Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has announced the U.S. bishops will join the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops May 1 in consecrating the two nations to the care of the Blessed Mother under the title “Mary, Mother of the Church.”

“This will give the Church the occasion to pray for Our Lady’s continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus,” said Archbishop Gomez in a letter to the U.S. bishops. Each year, the Church seeks the special intercession of the Mother of God during the month of May.

(Continued on page 16)

Deacon Hainsey to be ordained to priesthood, looks to serve the faithful

Deacon Jordan Hainsey, the Diocese of Covington’s candidate for the ordination to the sacred priesthood this year, certainly didn’t imagine receiving the sacrament of holy orders in an empty church. Yet for him, it’s an opportunity to recognize God’s continuing grace.

“It’s not the full church and ceremony that you look forward to and expect, but at the same time, I’m always reminded of the great saints throughout the Church’s history,” he said. “I think of clergy who have been ordained and ministered to people in similar situations but yet they’ve been given grace to accept those challenges and they led really heroic lives amidst that.”

During his year as a deacon at St. Augustine Parish, Covington, Deacon Hainsey has enjoyed preaching more than anything. Every homily he said, ought to be geared toward the faithful in the pews.

With praise and thanksgiving to the eternal Triune God,

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington requests your spiritual participation in the Ordination of Jordan Hainsey to the sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the imposition of hands by the Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D., Bishop of Covington. Saturday, May 16, 2020, 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. The Mass will be live streamed and recorded for future viewing on the cathedral website, covcathedral.com.

Deacon Jordan Hainsey
Age: 31
Parish: St. Augustine, Covington
Seminary: St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA
Mass of Thanksgiving: Sunday, May 17, 2020 10 a.m., Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

“For me, writing and praying about homilies has been about listening to what the parishioners need to hear and what the Lord’s asking for me to communicate.”

(Continued on page 17)
Bishop Roger Foys has focused much of the diocese’s spiritual response to the COVID-19 pandemic around Divine Mercy. Every day at 3 p.m. — the Hour of Great Mercy — Catholic churches in the Diocese of Covington ring their bells for five minutes, calling the faithful to pray for an end to the pandemic.

It was no surprise that on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19, Bishop Foys held a Holy Hour at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, praying for all those who have been infected with or have died from complications of the virus and imploring for the Lord’s protection.

The Holy Hour included praying Vespers, the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Holy Hour ended with an Eucharistic procession to St. Mary Park where Bishop Foys blessed the Diocese of Covington and the city with the Eucharistic Lord.

The entire ceremony was live streamed and recorded and is available for viewing on the Cathedral’s website, www.covcathedral.com.
Bishop Foys freezes tuition, fees for Catholic schools

Laura Keener
Editor

Bishop Roger Foys doesn’t want financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic to dissuade parents from choosing a Catholic school education for their children this fall. In his Friday briefing to priests, April 24, Bishop Foys said that, for the upcoming fiscal year July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021, salaries will be frozen for all priests, teachers and employees and that all schools — high schools and elementary — will freeze tuition and fees. The decision was made in collaboration with the consultors, deans and a team of Curia staff members.

“In these difficult times we cannot expect our parents to bear this heavy burden,” Bishop Foys said in his briefing to priests. “I realize that this will impact budgets but the need to assist our parents is paramount.”

Principals were made aware of the decision in a letter Monday, April 27. “It’s apparent that a lot of people are suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic, not just from the illness itself but also from the ramifications of the pandemic,” Bishop Foys said in an interview with the Messenger, April 27. “In many cases that means their job — their income. I think that we have to be sensitive to that. Many people already sacrifice a great deal to send their children to Catholic schools and if there is anything we can do to help we, need to do that, especially at this time.”

Bishop Foys acknowledged that some parishes and schools might already be operating on a tight budget and that freezing tuition and fees will affect budgets. The salary freeze, he said, will help offset the freeze on income. And, he said, as government leaders grapple with the economic downturn from the pandemic there might still be financial assistance available to schools from the government.

“We are also freezing salaries for all priests and all diocesan employees so that should be of some help,” he said. “We don’t know yet what kind of stimulus packages will be available for schools. We are hoping there will be some kind of relief for those who choose a Catholic education for their children,” referencing an April 26 article from Crux, that detailed a recent conference call with President Donald Trump and Catholic school educators and Catholic leaders. Crux is an online news source that focuses on matters concerning the Vatican and the Catholic Church.

Parents whose incomes have been negatively impacted during the pandemic are encouraged to not give in to despair or to allow current financial stress to pressure them into quietly transitioning their children from Catholic schools. Bishop Foys said that the diocese already provides high schools with secondary school funds that are used exclusively for tuition assistance and that many of the high schools have their own tuition assistance scholarships and funds.

“Talk to your high school principal, or talk to your pastor if its elementary school, to see if there is anything we can do to help,” Bishop Foys said. “Anything we can do in that way we will do. I don’t want any parents to think that they can’t send their children to Catholic schools because of tuition.”

Official assignments

**Rev. Nicholas E. Rottman**
To: Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
From: Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington

**Rev. Joseph C. Shelton**
To: Pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Augusta and St. James Parish, Brooklynville
From: Administrative assistant to the Bishop; episcopal master of ceremonies; assistant to the Chancellor; rector; Oratory of St. Paul, Diocesan Curia

**Rev. Jacob E. Straub**
To: Pastor, St. Matthew Parish, Kenton
From: Parochial administrator, St. Joseph Parish, Mays Lick

**Rev. Msgr. Dominic K. Fosu**
To: Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
From: Pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Augusta and St. James Parish, Brooklynville

**Rev. Damien J. Hils**
To: Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell
From: Pastor, St. William Parish, Williamstown and St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge

**Rev. Phyllis W. DeVoues**
To: Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingsburg and St. Rose of Lima Parish, May’s Lick
From: Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs

**Rev. Eric L. Boelscher**
To: Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs
From: Parochial administrator, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingsburg and St. Rose of Lima Parish, May’s Lick

**Rev. Benton M. Clift, Sr.**
To: Pastor, St. William Parish, Williamstown and St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge
From: Parochial vicar, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell

**Rev. Phillip W. DeVoues**
To: Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingsburg and St. Rose of Lima Parish, May’s Lick
From: Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs

**Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Klee**
To: Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
From: Pastor, St. Augustine Parish, Augusta and St. James Parish, Brooklynville

**Rev. Damien J. Hils**
To: Pastor, Williamstown and St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge
From: Pastor, St. William Parish, Williamstown and St. John Mission, Dividing Ridge

**Rev. Trinity P. Knight**
To: Parochial vicar, St. Agnes Parish, Pt. Wright
From: Parochial vicar, St. Paul Parish, Florence

**Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl**
To: Retirement after 45 years of dedicated ministry in the Diocese of Covington
From: Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell

By order of the Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Covington

*Jamie N. Schreeder, Chancellor*
The biblical canon of the Christian Old Testament classifies the Song of Songs (Canticle of Canticles) as wisdom literature. Both the Jewish and Christian traditions have typically understood the Song of Songs as an allegory of the covenant between God and his people. In Christian faith, God's covenant with his people comes to fullness in the spousal image of Christ and his bride — the Church.

In his inaugural homily, “Dei Caritas Est” (“God is Love”), Pope Benedict XVI refers to the overarching theme of that allegory of “God’s relationship to man and man’s relationship to God.” The allegory serves as the warrant for receiving the Song of Songs into the canon of sacred Scripture. (DCE, n. 10)

For example, “The Collegeville Bible Commentary” notes that the symbolic reading, i.e., “the marriage of Yahweh to Israel or of Christ to the Church,” has dominated the interpretation of the Song of Songs. This interpretation is grounded in the prophetic image of “marriage” as a sign of the covenant between God and his people.

