get angry he said, but then people should “calm down, rethink it and get back on track and this is how you can rebuild with meekness.”

“There is no earth more beautiful than the heart of another person,” he said, “no land more wonderful to win over than that peace” reestablished with another, and this is the land the meek shall inherit.
Florida bishops call parental consent measure common-sense legislation

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Catholic bishops have supported a bill passed by the Legislature requiring girls under 18 to get a parent’s consent before having an abortion in “common-sense legislation” and they look forward to Gov. Ron DeSantis signing it into law. Their statement was issued the same day the Florida Legislature passed the bill, which includes an exception allowing a girl to ask a judge for a waiver from the required parental con-

One year after abuse summit, Church reviews progress, additional needs

VATICAN CITY — Since Pope Francis convened a historic sum-

Florida Latin cross can stay

WASHINGTON — Reversing its previous decision, a federal appeals court ruled Feb. 19 that a World War II-era cross can remain standing in a park in Pensacola, Florida, based on the Supreme Court’s decision last year about a similar cross on public property in Maryland. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Florida’s 34-foot Latin cross does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. Circuit Judge Kevin N. Newsom, writing for the three-judge panel, said the cross “has evolved into a neutral symbol.” Becket, a nonprofit religious liberty law firm that represented the diocese in this case, argued that the cross, built in 1941, had become “a significant symbol for the secular community.” In 2014, the appeals court upheld a lower court ruling that said the cross in the city’s Bayview Park had to be removed because it violated the Establishment Clause. The court took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which was con-

Federal appeals court now says Florida Latin cross can stay

WORLD — Florida bishops call parental consent measure "common-sense legislation"
China temporarily closes places of worship in effort to contain COVID-19

Michael Sainsbury
Catholic News Service

YANGON, Myanmar — The Chinese government has temporarily closed all of the country’s places of worship in an effort to contain the COVID-19 respiratory coronavirus that has now killed almost 1,000 people, with more than 80,000 around the world verified with infections.

The government also banned all group religious activities, including at the Yiwu Market. But it also praised religious groups of all faiths for raising money in an effort to help people affected by the disease, people trapped in quarantine zones as well as health workers and others on the front line of the fight to contain the epidemic.

“The party committee and government have unified requirements to suspend the opening of religious venues, suspend all collective religious activities, delay the opening of religious schools, strengthen publicity and guidance for religious people, actively donate goods, and do a lot of work to win the fight against epidemic prevention and control,” said an official statement.

Government religious regulators said religious groups should adhere to the health of staff, believers and members in the first place, and make sure they have deployed and purchased disinfectants, hand sanitizers, masks, etc. They have ordered testing and disinfection of public areas.

The disease is now thought even more highly infectious than first thought by medical researchers, and it continues to spread throughout Asia, North America and in Europe.

Most of the fatalities and infections remain in mainland China, which reported 908 new cases and 71 new deaths Feb. 25, bringing totals in the People’s Republic to more than 77,000 cases and more than 2,600 deaths.

South Korea, now the No. 2 virus hub, reported 144 more cases bringing its total to 977, with 10 deaths. By Feb. 25, Iran’s death toll had risen to 15 among at least 64 reported cases.

“The situation is very grave,” South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a Catholic, said on a visit to the hard hit city of Daegu. “We will achieve a victory in the fight against this virus.”

Cardinal Charles Maung Bo of Yangon, president of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences, posted a message on Facebook. “This is the time of universal brotherhood of humanity. It is not a time for mutual blame. Let us remember every brother and sister affected in our prayers every day. Pope Francis has appealed for prayer support. He said, ‘Let us all pray for our brothers and sisters who are distressed by the cruel coronavirus epidemic.’”

The World Health Organization noted Feb. 24 that the coronavirus was an epidemic, not a pandemic — an epidemic that has spread worldwide. Yet that day, worldwide stocks plumbed amid global fears.

Italy confirmed 285 cases of the virus, with seven deaths. The majority of cases were in the northern Italian region of Lombardy, whose capital is Milan. The Veneto region, whose capital is Venice, had more than two dozen cases.

“Venice canceled its pre-Lenten “Carnevale.” The Archdiocese of Milan also issued a notice Feb. 23 suspending all public celebrations of the Mass until further notice in compliance with Italian Ministry of Health precautions.

After Israel reported that 18 people from a recent South Korean tour group were infected with COVID-19, a spokesman for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said officials were concerned how the disease would affect Lenten and Easter pilgrimages.

Israel has banned all flights from South Korea and Japan and said it would arrange a special flight for the approximately 1,000 South Koreans currently in Israel who were waiting to return home.

In Vietnam, Father Joseph Hoang Trong Huu, 35, began providing pastoral and health services in Soe Lin commune in Vanh Phuc province Feb. 16. The government sealed off the 10,000-member commune for 28 days Feb. 13 due to fears over the spread of the COVID-19 strain.

Ucanews.com reported the priest said health workers offer health instructions, supplies and basic information on the virus to families. He said although everyone fears the coronavirus, people still visit churches and pray.

“I plan to place the Eucharist on church altars so that people can adore and seek divine hope,” he said.

Father Huu called on people from other places to pray for, give encouragement and offer medical supplies to health workers, patients and people suffering from physical and mental pain. He said people should sympathize, share and journey with quarantined people rather than keeping away from them.

In mid-February, church officials in Hong Kong announced the suspension of public Masses on Sundays and weekdays for two weeks, including Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26.

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines updated its liturgical guidelines Feb. 20. The bishops asked Catholics not to kiss or touch the cross when they venerate it on Good Friday, April 10. Instead, they should “genuflect or make a profound bow” before the cross during the veneration of the cross.

Some Catholic priests in Africa called on their government to evacuate students trapped in Wuhan, where the coronavirus originated in China. But some governments, like Kenya, said the students are better off remaining where they are. Earlier in February, Nigeria said it would not evacuate its nationals or restrict Chinese entry.

An estimated 4,800 students from African countries are residing in Hubei province, whose capital is Wuhan.