“Dei Caritas Est” also acknowledges a commonly held opinion of Scripture scholars today: “…the poems contained in this book were originally love-letters, perhaps intended for a Jewish wedding feast and meant to exalt conjugal love.” (DCE, n. 6)

Accordingly, the Song of Songs can also be understood as “an inspired portrayal of the ideal of human love.” Based on this assumption, the Song of Songs in its historical context describes a breathtaking celebration of the sacredness and wonder of human love, which will culminate in a bridal feast.

From this perspective, Chapter 8, the epilogue of the poem, sums up the canticle’s overall theme, namely, the exploration of the mysterious God-given power of love. In particular, verse 6 sets forth an incomparable description of that power of love in the face of the struggle with evil — for love is as strong as death, passion as relentless as Sheol. (Song 8:6a)

In effect, the Song declares that conjugal love is indestructible. Death and the nether world (Sheol) — personifications of the most powerful destructive forces imaginable — are not ultimate. Love cannot be destroyed “[for] love is as strong as death.” (Song 8:6)

The New Jerusalem Bible adopts a specific exegesis in translating the next line of that oft-quoted verse: “The flash of [it] love is a flash of fire, a flame of Yahweh him-self.” (Song 8:6b)

For it is not the death of sin but death in love; it is the sway of death to the triumph of life!” In words laden with kerygmatic appeal, he writes: “Death in God for the world on Good Friday becomes the world’s life in God on Easter. For it is not the death of sin but death in love; it is the death of death, which does not torment, but reconciles.”

Again, Archbishop Forte affirms the inseparable relationship of the Cross and Easter. From the point of view of Pratimatical theology, the Cross “does not proclaim the blasphemy of a death of God, which makes room for each person to live in self-sufficiency but rather it proclaims the good news of death in God, so that each person may live the life of the immortal God … a participation which the saving death made possible.”

Part V of “Dives in Misericordia” (“Rich in Mercy,” 1986), the second encyclical of Pope John Paul II, analyzes the theme “Love more powerful than death, more powerful than sin” in relation to the theology of the Paschal Mystery. (DCE, n. 8)

“Dives in Misericordia” identifies the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as “the summit of the inescapable mystery of God.” (DCE, n. 8) The resurrection of Christ becomes the revelation of the fullness of the love that the Father has for him and, in him, for all people. (See John 14:19 and Rom 8:32)

Faith and hope, then, focus on the risen Christ, for the cross is “the way to resurrection.” The paschal mystery proclaims: “Here is the Son of God. See him and believe a resurrec-
tion experienced in a radical way mercy shown to himself, that is to say the love of the Father which is more power-
ful than death.” (DCE, n. 8)

In an early major theological work “Introduction to Christianity” (1970), Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explicitly stated that “faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the expression of a certainty that the saying which seems to be only a hollow dream is in fact true: ‘Love is as strong as death’ (Song of Songs 8:6).”

Unreended human love left to its own devices is prone to sin and, in its finiteness, is subject to defeat. Here Pope Benedict XVI emphasized the paradox of love as a human phenomenon. While love demands “infinity, inde-

finite” this call to infinity cannot be satisfied in time. In reality, love “claims eternity but in fact is includ-
ed in the world of death, in its loneliness and its power of destruction.”

The human powerlessness to respond to love’s cry for eternity places the meaning of the resurrection in proper perspective: through faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Christian encounters “the greater strength of love in face of death.”

“Love is as strong as death” is validated in the paschal mystery. The Christian shares in the victory of love which is grounded ultimately in the intervention of God culmi-
nating in the resurrection of Christ. The paschal mystery proclaims that good is stronger than evil, that love is stronger than death.

“Dei Caritas Est” links “a relationship between love and Christ” as “the central point of an eschatological — far greater and totally other than our everyday existence.” (DCE, n. 5)

That asp of passion and purification is an essential dimension of love: “It is part of love’s growth towards higher levels and intensities of love that it now seeks to become definitive, and does so in a twofold sense: both in the sense of exclusivity (this particular person alone) and in the sense of being ‘forever’.” Love embraces the whole of existence in each of its dimensions, including the dimen-
sion of time. It could hardly be otherwise, since its promis-

aeons towards its definitive goal: love looks to the et-
ernal.” (DCE, n. 12)

Sacramentum Caritatis” (“The Sacrament of Charity”), Pope Benedict XVI’s 2007 Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Eucharist, links this passage to the theology of the Eucharist: “In the Paschal Mystery, our deliverance from evil and death has taken place. In instituting the Eucharist Jesus has spoken of the ‘new and eternal covenant’ in the shedding of his blood.” (SC, n. 9)

Father Ronald Ketteler is director of ecumenism, episco-
pal liaison to the Messenger and professor of theology at Thomas More University.
Straying sheep throw mud balls

The readings for the fourth Sunday of Easter — Cycle "A" are: Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; and John 10:1-10.

A few years ago I ventured out on the tennis court for the first time of the season. I knew that my game would be bad, still suffering from its winter hibernation. I was right. I had a particularly hard time keeping my eye on the ball and my concentration on the game.

The tennis court was located next door to a day care center. Since it was a warm spring day, the children were outside for their recreation. Because their fenced play area was immediately adjacent to the tennis court, my opponent and I had a gallery of noisy spectators.

This band of preschoolers reminded me of the shepherd of today’s Scripture passages. Some had gone astray! They were throwing mud balls at me! Some others had sneaked out of view of their guardians (sheep-herds) to play in the forbidden waters of a swamp-like puddle created by the previous day’s rain. However, so long until no one was looking (except me) to hit his friend on the head with a plastic ball! On every occasion, those watching over them came running to rescue them from themselves, and, perhaps, from me who was tiring of the mud ball barrage.

It was late afternoon and parents began to arrive to pick up their children. It was striking to note how a mom or dad would sneaked out of view and call out and one would notice except that parent’s child. For all the others the games continued as usual. The others — even those with the same first name — did not even recognize that someone had been called. “The sheep hear his voice as he calls his own by name and leads them out.” (Gospel) “...For they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”

This kind of familiarity between parent and child, shepherd and sheep is what we commemorate on this Sunday of Easter — traditionally known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” We celebrate the fact that the risen Lord, as our shepherd, calls each of us by name. He establishes a relationship with each of us that is unique and personal.

The voice that calls in other directions are many. We actively follow the call that tells us wealth is the voice that calls us from the heart within. Because of our sins out our name from the heavens above. But we do hear Lord, as our shepherd, calls each of us by name. He

Let me describe to you how my children fold a t-shirt.

First, they lay the t-shirt on its back. Then, they take the sleeves and fold them inward toward the center of the shirt, covering any identifying characteristics. Lastly they fold the t-shirt in half, top to bottom. The final result is definitely a neatly folded t-shirt. However, their approach leaves me with no visible clue of which family member owns the shirt since you cannot see the front of the shirt for the size. I’ve host-ed countless tutorials on how to properly fold a t-shirt, but, alas, I am learning that my way is not the only way to get the job done. I or another family member is always losing each other in a mountain of clothing. I share this anecdote because I believe we are finding new ways of doing things while we are all making tremendous sacrifices to protect the health of our community by staying healthy at home. Despite the stay at home requirement, our lives have continued and we have all figured out ways to work from home, to learn from home, to do more with what we have hand, and most importantly to stay connected as a community. We cannot lose each other in the swell of anxiety and uncertainty that faces us during this unprecedented time.

Unfortunately none of the community challenges that existed before the stay at home order have gone away. In fact, these challenges may even be magnified. Significant job losses compound the issue of poverty in our region. While this might sound like discouraging news, I assure you that every day you can see God at work. A dear friend of mine shared a post with me the other day that said, “Jesus is Essential.” In times of fear and uncertainty, we turn to God as his love is the only guarantee of safety.

Through this crisis, we can share this encouraging message by recognizing that we need each other more now than ever. With his help, we can and are finding new and creative ways to stay connected.

Romans 12:2 tells us “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — that good, pleasing, and perfect will.”

One of the key tenets of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to grow in holiness through personal connection with those we serve. Under normal circumstances, this personal connection takes place through a visit to the home of someone in need. In this COVID-19 environment, visiting someone in their home is not advisable for the safety of our Vincentian volunteers and the safety of those we serve.

However, this is what we are called to do and a virus will not sideline our ministry. So, we get creative to continue our service. We have set up with some temporary work arounds. Just like AT&T suggested years ago, we use the phone to “reach out and touch someone” to make that personal connection, even absent to a person’s hardship. We have “porch visits” where we can maintain a safe distance, but deliver food, and provide supportive conversations. We use technology to connect in friendship and fellowship, continuing our journeys to grow in spirituality and to

(Continued on page 17)

EIGHTH DAY

Father Daniel Vogelpohl

The Catholic Difference

George Weigel

Rediscovering baptism in plague time

On April 28, 1951, Father Thomas Love, S.J., baptized me in the Church of St. Philip and James, near Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. I had been newly ordained and that day I raised such a furor during the proceedings that my cousin Judy hid in a confessional. There are pictures of the christening, and a few years ago I found a lovely letter that Father Love (whom I never met) wrote me shortly afterwards. But I cannot say that I took the date of my baptism seriously until I was nudged into greater baptismal awareness in the 1980s.

The second nudge came from writing about John Paul II. During his pilgrimage to Poland in June 1979, the Pope went straight to the baptismal font of his former parish church in Wadowice, knelt, and kissed the baptismal font. Why? Because, I realized, he understood that the day of baptism was the most important day of his life — for it was the day that made his life in Christ, which he knew to be the deepest meaning of his life to that point.

Ever since, I’ve been urging fellow Catholics to mark the day of their baptism. So let me urge you again: make this time of plague and quarantine the occasion to dig the “Catholic paper” out of your records, find your baptismal certificate, and learn the date of your baptism.

And then, with appropriate celebration, ponder just what happened to you that day.

As the Catholic Church has understood it for two millennia, baptism is the most important day of his life — for it was the day of baptism that made him a member of God’s family, and a member of God’s family is the most important thing that can happen to anyone.

Let me describe to you how my children fold a t-shirt.

First, they lay the t-shirt on its back. Then, they take the sleeves and fold them inward toward the center of the shirt, covering any identifying characteristics. Lastly they fold the t-shirt in half, top to bottom. The final result is definitely a neatly folded t-shirt. However, their approach leaves me with no visible clue of which family member owns the shirt since you cannot see the front of the shirt for the size. I’ve host-ed countless tutorials on how to properly fold a t-shirt, but, alas, I am learning that my way is not the only way to get the job done. I or another family member is always losing each other in a mountain of clothing.

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However, this is what we are called to do and a virus will not sideline our ministry. So, we get creative to continue our service. We have set up with some temporary work arounds. Just like AT&T suggested years ago, we use the phone to “reach out and touch someone” to make that personal connection, even absent to a person’s hardship. We have “porch visits” where we can maintain a safe distance, but deliver food, and provide supportive conversations. We use technology to connect in friendship and fellowship, continuing our journeys to grow in spirituality and to

(Continued on page 17)
School administrators prepare for a virtual end of the 2020 school year

Laurea Keener
Editor

In a letter to school families, April 21, Mike Clines, superintendent of Catholic Schools, announced what has long been expected. Due to continued restrictions to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no in-person classroom instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Likewise, in-person graduations will not be permitted. Non-traditional instruction (NTI) will continue until the end of the school year.

The letter came after a conference call, April 20, with Governor Andy Beshear updating public and private school superintendents on the state’s continued restrictions on large gatherings. Governor Beshear said that lifting restrictions will involve a long and complex strategy that will be implemented in stages. Even the most optimistic projections do not include significant changes to the restrictions on large gatherings until fall. Therefore, he said, there should be no in-person graduations and it is advisable not to postpone graduations but instead to celebrate the Class of 2020 with a virtual graduation.

While this is certainly disappointing, the governor's decision was expected and school administrators were matter-of-fact.

"Although it was expected, the thought of losing what we have considered so perfunctory for decades — the rational end of the school year — carries a sadness and sorrow that is difficult to absorb," Mr. Clines wrote in the letter to parents. "However, all things considered, we know this is the best for the long-term health of our school communities."

The last day of school for all nine Catholic high schools in the diocese will be Friday, May 15. At that time all high school schools will meet or exceed the 1.02 instructional hours required by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Elementary school principals have determined the date that NTI will end for their students. The earliest an elementary school will discontinue NTI is Friday, May 15, with the latest school ending Friday, May 22. Elementary school principals will notify parents directly of their school's end date.

Mr. Clines shared his gratitude to pastors, administrators, teachers, parents and students for their sacrifices during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said, "I have been inspired by our Catholic school communities," Mr. Clines said. "Since March 16, our schools have been closed to in-person instruction but our schools have not been closed.

High school administrators are working on pre-recorded virtual graduations to celebrate the Class of 2020. This option preserves some traditions while also protecting the health of the community and literally saving the lives of the people we love.

"We are enormously proud of the Class of 2020 and the individual accomplishments of our graduates," said Mr. Clines. "This is an extraordinarily difficult time but we are all in this together. We take comfort in the Lord’s promise to be with us during our most difficult moments. We know our graduates are ready to meet the challenges before them."

Having each high school create a pre-recorded virtual graduation allows for flexibility and complies with all COVID-19 restrictions as defined by the federal and state guidelines. It is the option that provides the highest safeguards for reducing transmission of the virus. It also allows graduates to share the celebration with family and friends.

The recording of the virtual graduation will be a lasting tribute to the Class of 2020. Each school's graduation video will be available for viewing on the diocese's website, www.covcdo.org.

Sue Grets, principal, St. Joseph School, Cold Spring, cheers on families as they drive by St. Joseph School, Cold Spring, showing support for school staff and teachers.

Students in New York Catholic school arrange medical gear shipment

Gregory A. Shemitz
Catholic News Service

SOUTH HUNTINGTON, N.Y. — Two Chinese students at a Catholic high school in New York are looking to make a difference in helping to slow the spread of the coronavirus in the U.S.

In late March, senior Mengze Li and freshman Lixin Yan of the Franciscan-run St. Anthony’s High School in South Huntington, Long Island, launched a project that they have since procured 10,000 sterilized medical-grade face masks and protective clothing for distribution to international schoolmates who were facing the virus in their home countries after New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered all nonessential businesses to close in mid-March because of the expanding health crisis.

They also have earmarked a portion of their supplies for hospital workers on Long Island, a COVID-19 hot spot with more than 60,000 confirmed cases as of April 24.

"We have very little other than to help coordinate the shipping," Li said. "It's been the hardest efforts.

In an exchange of e-mails with Catholic News Service, the 19-year-old Li said because his country was the first to be impacted by the coronavirus, he has long known the seriousness of the outbreak.

"I'm just trying my best to offer a little help," he said. "Observing those masks is relatively easy. Only the price goes up a little bit, but it's much cheaper than months ago."

Yan, 15, whose nickname is Lareina, told CNS in an e-mail that she was aware of the shortage of "masks and protective clothes" in the U.S. and that she wanted to "help people in need."

She immersed herself into the project following a 16-hour flight from Beijing to New York and a two-week government-mandated quarantine at a hotel. She lives with her parents and a younger sister not far from the Hong Kong border.

Li, who plans to attend New York University in September, said it wasn’t difficult to find a supply of masks.

"Because the quarantine in China has been so successful, many factories are back to work," he said. "Obtaining those masks is relatively easy. Only the price goes up a little bit, but it's much cheaper than months ago."

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"I don’t think it will change for the near future."

While Kentucky’s efforts to stop the spread of the virus have been impressive, the COVID-19 pandemic is still prevalent in the state and the Northern Kentucky community.

As of Monday, April 27, Governor Beshear has announced that 4,146 people have been confirmed to have the illness and 213 Kentuckians have died. The Northern Kentucky Health Department has reported that 10 Northern Kentucky health-care workers have been confirmed to have the illness and 28 have died.

"We ask our graduates, their families and the entire community to join us in praying for those healthcare workers for their sacrifices — literally risking their own health and lives — in caring for those stricken with coronavirus," said Bishop Foyes.

"We also pray for those who are sick, who are suffering in isolation. We pray for those who have had to die alone without the love and support of their families and friends. We pray for those families who have been denied the opportunity to care for their family members as they have passed from this world to eternal life and who are now bearing their grief in solitude. And, we pray, please God, for an end to this pandemic."
**Be Witnesses**

"Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living!"

— Pope Francis

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**The season of challenge**

Karen Kuhlman
Messenger Correspondent

Lent challenges us to sacrifice the everyday things we enjoy. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged us to do without attending the liturgies of Lent and the Easter season, the company of family and friends, our favorite pastimes and our employment. The religious in the Diocese of Covington have, like the laity, been challenged to observe Lent not of their choosing.

Benedictine Sister Aileen Bankemper, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, said members of her community have remarked on what a peaceful and loving Lent and Easter they have experienced this year. Instead of focusing on what is not possible — welcoming visitors or having the celebration of Mass — they focus on what is possible: having a Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, coming together four times a day for prayer, continuing daily routines and observing the events and celebrations that are part of life.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Benedictine Sister Joan Gripshover, who died at the monastery on March 30, has been put on hold until restrictions have been lifted — an experience shared by the laity who have lost loved ones during this health crisis.

The Benedictines celebrated a faux MLB Opening Day with a YouTube replay of the Cincinnati Reds’ 1975 World Series-winning game and a ballpark-themed dinner; a festive Easter dinner was preceded by a cocktail hour with Kentucky bourbon slushes. Such lighthearted activities help the three-lat/five-lat/two-lat/zero-lat people of the Diocese of Covington find comfort.

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**May Birthdays**

May 11 Sister Elizabeth Wehrli, CDP
May 13 Sister Mary Ann Catherine Weyhr, SND
May 17 Sister Mary Magdelyn Downes, SJW
May 20 Sister Therese Marie Schrock, SJW
May 21 Sister Mary Magdelyn Strithoff, SND
May 26 Sister Armella Pietrowski, CDP
May 28 Sister Mary Catherine Korte, SND
May 31 Sister Mary Joseph Kelleher, SND

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Mother Margaret Mary Fields, superior of Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, said, ‘In one way the coronavirus situation has been a bit hard because the altar bread department is at a standstill. Breads are available for the priests who are still offering Mass, but the congregational size is not needed right now. Life is a bit more complicated due to needs that have to be addressed outside the monastery, but the cancelation and rescheduling of appointments resulted in more opportunities to live quietly in solitude. We are grateful for the slowing down of our daily life but are very sorry for the reason.’

‘We pray for those affected by this virus and for those in the medical field trying to address the issue. May our Lord bring this crisis to an end so that our churches may open again for worship, people may return to work, and be able to come together once again in all areas of life.’

Sister Mary Ethel Parrott, provincial superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Covington Province said the Sisters miss the people who routinely come to Notre Dame Academy and St. Joseph Heights. They miss volunteers who work on sewing projects, creating little dresses or pajamas for the poor; those who spend time with the Sisters in residence at Lourdes Hall Care Center; those friends who call to offer all sorts of assistance; the company of the Associate Community and those in formation to become associates; their chaplains, Father Robert Ross, who offers Mass and Holy Communion to the Sisters. Sister Mary Ethel said her heart goes out to those who are lonely, struggling or losing their jobs. The sorrow felt by so many whose loved ones have succumbed to the virus or are suffering from it underscores the fragility and vulnerability of human life. Sister Mary Ethel reminds us that we must go forward as well, strengthened by the conviction that God is good and, eventually, with so many working together, all will be well.

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For more information about consecrated life in the Diocese of Covington, contact Sister Fran Moore at (859) 392-1500.
Gertrude Cleves was dedicated to her faith, family, community

Allegra Thatcher
Assistant Editor


Mrs. Cleves was born April 6, 1890 in Covington, Ky. to Antoinette and August Lahman. Growing up attending the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption and the adjoining Cathedral Lyceum, she stayed fairly local when she moved to Bellevue after her marriage to Edgar Cleves, Jr. in 1922. She attended Sacred Heart Parish and was heavily involved in every festival and fundraiser both there and at Our Lady of Providence School, where her daughters went to school. She was president of the Mothers Club and of Christian Mothers.

“She was dedicated to her Catholic faith, family and the local community,” said Mr. Cleves. “She was a magnificent woman.”

A talented accountant, Mrs. Cleves delighted in using her skills to work as a bookkeeper for the family business, Cleves and Lennemann Jewelers, for 45 years.

“She loved it and she was good at it,” said Msgr. Cleves. She had a full ride to college out of high school, but she turned it down because her family needed her to work right away. “She never went to college but she took some accounting classes and got As in all of them so we used to joke that she had the highest GPA in college of all of us.

Mrs. Cleves’ first child, Rose Ann, died when she was only a day old, but she didn’t let her grief overshadow her precious work as a mother. She resourcefully kept a home for husband and her living nine children.

“We’ve got to my mom’s parent’s farm in Crescent Springs every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon and pack veg etables and can them for the winter,” said Msgr. Cleves. “I always helped mom and I remember her working for hours and hours in the hot kitchen in August, canning vegetables for us.”

Msgr. Cleves also remembers his mother as a talented musician, trained on the piano and harp, and a fluent German speaker. She was raised speaking the language, but gave it up at the onset of World War II. Late in life, Msgr. Cleves said, she returned to her native language and spoke it with three of her sons who had learned it.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Msgr. Cleves was able to provide his mother last rites and anointing only days before her death. “My mom was such a sweet soul,” he said. “When the nurse called me to tell me of her death, she was crying.”

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Edgar (Nick) Cleves, Jr. and her children, Msgr. William Cleves, Charles (Mary Lynn) Cleves, Marilyn (James) Souders, Rosemary (the late Douglas) Linn, Emily (Kyle) Whaley, Frances (Steven) Galbavy, Thomas (Jana) Cleves, Joan (Timothy) Kreuter, and Ann (Allyn) Jain. She is also survived by her sister, Mary Lou Ulleke, 19 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Msgr. Cleves’ funeral Mass was held and burial on April 16 was attended by nine people at St. Stephen Cemetery in Ft. Thomas, and streamed to 40 closer friends and family via a Zoom call.

General Assembly stalls pro-life bills due to coronavirus and opposition

The Kentucky General Assembly ended its 2020 session April 15, with many pro-life and pro-Catholic social teach ing bills put off because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, House Bill 67, the constitutional amendment clarifying the Senate. The Kansas City Star reported Thursday, March 25, 2021, the Senate both houses had passed the bill before the pandemic hit, but that there is no right to an abortion in the state constitution, as state law and signed by the governor. Up until now, parole time available for parolees to those on probation, was passed. The House, but this was largely due to COVID-19.

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What happens on Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week? The question was asked by Charlie Wells’ five younger siblings when he began carving wooden Resurrection sets to represent the Holy Week story.

Fifteen-year-old Mr. Wells, who runs his own business, has been perfecting his skills with the scroll saw since he received it for Christmas in fifth grade. Mr. Wells is a parishioner at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria and was inspired by his father, T.J. Wells, who makes name plaques as gifts for others. He asked his father to teach him, then “just kept on practicing and practicing, till I got real good at it,” he said. He calls the business Wells Woods and receives a great deal of support from his family.

Recently he received a better saw and tinkered to create more intricate pieces, like wall hangings and puzzles. He finds templates for designs online and prints them to trace. He also designs some of his own. His favorites are the more complicated projects.

Mr. Wells turned his hobby into a business when his mother, Shannon Wells, posted a picture on Facebook of a name plaque and her friends started commenting, “Can you make my name?” Mr. Wells loves the personal commissions, and also started creating more universal words, like “Peace” and “Love.” He also has cut out several logo projects.

The business really began to boom, however, when a family friend commissioned a Resurrection set before Lent in 2019 based off Mr. Well's child-friendly Nativity set. The friend, Mr. Wells and his parents brainstormed what might be included in a Resurrection set by thinking through the events of Holy Week. His sets feature a cross with a removable Jesus, a donkey from Palm Sunday, pieces from the Last Supper and more.

He originally made five sets for family and friends, but then a friend posted a picture on Facebook of a name plaque and her friends started commenting, “Can you make my name?” Mr. Wells loves the personal commissions, and also started creating more universal words, like “Peace” and “Love.” He also has cut out several logo projects.

For Mr. Wells, the business brings him joy, and also a more satisfying way to make money than some teenage jobs.

Young wood-worker’s business booms with Resurrection sets

Young wood-worker’s business booms with Resurrection sets

For over 100 years, St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky has been providing emergency assistance to Northern Kentucky neighbors in need.

St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky is committed to helping neighbors in need during this critical time. In response to COVID-19, they have shortened their response time and are working hard to provide help in some way to every neighbor who reaches out.
Three local Equestrians receive Pilgrim Shell in Jerusalem

Three Covington members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem received the Pilgrim Shell from the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem in a ceremony, March 7, at the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem. Sir Stephen Enzweiler (back row left), Dame Patricia Enzweiler (back row center), and Sir Nelson Rodriguez (front row far left) were decorated by Rev. Ibrahim Schomali, Chancellor of the Latin Patriarchate (center) on behalf of Latin Patriarch Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa. The Pilgrim Shell is the most significant decoration of the Order and is awarded to Knights and Dames who make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and pray at the Holy Sepulchre of our Risen Lord. The Dame and two Knights, who are parishioners of the Cathedral Basilica Parish, departed for the Holy Land on Feb. 26 (Ash Wednesday) on a 14-day pilgrimage, but were forced to return home four days early due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 throughout Israel.

Surprise birthday parade
Parishioners at St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs, celebrated April 21, the 30th birthday of their pastor, Father Ryan Stenger, with a surprise car parade. Decorated cars met at Camp Springs Fire House, formed a line and paraded up the hill honking to wish Father Stenger a happy birthday. Parishioners had a good time, and he was pleasantly surprised.
Newsworthy

The following students have been accepted to the Governor’s Scholars Program for 2020:

Bishop Brossart High School — Megan Crowley, Giovanna Leukerabert, Jordyn Rowe, Stephen West

Covington Catholic High School — Elijah Detes, Nathan Goebel, David Gronotte III, Thomas Kennedy, Andrew Kent, Richard Lohre III, Peter Williams

Covington Lato High School — Ella Thornberry, Mary Yazzie

Holy Cross High School — Quentin Bergman, Audrey Davis, William Voelkelndorf

Notre Dame Academy — Isabel Alcorn, Samantha Bailey, Amelia Coones, Abigail Grau, Shelby Klieker.

St. Henry District High School — Vincent Coyne, Griffin Gould, Jonah Heck, Teresa Pope, Sydney Turner

Villa Madonna Academy — Nicholas Papakirk, Emily Richardson.

Newport Catholic High School — Jason Grothaus, Vinny Miglio.

The following students were awarded scholarships from Bishop Brossart High School for the 2020-2021 school year:

Jacob Dean Baumann Memorial Scholarship — Avery Lachenman, Nadia Shurley, Brandon Uebel, Ryan Williamson.

Kathleen R. Lueck Community Service Scholarship — Matthew Callahan, Cate Reis, Kylie Sansom, Austin Schadler, Ryan Williamson.


Robert A. & Marian V. Munninghoff Scholarship — Harrison Besse, Ryan Clines, Mia Coone, Nathaniel Heck, Jordyn Jones, Max Keller, Morgan Lusby, Leah Malay, Bailey Ritter, Jackson Schabell, Brandon Uebel.

Jack & Pat McGarr Memorial Scholarship — Allison Gebauer, Alex Heterick, Natalie Neitner, Sarah Smith, Daniel Williamson.


Mitchell Orth Memorial Scholarship — Cora Lynn Bertsch, Matthew Callahan, Alexis Kaeff, Rhiannon Stubbs, Alex Tatarko.

Dorothy Muehlkamp Memorial Scholarship — Evan Callahan, Ryland Heim, Jordyn Jones, Madelyn Kremer, Leah Malay, Ava Ritter, Bailey Ritter, Daniel Schmidt, Molly Teeshouse, Brandon Uebel.

Nathan Setzer Memorial Scholarship — Jaden Butts, Mitchell Combs, Ethan Cross, Mary Holtz, Kylie Sansom.

Al Keller III Tuition Assistance Scholarship — Bianca Schmidt, Grace Schroeder, Morgan Lusby, Emma Sandfoss.

As the response to the COVID-19 virus evolves, events have been cancelled.

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

The universal prayer intention for May, as recommend by Pope Francis, is for deacons. We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.
—John 14:8-14

St. Philip the Apostle
One of the 12 apostles. He asked Jesus how they would feed 5,000 people. He ended up preaching the Gospel in Greece and Syria until his martyrdom.

Copyright © 2020, Michael Thimons

In the garden
Father Aby Thampi of St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, has been sprucing up the gardens around the St. Henry parish office, with some help from Deacon Joe Rielage.

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Going above and beyond
Teachers from Mary Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger, delivered signs to students, letting them know they are NTI champions.

St. Henry Strong
Staff and students from St. Henry School, Elsmere, received surprise snail mail over spring break: St. Henry Strong tshirts. The students and staff loved the surprise since they won’t be returning to school this academic year.
Creation is sacred gift deserving respect, care, pope says on Earth Day

VATICAN CITY — Humanity has failed to take care of the earth and its inhabitants, sinning against God and his gift of creation, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating Earth Day, which fell during the “Easter season of renewal, let us pledge to love and esteem the beautiful gift of the earth, our common home, and to care for all members of our human family,” he said during his live-streamed weekly general audience from the Vatican.

The pope dedicated his catechesis April 22 to a reflection on the human and Christian responsibility to care for the earth — humanity’s common home. The day marked the 50th Earth Day, which was established in 1970 to raise public awareness and concern for the environment and its impact on people’s health and all life. This year also marks the fifth anniversary of the pope’s encyclical, “Laudato Si’,” (“On Care for Our Common Home”).

In his catechesis, the pope said Earth Day was “an occasion for renewing our commitment to love and care for our common home and for the weaker members of our human family.”

As the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us, we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst,” he said.

As the Book of Genesis relates, he said, “we live in this common home as one human family in biodiversity with God’s other creatures,” and God has called on humanity to care for and respect his creation and “to offer love and compassion to our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable among us, in imitation of God’s love for us, manifested in his son Jesus.”

God is good and always forgives, the pope said, however, “The earth never forgives: if we have despoiled the earth, we have failed to care for our brothers and sisters. We have sinned against the earth, against our neighbors and ultimately against the Creator, the benevolent father who provides for everyone and desires us to live in communion and flourish together,” he said.

It is imperative that people restore “a harmonious relationship” with the earth and with the rest of humanity, he said.

It requires a new way of looking at the earth, not as a “storehouse of resources for us to exploit,” but as a sacred gift for sustaining all of humanity.

The pope said so many natural tragedies “are the earth’s response to our mistreatment.”

“If I ask the Lord now what he thinks, I don’t think he will tell me something very good. We are the ones who have ruined the work of the Lord,” the pope said.

“In today’s celebration of Earth Day, we are called to renew our sense of sacred respect for the earth, for it is not just our home but also God’s home. This should make us all the more aware that we stand on holy ground,” Pope Francis said.

An “ecological conversion,” which stems from a loving and respectful contemplation of the earth’s beauty and leads to concrete action is needed, he said. Because the world and all its people are interdependent, the pope said, the whole international community must cooperate in the protection of our common home.

For this reason, the pope urged leaders to “guide the preparations for two important international conferences” — the COP15 on biological diversity to be held in Kunming, China, and the COP26 on climate change in Glasgow, Scotland, both of which have been postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pope said he supported the many forms of cooperative action on national and local levels.

“It will help if people at all levels of society come together to create a popular movement” from the grassroots, much the same way Earth Day was founded, he said.

The pope’s online audience was just one of countless contributions to Earth Day celebrations, which took to the digital landscape because of the global pandemic.

While the Earth Day Network at earthday.org coordinated global initiatives, the Focolare Movement was part of organizing a #OnePeopleOnePlanet “media marathon” in Italian online, on television and radio. Also supporting the Italian Earth Day events were the Vatican dicasteries for Communication and Promoting Integral Human Development as well as the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Pope Francis holds his weekly general audience April 22, 2020, in the papal library in the Apostolic Palace. Marking the celebration of Earth Day, the pope dedicated his audience talk to urging people to protect the earth and its inhabitants.

CNS photo/Vatican Media

Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

May 1, 2020

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CARA study on new ordinands spots trends worth watching

Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The annual survey of seminarians scheduled for priestly ordination this year reveals continuing trends and suggests potential trends in the making.

“We’ve been consistent over the last 20 years in terms of the age of men being ordained to the priesthood. It continues to hover into the low to mid-30s,” said Father Luke Ballman, executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

“Consistently over the last 20 years, the age has slightly decreased each year such that we’re seeing a slight reduction by a couple of years in terms of the average age of the man being ordained,” Father Ballman said.

“One of the things we have studied is cultural ethnicity and vocations where you have different immigrant groups, family dimensions that are essential in discerning vocations.”

Father Gaunt said: “About 25 percent (of ordinands) are foreign born. That reflects almost to a T the proportion of foreign-born Catholics in the United States. And so we noted the number of seminarians also reflects that proportion.”

Over the past 20 years, the percentage of foreign-born new priests is 29 percent. It’s not as if foreign-born new priests are coming to the priesthood by someone in their life, but 52 percent indicate that they were discouraged from pursuing the priesthood by someone in their life, but we want to be sure we are able to support that call.”

The 46-page report, released April 23, found a host of facts about the incoming group of priests.

Children from St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Metairie, La., watch eight ordinands to the priesthood lie prostrate for the litany of the saints at their ordination Mass at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans June 1, 2019.

A slight majority of 58 percent of diocesan seminarians reported having attended a Catholic school at any level prior to seminary, but their Catholic school attendance was five percentage points higher than the general Catholic population. Another 16 percent were home-schooled, an average of eight years each.

By the time they entered the seminary, 28 percent of them carried educational debt, which averaged $28,828.

Fifty-one percent participated in a parish youth group, the only church-affiliated activity drawing more than half of the ordinands. Next highest was 29 percent participating in Catholic campus ministry or Newman centers.

Still, about two-thirds of the ordinands class of 2020 are white men of European ancestry although the second-largest group is Hispanics, said Father Ballman, a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. “One of the things that the National Advisory Council of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the bishops in general, have been interested in is that we provide everyone the opportunity,” he added.

“We’re building off the results of the V Encuentro process, just recognizing that the Latino Catholic population in the United States continues to grow. And still the majority of men who are in seminary and who are being ordained are white Caucasian. It’s just something we want to continue to look at. God calls, God is faithful in calling, but we want to be sure we are able to support that call.”

The CARA study, on new ordinands spots trends worth watching, was conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Vocations, which conducts the survey each year.

“Vietnamese, I don’t even think, is a percent of population. The same thing with Nigerians, Colombians,” Father Gaunt added. “We’ve been looking at that question. The percentage has increased by a couple of years in terms of the average age of the man being ordained.”

Consistently over the last 20 years, the stage of life when they remember first considering the priesthood by someone in their life, was 23 percent.

Less than half reported having attended a Catholic school at any level prior to seminary, but their Catholic school attendance was five percentage points higher than the general Catholic population. Another 10 percent were home-schooled, an average of eight years each.

Fifty-one percent participated in a parish youth group, the only church-affiliated activity drawing more than half of the ordinands. Next highest was 29 percent participating in Catholic campus ministry or Newman centers.

In a case of both-and, 89 percent report being encouraged to consider priesthood by someone in their life, but 32 percent indicate that they were discouraged from pursuing the priesthood by someone in their life.

The stage of life when they remember first considering priesthood was elementary school, 38 percent, and college, 23 percent.

In this year’s group of priests, 94 percent will be ordained by age 40, almost evenly split between the under-20 cohort and the 31-40 age group. One-third of the new priests will serve in the Midwest.

A slight majority of 58 percent of diocesan seminarians reported having seen the DVD “Fishers of Men,” published by the USCCB, before entering the seminary, but two out of three men being ordained for religious orders did not see it.

CNS photo/Frank J. Methe, Clarion Herald

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Update
ANNUAL BANQUET
Out of concern for the safety and well-being of our community and in accordance with CDC guidelines, our annual banquet has been rescheduled.

THE NEW DATE IS AUGUST 27, 2020
www.chossellency.org | 859-431-9178

CareNet Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky

Update
Mexican bishops announce ‘families without hunger’ plan during pandemic

**Simon Caldwell**
**Catholic News Service**

**MANCHESTER, England —** A Dutch cardinal predict- ed that the number of euthanasia cases in the Netherlands will surge after the country’s highest court gave the green light to allow the killing of dementia patients no longer able to give their consent.

The Supreme Court of the Netherlands ruled April 22 that doctors could euthanize patients with severe demon- tia and who could no longer express their wishes if they had left an advance request in writing to say they wished to die.

Cardinal Willem Eijk of Utrecht, president of the Bishops’ Conference of the Netherlands, said, however, the court’s ruling would not only make it easier for doctors to take the lives of dementia patients but would also put them under pressure to do so.

“One may fear that the Supreme Court’s judgment, though making physicians perhaps more uncertain in per- forming euthanasia in patients with advanced dementia, will not lead in general to a decrease of the number of cases of euthanasia and medically assisted suicide,” Cardinal Eijk said on behalf of the bishops’ conference.

“Patients and their relatives could think on the basis of the judgment … that there is a kind of a right to euthanasia in cases of advanced dementia with suffering, deemed without prospect of (re)covery and unbearable, though the Supreme Court does not say that and the law on euthana- sia does not oblige a physician to perform euthanasia,” he said in a statement April 24 to Catholic News Service.

“Physicians of nursing homes therefore fear that they will be put under pressure by patients with dementia and their relatives to perform euthanasia as a consequence of the Supreme Court’s judgment,” he said.

The court sought to offer clarity to potential ambiguity in the law following the prosecution of a doctor who in 2016 drugged a woman with Alzheimer’s disease after she resis- ted his attempts to give her a lethal injection.

The 74-year-old patient had earlier instructed her fami- ly that she wanted to die by euthanasia but at a time of her choosing. She became so demented that she could no longer say when she wished to die so her family chose the moment on her behalf. Because she fought against the injection, the doctor slipped sedatives into her coffee and her family held her down.

Prosecutors accused the doctor of ignoring a require- ment of consent written into the Dutch euthanasia law of 2002, arguing the patient might have changed her mind about wishes she had expressed in writing four years before her death.

But a lower court ruled the doctor had not behaved ille- gal in and had in 2018 acquitted him, and the case was referred to the Supreme Court in The Hague for legal clarification “in the interest of the law”.

The Supreme Court concluded that “a physician may carry out a written request beforehand for euthanasia in people with advanced dementia,” providing other criteria on “unbearable and lasting suffering” also were met.

In his statement, Cardinal Eijk noted that in 2017, dur- ing the prosecution of the doctor, the euthanasia rate fell by 7 percent, but in 2019, following his acquittal, it rose by nearly 4 percent.

The cardinal also questioned whether the advance dec- laration could still accurately express the actual will of a patient and said the new ruling created greater uncertain- ty rather than clarity over the practice of euthanasia.

In her declaration, the woman said that she wanted euthanasia, when she would have been admitted to a nurs- ing home one day but something in this declaration remained unclear: she determined that the euthanasia should take place at a moment that she thought she would be ready for it,” he said.

“But after having been admitted to a nursing home, she was not able to indicate whether she desired euthanasia or not,” he said.

“With regard to the lack of clarity in the written euthanasia declaration, the Supreme Court judged that the physician has a certain room in interpreting the declara- tion,” Cardinal Eijk continued.

“The court thought that the physician was right in con- cluding on the basis of the declaration that the woman in question desired euthanasia under the given circum- stances after all, though she could not herself indicate the moment of the euthanasia.”

He added, “Does the legal proceedings against the physician of the nursing home lead to the clarity desired by the college of attorney’s general? Physicians of nursing homes think that is not the case.

“Instead of laying down criteria for interpreting the written euthanasia declarations of patients with advanced dementia, the Supreme Court leaves it to the judgment of the physicians involved, by which their uncertainty only grows.”
Consecrate nations to Mary

“...This year, we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic,” he said.

“This consecration reaffirms the bishops’ previous consecrations of the United States to Mary. In 1790, the first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll, consecrated the nation to Mary under the title Immaculate Conception, and in 1846, the bishops unanimously chose Mary under that title as the patroness of the nation.

In 1959, Cardinal Patrick O’Boyle of Washington again consecrated the United States to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was the year when construction of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington was completed. The national shrine was elevated to minor basilica status by St. John Paul II, Oct. 12, 1990. This was renewed by the U.S. bishops Nov 11, 2006. Archbishop Gomez will lead the prayer of consecration May 1 at 3 p.m. (EDT) and has invited the bishops to join in from their respective dioceses and asked them to extend the invitation to the faithful in their dioceses for their participation.

This re-consecration follows the Latin American bishops’ council which consecrated Latin America and the Caribbean to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Easter.
Deacon Jordan Hainsey

(Continued from page 1)

cate to them.”

Deacon Hainsey has also served as deacon at a parish in Pennsylvania near St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe. He has attended both the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, and St. Vincent Seminary. He earned his bachelor’s degree in graphic design in 2017. Before entering the seminary Mr. Hainsey earned a bachelor’s degree in graphic design at St. Vincent College.

Rather than focusing on what he enjoys, however, Deacon Hainsey is anticipating the needs of others in his role as a priest. Looking forward to the priesthood, he is eager to celebrate Mass and hear confessions, calling them both “life-giving things.”

“The Lord gives himself in the Eucharist but also of his grace and mercy through the sacrament of confession — both things that we need now more than ever in the world,” he said. “I’m always moved by priests in the confessional who are there to give that grace and mercy that the Lord is desirous to give to us.”

In these last few weeks leading up to the ordination during the COVID-19 pandemic, Deacon Hainsey said he’s sustained by Galatians 6:2: “Bear one another’s burdens.” He spoke about the responsibility the faithful have as the body of Christ to each other. “In this difficult time and all the different influences in the world today, it’s important to remember that we have a duty to bring others to Christ, to walk with them on the journey,” he said.

Deacon Hainsey’s own journey to the priesthood is one very influenced by the faithful example of others. Growing up in the ELCA Lutheran church, he converted to Catholicism as a senior in high school. As he matured and was heavily involved in his Lutheran church, Deacon Hainsey said there was just always something more that wasn’t being taught. He felt drawn to it.

“I think I have the best parents in the world,” said Deacon Hainsey. “I know everyone says that, but they’ve always been open and supportive of me and my vocation. My mother would take me in my teens to Fatima devotions at the local Franciscan monastery, where she bought me a rosary, she really did anything and everything possible to fuel the Lord’s call in my life.”

After attending St. Vincent College for graphic design, he worked in public relations at St. Vincent Archabbey and Seminary, where his friendships with seminarians and clergy drew him to consider priesthood even more seriously.

“One of my parish priests met me for dinner and he was the first person who said, ‘Have you thought about being a priest?’ For me, it took that person simply asking the question, acknowledging that they saw something in me,” he said. “I think in terms of vocations, we have to remind each other that the Lord is calling but you have to be open and listening for it.”

Deacon Hainsey emphasized the need for silence as well as support in discernment.

“There’s so much noise in the world today and it can be so hard to hear the Lord’s voice ... It’s difficult to discern what I want to hear, but that doesn’t change the fact that the Lord is calling us. ... You also need a good support system: friends, family, people to walk with you on the journey, people who will understand what you’re going through, what your vocation is, and be there every step of the way with you,” he said.

Each candidate for the priesthood chose particular saints to walk with him on the road to ordination. Mr. Hainsey has chosen St. Wolfgang of Regensburg and Blessed Karl of Austria. St. Wolfgang, a bishop of Regensburg, Bavaria, inspires Deacon Hainsey because his life serves as a reminder that in priestly ministry “it’s not what we desire or want but what God calls us to, because he knows us best and how our skills and talents will be used for his benefit and glory,” he said. “St. Wolfgang felt called to the hermitage but the people liked him so much that they came and carried him back to be their bishop,” he laughed.

Blessed Karl of Austria (Kaiser Karl Gebetsliga) was last emperor of Austria-Hungary, and Deacon Hainsey is involved in his cause for canonization. Blessed Karl never stopped trusting in God even throughout illness, being maligned by his closest collaborators and exiled, Deacon Hainsey said. “He always remained firm and resolute in God, and for me that’s always been a beautiful thing to see ourselves reflected in, following that example.”

Since 2015, Deacon Hainsey has been the webmaster and graphic designer for Blessed Karl’s website, EmperorCharles.org, and develops the holy reminders they sell on its online store, things like prayer books, devotional books, statues, rosaries and anything that promotes his cause in the United States and Canada.

In his spare time Deacon Hainsey enjoys hiking, traveling, although there has certainly been less of that because of the pandemic. Lately he has been supplementing his extra prayer and reading time with assisting in the church renovations at St. Augustine Parish.

“It’s afforded me the ability to be more hands on with some of the details in the church, working with the site contractor; in plan operations (deciding what gets painted) and lots of little things. I love details,” he said. “He said the physical work augments his prayer and study as he finishes up his final class work.

For his vesting at his ceremony, Deacon Hainsey has chosen his friend and mentor, Father Stefan Bankemper, pastor, St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, Ft. Thomas. When Deacon Hainsey was assigned to St. Catherine about four years ago, Father Bankemper “was a great example of the priesthood.”

“He has a heart for God’s people and he’s a true shepherd,” he said. “As I thought of ordination day, and the person who would give me the symbol of service and sacrifice (the chasuble), my mind kept coming back to him as a great example of my formation.”

Deacon Hainsey will be ordained May 16, 2020 at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington. The Mass will be live streamed through the cathedral website, covecathedral.com. The link can also be found through the diocesan website, covdio.org. All are invited to watch.

Deacon Hainsey will celebrate his first Mass — the Mass of Thanksgiving — the following day at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral Basilica.

He is excited for the day and grateful for the hand of God at work through it all. “As I look forward to priestly ordination, certainly it’s a difficult time in the Church, but it’s also one that I know that with God’s grace, he’s going to do amazing things.”

Essential mission

(Continued from page 5)

share hope with those we serve and with one another.

Thankfully COVID-19 has not stopped our efforts to offer hope to our neighbors in need. It has definitely challenged us, but with an open mind to hear his will, we’ve been able to adapt to meet this challenge. In fact, we’ve even found ways to expand our outreach to areas where we’ve not had a presence in the past. It is our hope that this expanded outreach will lay the groundwork for future parish conferences in these areas, giving others the opportunity to grow in holiness through service to our neighbors.

Although not ideal by traditional Vincentian standards, our ministry remains vibrant and will withstand this test. Just like the way my kids help with the laundry — their method may be unconventional, but it gets the essential part of the mission done.

Karen Zangel is executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky

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Messenger

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Pope prays for teachers, students adapting to online learning

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis prayed for teachers and stu-
dents who are trying to adapt and to do their work online dur-
ing the COVID-19 pandemic. “Let us pray today for teachers who have to work so hard in order to do lessons on the internet and other media,” the pope said April 24 at the beginning of his early morning Mass. “Let us also pray for students who have to take their exams in a way they are not used to,” he said.

In his homily at the Mass, which was livestreamed from the chapel of his residence, Pope Francis looked at how Jesus was always teaching his apostles to be servants who are never afraid to be close to the people and to give them concrete assis-
tance. “Jesus loved being in the middle of the crowd” because, in addition to being the best way to serve them, it was “a sym-
bol of the universality of redemption,” the pope said. But the crowd was “one of the bigger things the apostles did not like,” he said, because they wanted to be “close to the Lord, to hear the Lord, to hear everything the Lord said.”

Pope postpones International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis, the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses and local organizers have agreed to postpone by one year the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest because of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on the travel and assembly of large groups of faithful, the pope, the papal council, congress organizers and the bishops of Hungary decided to hold the congress, to be held in Budapest, in September 2021, instead of this year. The announcement came a few days after the Vatican announced the next World Meeting of Families would be pushed back until June 2022 and the next international gathering for World Youth Day would be postponed to August 2023.

Bishops criticize immigration restrictions, they will hurt families

WASHINGTON — The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and two other Catholic bishops criticized President Donald Trump’s April 22 executive order to tempo-

erarily restrict some forms of immigration during the pan-
demic, saying it could “fuel polarization and animosity.” While we welcome efforts to ensure that all Americans are recognized for the dignity of their work, the global crisis caused by COVID-19 demands unity and the creativity of Jesus, not more division and the indifference of a throwaway mentality,” the bishops said late April 23.

The priests also said they are “extremely concerned” about how the proclamation will impact immi-
gress families “looking to reunite” as well as religious work-
ers. Issuing the joint statement were Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB president; Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario R. Dewesley, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Migration; and Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, chairman of the board of directors of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., or CLINIC.

The executive order will be in effect for at least 60 days and will be reviewed 30 days from the effective date of April 23 to deter-
mine if it needs to be continued or modified. Trump issued it as part of his administration’s response to the COVID-19 pan-
demic. Trump said the restriction on immigration is necessary because of the pandemic’s pressures on health care and its widespread negative impact on the economy and he cited “the

impact of foreign workers on the United States labor market, particularly in an environment of high domestic unemploy-
ment and depressed demand for labor.”

Advocates fear threats to religious freedom, health in northeast Syria

AMMAN, Jordan — Religious freedom advocates and med-
ic practitioners have expressed concerns about the COVID-19 response in northeast Syria. “There is a quadruple threat to religious freedom and the fight against ISIS that is going on there. Turkey has been relentlessly bombing and shelling off the water supply to the city (of Hassakeh). The U.N. and Human Rights Watch have spoken out about it, yet Turkey continues,” said Lauren Homer, an Anglican lawyer on interna-
tional religious freedom issues, speaking to the International Religious Freedom Roundtable April 21. Homer chairs the roundtable’s Middle East Working Group. She spoke during the group’s online meeting, which normally is held on Capitol Hill in Washington. Her remarks were made available to Catholic News Service and underscore concern for the health and wel-
safe of the region’s Kurdish, Syrian Christian and Yazidi resi-
dents facing the coronavirus crisis. “There’s an impending COVID-19 crisis. The area is cut off by Syria’s Assad regime and Turkey from getting assistance. The KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq) has tried to help, but you’ve got 5 million people with these test labs and a smattering of test kits, and that’s it. The U.S. government and our military have helped with supplying personal protection equipment. Samaritan’s Purse is there now providing assistance,” said Homer; who leads Law and Liberty Trust, which promotes reli-
gious liberty worldwide. She urged the United States and President Donald Trump “to put pressure on Turkey to stop cutting off humanitarian aid and the water supply that is need-
ed.”

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Pope composes prayers for end of pandemic to be recited after rosary

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary’s intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic.

"Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our mother, will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial," the pope said in a letter addressed to all Catholics and released by the Vatican April 25.

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already are in the habit of praying the rosary at home during the month, he noted. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this ‘family’ aspect, also from a spiritual point of view."

"You can decide according to your own situations" whether to pray individually or in groups, he said, noting that "it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

Pope Francis wrote two prayers to Mary that can be recited at the end of the rosary, prayers he said he would be reciting "in spiritual union with all of you." (See prayers this page.)

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus’ suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people," you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to confirm ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.”

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by far-sightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary, Amen.

Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

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